



**PARALEGAL SECTION**  
**STATE BAR OF MONTANA**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND CLE**

September 15, 2023  
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Northern Hotel  
Billings, MT 59101

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**SCHEDULE**

8:00 am	<b>Welcome</b>
8:15 - 9:15 am	<b>Legal Citation Basics, an ALWD Guide to Legal Citation 7<sup>th</sup> Edition – Emily Bruner</b>
9:15 - 10:15 am	<b>Hereinafter, No More: A practical guide to legal writing for experienced paralegals and new attorneys. A review based in part on Bryan A. Garner’s <i>Legal Writing in Plain English</i> – Dillon Kato (via Zoom)</b>
10:15 - 10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Initiating Communication with Consumer Debtors – The Required Steps for Compliance Under the FDCPA – Robert J. Joki (via Zoom)</b>
11:30 - 12:00 pm	<b>Presentation on MALA and NALA</b>
12:00 - 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch (Provided)</b>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	<b>Data Protection: Your Cyber Defense Counsel – Josh Botz</b>
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Criminal Discovery and Interview Techniques – Nicole Gallagher</b>
3:00 - 3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:15 - 4:15 pm	<b>Montana’s Wrongful Discharge from Employment Act - Daniela Pavuk</b>
4:15 - 5:30 pm	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
5:30 - 8:00 pm	<b>Cocktail Bar and Reception (with hors devours)</b>

# EMILY BRUNER

Emily was raised in Whitehall and maintains a strong affection for small towns in Montana. She attended college at the University of Montana, where she converted to an avid Griz fan and earned a degree in journalism. Before attending law school, Emily worked as a reporter for a Missoula news station. As a reporter, she developed strong communication skills while interviewing politicians and police officers, writing stories, and collaborating with news teams across the state. Emily also worked as a media sales manager in Missoula for five years, conducting in-depth consultations with a variety of clients, including local small businesses and national corporations.

During law school, Emily interned at Worden Thane, where she worked in a wide variety of practice areas, including litigation, business and commercial law, estate planning, and intellectual property. Emily also completed clinical work at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, assisting in complex property transactions and taxation matters.

Emily utilizes her educational and work experience in her practice as an attorney. She understands the importance of active listening and how to effectively communicate complex information, and she is passionate about helping clients solve difficult problems.

Emily is thankful she is able to serve the Montana community that has provided her with so much.

In her free time, Emily enjoys hiking, fly fishing, skiing, and running with her husband, Eric, and their spirited goldendoodle, Sadie.

## **Education**

**Alexander Blewett III School of Law, University of Montana**

J.D. – 2022

**University of Montana School of Journalism**

B.A., Journalism, 2012

## **Bar Admissions**

Montana, 2022

U.S. District Court, District of Montana, 2022

# DILLON KATO

Dillon is an associate attorney at Worden Thane P.C., where his practice focuses on estate and real property litigation. Before becoming a lawyer, Dillon worked as a news reporter in Missoula. His journalism background informs his work as an attorney, including a focus on legal drafting that is concise and easy to understand.

## **Education**

**University of Montana School of Law**

J.D. with Honors — 2020

## **Bar Admissions**

Montana, 2021

## **Honors**

Awards for highest academic achievement in Montana Constitutional Law, White Collar Crime, Law Practice, and Business Organizations

Staff Member, Montana Law Review

## **Publication**

Brent Mead & Dillon Kato, The Montana Supreme Court – The Statistics, 81 Mont. L. Rev. 343 (2020).

## **ROBERT J. JOKI**

Robert has been an associate with the Banking Finance, Creditor Rights, and Bankruptcy practice group at Crowley Fleck , PLLP, for just under two years. He started in the firm's Billings Office but recently moved to the Helena Office and expanded into other practice areas including Estate Planning and Administration as well as general commercial transactions. One of Robert's roles at Crowley has been to help develop internal policies and forms to ensure that the firm's communications with consumer debtors are compliant under both the statutes of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (the FDCPA) and the applicable regulations under the newly implemented Regulation F. Robert graduated from Alexander Blewitt III School of Law in 2021. He completed an externship with the Honorable Benjamin Hursh of the United State Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana. Prior to his legal career, Robert was enlisted in the United State Marine Corps and completed his undergrad at Montana State University.

## **JOSH BOTZ**

Josh is the Information Security Specialist with Morrison-Maierle Systems. After leaving the Army, he spent several years as a contractor working with the US Intelligence Community and Fortune 500 companies. After working with the most security conscious organizations in the world, he is applying his experience to his role with Systems, working behind the scenes scanning clients' environments for security risks and remediating findings. Additionally, he works with client leadership to assess and develop security policy, validate best practices, and review overall architecture. These clients include several Montana 911 dispatch centers, cities and counties, medical facilities, and legal offices. Josh is passionate about the security of small to medium sized businesses, which are often the most vulnerable to cyber threats. He loves questions about security, so don't hesitate to reach out!

## **NICOLE GALLAGHER**

Nicole is a Billings native, who currently practices criminal law in local, state and federal jurisdictions in Montana and Wyoming. She attended Montana State University graduating with an Economics degree and then obtained her J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Nicole spent the next seven years practicing in many different areas in California: federal homeowner foreclosure litigation against Mortgage companies on behalf of individual homeowners, debt collection defense, construction defect litigation and state criminal defense. She moved back to Billings after being offered a job at the Montana State Public Defender's Office and spent six years in the trenches of indigent defense in State, County and Municipal courts. She opened her own firm in 2019 where she takes both private cases and government contract cases through the CJA Panel and OPD.

## **DANIELA E. PAVUK**

Daniela graduated from the University of Montana, School of Law in 2006. After working almost 15 years at Crowley Fleck, PLLP, Daniela opened her own law firm last fall – Pavuk Law PLLC. With almost 17 years of legal experience, Daniela works closely with employees, business owners, and individuals in Billings and across the beautiful state of Montana advising on policies, procedures, and employment agreements, as well as representing individuals and companies in litigation in Montana and federal courts and administrative agencies related to discrimination, pay, and wrongful discharge. Daniela's practice also encompasses representation related to federal employment law. Daniela has significant experience in a wide array of civil litigation, which has included trust and estate litigation, personal injury, construction disputes, motor vehicle accidents, and product liability. Daniela also provides mediation services for employment disputes related to wrongful termination, discrimination, and wage disputes, as well as a wide array of civil litigation matters. In her free time, Daniela enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her husband Joe and their fur babies Dimitri and Sadie.