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INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR YLS IN 2015?
CONTACT MATT DIGESTI FOR MORE INFORMATION. (775) 788-2296 MDIGESTI@FCLAW.COM

GOLDILOCKS PRESENTATIONS

By Blakeley Smith, Associate Attorney at Snell and Wilmer, Las Vegas, Nevada

Is Goldilocks guilty of breaking and entering? Of damaging property? All over Nevada, elementary school students are evaluating whether or not Goldilocks is guilty or not guilty through Goldilocks — The Trial of the Century.

This YLS program is presented to fourth-grade classrooms across the state. Using the very-well known children’s story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears, attorneys provide a basic introduction of the legal system to fourth-grade students.

The presentation consists of a 40-minute DVD presentation depicting what

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YOUNG LAWYER SPOTLIGHT—ANJALI WEBSTER

By: Steven M. Silva, Attorney at Chapman Law Firm, P.C. and Kathleen M. Brady, Associate Attorney at Gordon Silver

Anjali Webster is an associate with Gordon Silver’s commercial litigation and appellate departments, focusing on complex litigation and appeals. Before Gordon Silver, Anjali served as a judicial law clerk to Justice James Hardesty who said of her:

“I am grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know Anjali both personally and professionally during her service as a law clerk in the Nevada Supreme Court for the 2011/2012 term. She quickly demonstrated an acute acumen for the practice of law. Her research was always thorough, her writing clear and concise, and her analytical skills organized and complete. Anjali possesses a keen ability to calmly approach even the most complex legal issue and present it in an understandable and articulate manner without obfuscation. She also demonstrates the skills and acumen of a seasoned attorney through her courteous and respectful demeanor, and her respect for the professionalism expected of those in our profession. For these and many more reasons, I appointed Anjali as co-counsel for the PAC for Nevadans for a Court of Appeals. Her work in overseeing this PAC was invaluable, and she and her colleague Seth Floyd made a major contribution through their pro bono service to the success of the constitutional amendment creating the Court of Appeals. It is very exciting to see the growth and progress of this talented young lawyer.”

Attorney Seth Floyd of the Urban Law Firm, Anjali’s co-counsel for the pro bono counsel for Nevadans for a Court of Appeals, a bi-partisan political action committee comprised of 13 Nevada senators and assemblypersons advocating for the creation of a court of appeals in Nevada, recalled, “Having worked with Anjali several times since she joined the bar, I have witnessed firsthand her commitment to the legal system and to justice in Nevada. Her work ethic and legal acumen are unparalleled and, more importantly, she is a wonderful person who is a real asset to her profession and her community.”

Anjali has been named a Mountain States Super Lawyer® Rising Star in 2014 and Nevada Business Magazine’s Legal Elite in 2013 and 2014, “Northern Nevada Best” for commercial litigation and appeals. In her free time, Anjali serves her community as a board member to the American Lung Association of Northern Nevada, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada Young Professionals Committee, Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association, and the Nevada

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In addition to being a member of the Nevada Senate since 2011, Senator Brower is also a partner at Snell & Wilmer in its Las Vegas and Reno offices.

Q. What role do you think young lawyers should play in Nevada’s government?
There are many important roles for young lawyers to play in our government. These range from working in staff positions in the executive branch, legislative branch or the judiciary to serving in elective or appointed positions. There is a tremendous need for bright, energetic young lawyers in our government, and I would enthusiastically urge anyone who has an interest in public service to find the right role for them.

Q. When you were a young lawyer, did you think you would be a senator today?
No, not exactly. I first became involved in politics as a young lawyer, but didn’t really have a clear idea of what I might be doing 20 years later. Looking back, I have been privileged to serve in a variety of government positions, but I did not plan and certainly could not have predicted that I would be serving in the Nevada Senate today.

Q. Are lawyers presented with special challenges when it comes to politics; to wit, how should young lawyers resolve conflicts between their personal views on state government and those of their clients?
The two things are very different. Every lawyer is, of course, entitled to have and should have their own political views and views on policy issues, but those views should never get in the way of effective representation of one’s client. I have not found this potential conflict to be an issue during my career.

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FRESH PERSPECTIVES—
STARTING YOUR OWN FIRM; WHERE TO BEGIN

By Jessica M. Goodey, Esq., of Becker Goodey

So you decided to strike out on your own. You made the leap. You thought of an original name for your new firm (something along the line of Law Offices of Your Name, right?), and maybe even ordered some business cards and letterhead. Now what? What’s the next step?

I don’t proclaim to be an expert on opening or running a law firm. In fact, I am still mostly figuring it out as I go along. What I aim to do through this article is help you avoid some of the many pitfalls that await you on your journey.

Once you make the decision to venture out on your own, you need to create a legal entity, a Professional Corporation or a Professional Limited Liability Company (if you’re not sure of the right entity structure, please consult with a business attorney). Setting up the entity is very easily accomplished through the Secretary of State’s website. In addition to the state business license, you will also need to obtain local licensing, either through Clark County or the city where your office is located. This too can be completed online.

Once you have your entity, it is time to visit the bank to set up your bank accounts. Irrespective of the type of practice you will have, you will want to set up an Operating Account and an IOLTA account, even if you think you won’t be holding clients’ funds. It’s easy to set up the account, and you want to be prepared for the day your new client walks in with that big retainer check. Check out the State Bar of Nevada’s website for a list of banks participating in the State Bar’s IOLTA program. You must use one of these banks.

Also, review the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct regarding the handling of client’s funds and your duties. Failure to abide by these rules is an easy way to get in trouble, not only with your client, but also the state bar. And nothing puts a damper on your new practice quite like a disciplinary proceeding.

You now have an entity, a bank account, and maybe an office, so what’s next? Malpractice insurance. No, it’s not technically required, but it’s worth every penny. Shop around. Call several agents to get the best deal, but make sure you are covered. You’ll thank me later.

And now the million-dollar question — how do you get clients? Assuming you don’t have thousands of dollars to spend on TV advertisements and billboard campaigns, you can still market yourself and your firm in a variety of effective but cost-sensitive ways. Invest in your website. Hire a firm that is knowledgeable and can help you with search engine optimization (SEO). At the same time, tackle

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GOLDILOCKS PRESENTATIONS

would have happened if Goldilocks were brought to trial for her actions at the Three Bears' house on that fateful night in the woods. The lawyer visits the school and offers the video presentation of the fictional trial to students, which explain the various elements of a jury trial. The video starts with the testimony of Papa Bear and Baby Bear and ends with testimony from Goldilocks herself. Throughout the presentation, the students ask questions and discuss the guilt or innocence of Goldilocks with the attorney. At the end of the presentation, the students are asked to act as jury members and determine if Goldilocks is guilty or not guilty.

This year, the Southern division of the Young Lawyers Section has made more than 15 presentations to different classrooms with at least 15 presentations to go. The students love deliberating and determining whether or not Goldilocks is guilty or not guilty, and this is a great introduction to the legal system. Volunteers are still needed in the upcoming months to bring this wonderful program to the classroom! If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact your respective Goldilocks Program Chair. The Southern Nevada Chairs are Trisha Chapman, trishachapman33@yahoo.com, and Blakeley Griffith bgrrifth@swlaw.com. In Northern Nevada, contact Joe Gorman, joe@ejgormanlaw.com, or Tiffany Davis, tiffany@nvyr.org.

VIEW FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Q. How do you utilize your law degree and prior legal experience in your current position?

Constantly. Both my education as a lawyer and my experience actually practicing law help me do my job as a senator every day. My main responsibility as a legislator is to decide what Nevada law should be, so experience with how the law is interpreted and enforced is not only relevant, but is very useful.

Q. Where should young lawyers start when thinking of political or legislative aspirations?

I think that the first thing every young lawyer should do if thinking of a career in politics is first become a good lawyer. Whatever the young lawyer's area of expertise, whether civil or criminal litigation, transactional work, or something else, no young lawyer can go wrong by establishing him or herself as a very good lawyer. Beyond that, a young lawyer interested in public service should look for opportunities to volunteer for campaigns and generally get to know those, particularly other lawyers, who are already involved in politics.

Q. How do you think the Young Lawyers Section can better serve the community and its membership?

I think the most important thing is networking. Young lawyers need to know other young lawyers, whether for business development or social reasons. The law business, and especially when it comes to the intersection of law and politics, is all about relationships. The Young Lawyers Section can play a key role in providing opportunities for relationship-building.

Q. How can young lawyers get involved in local or state government?

Every candidate and elected official can use volunteer legal advice. Volunteering to assist with a campaign or provide policy advice to a legislator or other elected official is a great way to get involved in government.

Q. What advice do you have for young lawyers?

Again, my best advice to any young lawyer is to, first and foremost, become the best lawyer you can be. Whatever the area of the law that interests you, and work hard to become a well respected and expert practitioner.
Young Lawyer Spotlight—Anjali Webster

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State Bar Appellate Litigation Section. She also is involved with the American Inns of Court, Bruce R. Thompson Chapter; the Nevada State Bar Young Lawyer Section; and the Washoe County Bar Association.

Anjali’s commitment to legal excellence began early. While in law school, Anjali served as an extern to Judge Kristen Mix in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, as well as Justice Allison Eid in the Colorado Supreme Court, and to Judge Larry Hicks in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

Background Questions
Name: Anjali Webster
Employer/job title: Associate Attorney at Gordon Silver
Education:
J.D., University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, Colorado, 2011
B.S. Biology, with distinction, University of Nevada, Reno, 2008
B.A. Philosophy, magna cum laude, University of Nevada, Reno, 2008
B.A. French, magna cum laude, University of Nevada, Reno, 2008

Years as a lawyer / in Nevada: 3 1/2
What do you love about practicing in Nevada?
The legal community in Nevada is wonderful. The Nevada bar is small enough that young lawyers quickly have the opportunity to get to know everyone within the bar, including the judges. Nevada has many great legal organizations that further this opportunity—such as the Inns of Court.

Besides your current job, what was your most memorable job (good or bad)?
My most memorable job was working for the Nevada Conservation Corps in the summer of 2005. I majored in biology and thought I would be doing a biology-based internship. Instead, the job was ten hours per day of manual labor building a hiking trail between Spooner and Marlette; and we had to camp at the trail Monday through Thursday every week. Not quite what I thought it would be, but at least it had beautiful views every day.

What is the nerdiest thing about you?
I love to write, and I read books about writing (such as Making Your Case and Thinking Like a Writer) for fun.

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Upcoming Events

Take pictures at your next YLS event and submit them for inclusion in the next newsletter!

Serving Seniors

The YLS is again teaming up with Nevada Legal Services to provide free legal assistance clinics for senior citizens statewide on Friday, April 24, 2015. Locations and times will be announced at a later date. For additional information or to volunteer in Northern Nevada, please contact Renee Kelly at rkelly@nlslaw.net or Luke Welmerink at lwelmerink@gmail.com or by phone at (775) 843-7016. For additional information or to volunteer in Southern Nevada, please contact Kristin Tyler at ktyler@gordonsilver.com.

Northern Nevada CLE: Judicial Pointers on Avoiding Improper Argument and Surviving Discovery

Presented by the Young Lawyers Section and Nevada Justice Association

WHEN: April 29, 2015, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Depot Craft Brewery, Reno, Nevada
FACULTY: Judge Lidia Stiglich and Judge Scott Freeman
COST: $25.00 for YLS or NJA Club X members; $35.00 for everyone else

The Young Lawyers Section and the Nevada Justice Association invite all members of the judiciary and the bar for a CLE and social at The Depot Craft Brewery in Reno. The evening begins with a one hour CLE presented by Judge Lidia Stiglich and Judge Scott Freeman. The judges will cover:

- In-Court Statements that Cross the Line
- Requirements of Initial Disclosures
- Topics Which Should be Covered in an NRCP 16 Conference

Attorneys and judges wishing to attend the social immediately following the CLE should RSVP by emailing Jess Rinehart at jess@levertylaw.com.

2015 Annual Meeting: Trial Academy

The YLS will once again be hosting the Trial Academy at the 2014 State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting, July 9-11, at the Motif Hotel in Seattle, WA. The price for the Trial Academy is $499.00. For additional information please visit: http://www.nvbar.org/annualmeeting.

Young Lawyer Spotlight—Anjali Webster

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I love to ski, and was a coach for the Mt. Rose Falcons Learn to Fly Program for six years during high school and college. I try to make it up to the mountains as much as I can. I also love to travel. I have lived in England, France, and India, and my husband and I just visited Turkey and Scotland—both of which were incredible.