

# CAPITAL FORUM

A publication of NALS of Lansing



**VOL. XXIV, No. 10**

**March 2010, Page 1**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

**Michele D. David, PLS**

Happy Snowy February to all Members:

Calling all members to step up to the plate and get involved, become an elected officer of the NALS of Lansing Board. It's a great way to learn more about NALS and an awesome way to have growth in your professional life. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Judy Salminen, PLS. Remember Judy would like to have the nominations by February 24, 2010 so ballots can be made for our elections at our March 3, 2010 Business Meeting. Nominations are needed for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Governor, annual meeting Delegates and alternate delegates.

A reminder that NALS of Michigan 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Education Conference is fast approach - remember to register. It's an awesome time, with great educational CLE, and networking with fellow legal professionals. Remember, our own Beverly Bishop, PLS is being installed as NALS of Michigan President. It would be awesome to have a lot of our members be there to support Beverly as she takes office. So plan to be there.

Also, congratulations to Kathie Amirante, PP, PLS for her appointment to NALS President-Elect and Barb Stone, PP, PLS for her appointment to NALS Regional 3 Director. Both Kathie and Barb will be installed at NALS National Conference in March. Congratulations ladies. We're proud of you.

Everyone have a safe February, and we'll see you at the March 3 Business Meeting.

## NALS CODE OF ETHICS

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment.

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

**Visit our websites at  
[www.nalsoflansing.org](http://www.nalsoflansing.org)  
[www.nalsofmichigan.org](http://www.nalsofmichigan.org)  
[www.nals.org](http://www.nals.org)**

**NEW MEMBER****Beverly Bishop, PLS**Abby LocknerLegal Secretary at Dickinson Wright PLLC

Abby is a great lover of animals, the outdoors, and country music. She has a cat named Mittens, who is known as a Hemingway cat because she has an extra appendage on her front paws. (All of Hemingway's cats had this!)

Abby also loves to travel. She has been to every state except two. She has also traveled to Costa Rica, Canada, Mexico, and all over Italy. If she had the time and money, she would like to travel through Europe and/or Alaska.

She collected music boxes as a child, but it looks like she has been too busy traveling to continue with that hobby.

In her work at Dickinson Wright, she is a floating legal secretary working in all types of law. She is interested in family law, adoptions, etc.

We welcome Abby to NALS of Lansing and hope that she has a long relationship with NALS. Be sure to introduce yourself to her at our next meeting!

Robin SchlossLegal Secretary at Hall Matson Law Firm

Robin has been married to her husband, Chad, for eight years. At the present time they don't have any children, but it is in their future.

She enjoys traveling, reading, and knitting. A dream vacation would be traveling to Australia and snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef! She used to collect depression glass but gave that up a few years ago when it got too expensive.

At the law firm of Hall Mattson, Robin works in medical malpractice but also enjoys criminal law as well.

As for pets, the only pet she has is on Petville! For those of you that are on Facebook, you know what this means!

Please give a warm welcome to Robin when you see her at our next meeting. We hope she has a long relationship with NALS.

**BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES  
AMENDMENT****Jeanette Ransom, PLS  
NALS of Lansing Parliamentarian**

Notice is hereby given that we will be voting on the following motion regarding changing our Bylaws and Standing Rules by replacing the title of "Governor" with "Director." This motion will be voted on at the March 3, 2010 Annual Meeting of NALS of Lansing.

**Proposed Motion:**

I MOVE THAT ALL REFERENCES TO "GOVERNOR" IN THE NALS OF LANSING BYLAWS AND NALS OF LANSING STANDING RULES BE CHANGED TO "DIRECTOR".

Explanation: These changes were prompted by the NALS of Michigan change in titles from "Governor" to "Director." We are proposing changing the name of NALS of Lansing's Governor to conform to the title used on the Michigan level.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES****Deborah Surls**

If you are interested in learning of any job opportunity listings, please contact Deborah Surls at 351-3550 or at dsurls@osklaw.com.

**AWARDS NIGHT/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**Heidi Hopper, ALS**

Approval has been obtained by the NALS of Lansing Board of Directors to move the date for the 2010 Awards Night and Installation of Officers to **Thursday, April 15**. We are happy to announce that the Awards Night banquet will be held at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café (formerly Damon's), 1601 West Lake Lansing Road, the cost will be \$28 per person. Invitations are forthcoming. Please feel free to invite your boss(es), co-workers, and family. **Seating is limited to fifty persons so get your reservations in early.** We look forward to seeing you on April 15!

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**

**Judy Salminen, PLS  
Community Service Chair**

This is a reminder that we are collecting items for Haven House shelter in East Lansing. If you would like to donate anything to the shelter, please bring your items to the March 3 meeting and I will deliver them to the shelter. If you don't have the last issue of the newsletter that included their wish list, please see their web site at [www.havenhouseel.org](http://www.havenhouseel.org) and click on "donations" to see the list. Thank you for your support of our Community Service projects!

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

Please remember to have information for the newsletter to me by 5 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Thank you.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Judy Salminen, PLS  
Nominations and Elections Chair**

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and also to those members who have accepted nominations to run for office for the 2010-2011 year. We will elect chapter officers, and delegates and alternate delegates to the NALS of Michigan annual meeting at the March 3 meeting. There is still time to make a nomination, or to accept a nomination for any of these positions. The bylaws and standing rules spell out the duties for each of the officers. Anyone running for office is making a commitment to regularly attend meetings, support chapter activities and look for ways to promote and market the Association to the legal community.

2010-2011 can be an exciting year for NALS of Lansing, with your help and commitment. The March 3 meeting is an important meeting for the chapter, so please plan to attend. Contact me if you have questions about any of the positions or the election process.

**NALS OF LANSING'S BOSS OF THE YEAR**

**Vicki Ballinger, ALS**

Information regarding the 2010 NALS of Lansing Boss of the Year Award has been distributed to members via e-mail. Only members in good standing with NALS of Lansing may submit an application, one application per member. Former NALS of Lansing Boss of the Year honorees are not eligible. **REMEMBER – The deadline for applications for Boss of the Year is Friday, February 19, 2010.** NALS of Northern Michigan President Cynthia Taylor has graciously agreed to ask her chapter to judge the applications for us this year. The winner will be announced during Awards Night on April 14, 2010. If you have any questions please contact Vicki Ballinger at (517) 371-8232 or send an email to [vballinger@fosterswift.com](mailto:vballinger@fosterswift.com).

**NALS OF LANSING'S  
LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

**Vicki Ballinger, ALS**

Nominations for the 2010 Legal Professional of the Year are closed. LPY Committee Chair Vicki Ballinger has requested that each nominee submit the required information needed for the voting process. Voting will be conducted at the NALS of Lansing Annual Meeting on March 3, 2010. The winner will be announced during Awards Night festivities at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café on Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- March 3 NALS of Lansing Annual Meeting  
5:30 p.m.  
Olga's Restaurant – Frandor
- March 10 NALS of Lansing CLE  
Noon  
Speaker: Patrick J. O'Brien  
Attorney General's Office  
Child Support Division  
Topic: Child Support  
Location: To be determined
- March 11-14 NALS Professional Development and  
Educational Conference  
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- April 7 NALS of Lansing CLE  
Noon  
State Bar of Michigan  
306 Townsend Street  
Speaker: Jan Underwood, PLS, CLA  
Topic: Litigation Support and Courtroom  
Presentation Technology
- April 15 NALS of Lansing Awards Banquet/  
Installation of Officers  
5:30 p.m.  
Spartan Hall of Fame Café  
1601 West Lake Lansing Road  
East Lansing, Michigan
- April 22-25 NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting and  
2010 Educational Conference  
Doubletree Hotel  
One Wenonah Place  
Bay City, Michigan

Remember, our own Beverly Bishop will be sworn in as NALS of Michigan's 2010-11 president at this annual meeting's Saturday night banquet.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NALS OF LANSING OFFICERS  
2009-2010**

<u>PRESIDENT</u> Michele D. David, PLS	349-3200
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u> Rhonda L. Mask, ALS	381-0100
<u>SECRETARY</u> Joyce Soule, PLS	517/416-2803
<u>TREASURER</u> Barbara A. Stone, PP, PLS	364-2617
<u>GOVERNOR</u> Deborah Surls	351-3550

<u>CLE - EDUCATION</u> Michelle Spiker PLS Dolores J. Oliver, PLS	371-1730 367-1484
---	----------------------

<u>COURT OBSERVANCE</u> Deborah Surls	351-3550
--	----------

<u>EMPLOYMENT</u> Deborah Surls	351-3550
------------------------------------	----------

<u>ETHICS</u> Rhonda L. Mask, ALS	381-0100
--------------------------------------	----------

<u>FINANCE</u> Brandy Kline	347-5128
--------------------------------	----------

**NALS OF LANSING APPOINTED OFFICERS  
2009-2010**

<u>PARLIAMENTARIAN</u> Jeanette Ransom PLS	371-8283
<u>EXECUTIVE ADVISOR</u> Carole Schneider, PP, PLS	371-8205
<u>FIRST ALTERNATE GOVERNOR</u> Beverly A. Bishop PLS	702-6028
<u>SECOND ALTERNATE GOVERNOR</u> Cathy A. Schafer PLS	349-3200

<u>LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR</u> Vicki Ballinger, ALS	371-8232
---	----------

<u>MEETINGS</u> Beverly A. Bishop PLS	702-6028
--	----------

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u> Rhonda L. Mask, ALS	381-0100
--	----------

NALS LEGAL TRAINING COURSE

<u>NEWSLETTER</u> Joyce Soule, PLS	324-5602
---------------------------------------	----------

<u>NOMINATIONS &amp; ELECTIONS</u> Judy Salminen, PLS	371-8113
--	----------

PERMANENT HISTORY

<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE</u> Heidi S. Hopper, ALS	371-1730
--	----------

<u>PUBLIC RELATIONS</u> Jeanette Ransom PLS	371-8283
--	----------

<u>AWARDS NIGHT/INSTALLATION</u> Heidi S. Hopper, ALS Vicki Ballinger, ALS	371-1730 371-8232
--	----------------------

<u>SCHOLARSHIP</u> Heidi S. Hopper, ALS	371-1730
--	----------

BAR LIAISON/LAW DAY

<u>SOCIAL</u> Vicki Ballinger, ALS	371-8232
---------------------------------------	----------

<u>BOSS OF THE YEAR</u> Vicki Ballinger, ALS	371-8232
---	----------

<u>SPEAKERS BUREAU</u> Barbara A. Stone, PP, PLS	364-2617
---	----------

<u>BUDGET COMMITTEE</u> Barbara A. Stone, PP, PLS Heidi S. Hopper, ALS Denise A. Chadwell ALS Michele D. David, PLS	364-2617 371-1730 347-5258 349-3200
---	--

<u>WEBSITE</u> Jeanette L. Ransom PLS	371-8283
--	----------

<u>BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES</u> Jeanette Ransom, PLS	371-8283
--	----------

<u>CERTIFICATION</u> Michelle Spiker, PLS	371-1730
--	----------

<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE</u> Judy Salminen, PLS	371-8113
--	----------

**Joyce Soule, PLS**  
**Newsletter Chairperson**  
**NALS of Lansing**  
**492 E. Grove Avenue**  
**Michigan Center, Michigan 49254**  
**517/764-0467**  
**jsoule7100@aol.com**

NALS OF LANSING  
BOSS OF THE YEAR" CONTEST  
RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1. Only a member of NALS of Lansing may submit an application and each member is limited to one application in the contest.
- 2. A member may not submit an application for a boss who has been previously honored by NALS of Lansing as "Boss of the Year.
- 3. The application shall be submitted on the attached form and shall be submitted in quadruplicate by mail to:

Vicki L. Ballinger, ALS  
c/o Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC  
313 S. Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

**Deadline: Friday, February 19, 2010.**

An application shall be disqualified if any word limit is exceeded. No testimonial letters or other supporting documents will be considered.

- 4. Any member whose application has been disqualified will be so notified by the Awards Program Chairman and given the reason(s) for disqualification.
- 5. Three qualified judges shall be selected by the Awards Program Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 6. The three judges shall judge all nominees based on information contained on page 2 of the application form as follows:
  - a. Nominee's attitude toward NALS of Lansing member as an employee..... 45%
  - b. Nominee's professional conduct and nominee's relationship with others in professional capacity..... 30%
  - c. Nominee's participation in and support of member's professional activities..... 15%
  - d. Nominee's participation in professional, civic and charitable activities ..... 10%
- 7. The identities of the nominees shall be kept confidential by the members submitting the applications and no vote shall be solicited for any nominee. Any violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the application.

8. The identities of any finalists shall be kept confidential by the Boss of the Year Chairman and further shall be kept confidential by the judges if the judges are able to determine identities based on professional, civic, and charitable activities of the nominees.
9. The results of the judges shall be kept confidential by the Boss of the Year Chairman.
10. The Awards Program Chairman shall be authorized to destroy all applications submitted with the exception of page 1 of the application submitted for the "Boss of the Year" which shall be utilized for the purposes of publicity after the award is presented.
11. The "Boss of the Year" will be announced with appropriate ceremony at the Awards Program. The name of the member who submitted the application for the "Boss of the Year" will also be announced. The identities of the other nominees in the contest will remain confidential.

NALS OF LANSING  
BOSS OF THE YEAR 2010  
APPLICATION FORM

NAME OF BOSS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE: .....

CHILDREN (names and ages): .....

.....

PLACE OF BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION (school, degree, year): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS AND PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

