

bar community

people | news for members | discipline | lawyers lend support

NEW PEOPLE, NEW PLACES

Sheila Carmody and **James L. Hohnbaum** have joined the Phoenix office of **Snell & Wilmer**, practicing commercial litigation. Also joining the firm are **Cari M. Dangerfield** and **Stephen T. Portell**. They will practice in the firm's product liability litigation section.

Richard S. Podgorski, an Arizona Bar member since 1982, has accepted a position with **California State University-San Marcos** as Associate Vice President of Development, where he will specialize in fund raising.

Helen Perry Grimwood, formerly of Osborn Maledon PA, and **N. Douglas Grimwood**, previously a partner with Twitty Sievwright & Mills, have formed **The Grimwood Law Firm PLC**, located at 3101 N. Central Ave., Suite 940, Phoenix, AZ 85012. Phone 602-265-4995.

Fennemore Craig, Phoenix, has announced the expansion of the firm's water-related practice by adding **Don Blankenau** to its ranks. Blankenau is former General Counsel, Assistant Director and Interim Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources.

Former Arizona Solicitor General **Scott Bales** has joined **Lewis and Roca**. He will focus



BALES

his practice on appellate and complex litigation, including constitutional and public law. **Mara-Louise Schmerfeld** has joined the firm's



SCHMERFELD

labor and employment group.

Robert E. Siesco has relocated his office to 2390 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 250, Phoenix,

AZ 85016. Phone 602-265-1234.

The law firm of **Morrison & Hecker LLP** has relocated its Phoenix offices to the 24-four story **Viad Corporate Center** at 1850 N. Central Avenue.

Quarles & Brady Streich Lang LLP announced that **Deanna Conn** has become a partner of the firm. Conn's practice focuses on intellectual property, Internet law and litigation.

Kevin J. Larsen has joined **Ridenour, Hienton, Harper & Kelhoffer, PLLC**, as a litigation associate. He previously served as a Deputy County Attorney for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

David S. Ricker has been selected as the Community Relations Coordinator for the **Pima County Superior Court**. His responsibilities include working with news media and assisting judges and court staff by communicating with the public about court-related activities and programs.

HONORS & AWARDS

Richard S. Plattner has been listed in the 2000-2001 Woodward/White edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is a shareholder in the Phoenix firm **Plattner Verderame, PC**, practicing all aspects of plaintiff's tort law.



McAULIFFE

Snell & Wilmer announced that partner **Daniel McAuliffe** was elected by Lawyer Representatives to a three-year term on the **Executive Committee of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference**. McAuliffe has attended the conference since 1998 as a Lawyers Representative. His new responsibilities include planning programs for upcoming conferences. Judges and Lawyer Representatives of the Ninth Circuit and often two Supreme Court Justices attend the conference.

The **Arizona Medical Association** has recognized **Snell & Wilmer** and the firm's attorneys for the many years of contributions and service given to the organization and to the medical profession with its 2001 Distinguished Service Award.

Two Arizona attorneys have been selected for the **Black Board of Directors Project 2001 Advanced Leadership Program**. **Charles H. Houston III**, of Fennemore Craig, and **Robert Taylor**, of Jennings, Strouss and Salmon, PLC, were honored.

David J. Damron, managing director of Sanders & Parks, PC, has become a certified mediator with the **Arizona Dispute Resolution Association**. He is also a member of the Maricopa County Alternative Resolution Association.



DAMRON

Recently admitted to the **Commercial Law League of America (CLLA)**, founded in 1895, are **Renee B. Gertsman** and **Michael Zdancewicz** of Gertsman & Zdancewicz in Phoenix.

Gary F. Urman, a shareholder of the Tucson firm **DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy**, was selected as the August 2001 Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney of the Month by the **Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP)**. Urman accepts VLP cases in the areas of consumer, contracts, debt collection, employment and landlord/tenant law. **Gary Inabet** was selected as Cochise County's Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney for Summer/Fall 2001. He has assisted many clients with wills and divorces and works with the Attorney General's Office in Sierra Vista. The most recent recipient of the **Maricopa County Bar Association** and the VLP Pro



URMAN

Mark Your Calendar

CLE OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

NOVEMBER

11/15-16

Juvenile Law in a Nutshell (Phoenix)

DECEMBER

12/6

DUI

12/6

Professionalism (Tucson)

12/6

Business Law Insurance Matters

12/7

Ethical Morning at the Movies

To register for these programs and more than 70 online programs, go to cle.azbar.org or call (602) 340-7339.

PEOPLE (from p. 46)

Bono Attorney of the Month is **Glenn M. Davis**.

The National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade announced that **Philip A. Robbins**, senior partner with Robbins & Green in Phoenix and vice president of the National Law Center, has been appointed to chair a seminar for U.S. manufacturers, exporters and lawyers.

Upcoming Young Lawyers Division Events

DECEMBER

Look for the State YLD Arizona Kids Holiday Party (Mike Dana in Phoenix, 602-229-5291, or Wade Swanson in Tucson, 520-882-1211) and the Maricopa YLD Gift of Life (Phoebe McGlynn, 602-382-6310).

JANUARY 2002

- Jan. 10 7:30 am: State/Pima YLD CLE Breakfast, Lodge in the Desert, Tucson (contact Traci Riccietello, 520-792-3836)
- Jan. 14 12:00 pm: Maricopa YLD Board Meeting, 303 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix (Susan Wissink, 602-916-5319)
- Jan. 16 5:30 pm: Pima YLD Board Meeting, 177 N. Church, Tucson (Steve Portell, 520-882-1209)
- Jan. 26 10:00 am: State YLD Executive Council Meeting, Phoenix (Keri Silvyn, 520-749-9795)

FEBRUARY 2002

- Feb. 9 Maricopa YLD MCBA Barrister's Ball (Shane Clays, 602-257-4200 x 111)

Tales Out of School

ASU Law School Dean **Patricia White** will be the featured speaker at the Scottsdale Bar Association December meeting. She will speak on current issues in legal education.

The Dec. 11 meeting will be held at the restaurant of the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E. McCormick Parkway, Scottsdale. For reservations, contact Jill Miller at (480) 481-3047.

THE TRAGEDY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

BY HEATHER PLAYFORD

As Americans return to normal life—or as close to normal as possible—we still grapple with the events of September 11 and the certain impact that day will have on our lives. To counter the pain and apprehension that lingers, the nation has emerged more united, striving to honor the lives lost and reach out to the survivors and their families.

Many Arizona attorneys and legal professionals can count themselves among that dedicated group. Donating time, money, resources, and often a shoulder to lean on, the legal profession has been, and continues to be, an integral part of U.S. relief efforts.

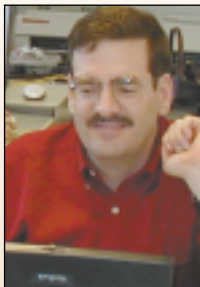
Lawyers across the state and across the nation have responded to the September 11 terrorist attacks with a tenacious spirit. Like all Americans, attorneys have been called on to put religious, social and political differences aside—to stand united for a greater cause. The staff of *Arizona Attorney*, on behalf of the members of the State Bar of Arizona, is proud to recognize some of the many individuals making a difference.

As one example of generosity of spirit, more than \$30,000 has been raised to date through a special State Bar program directing contributions to the American Red Cross on behalf of the lawyers and legal community of Arizona. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please call the State Bar of Arizona at (602) 252-4804.

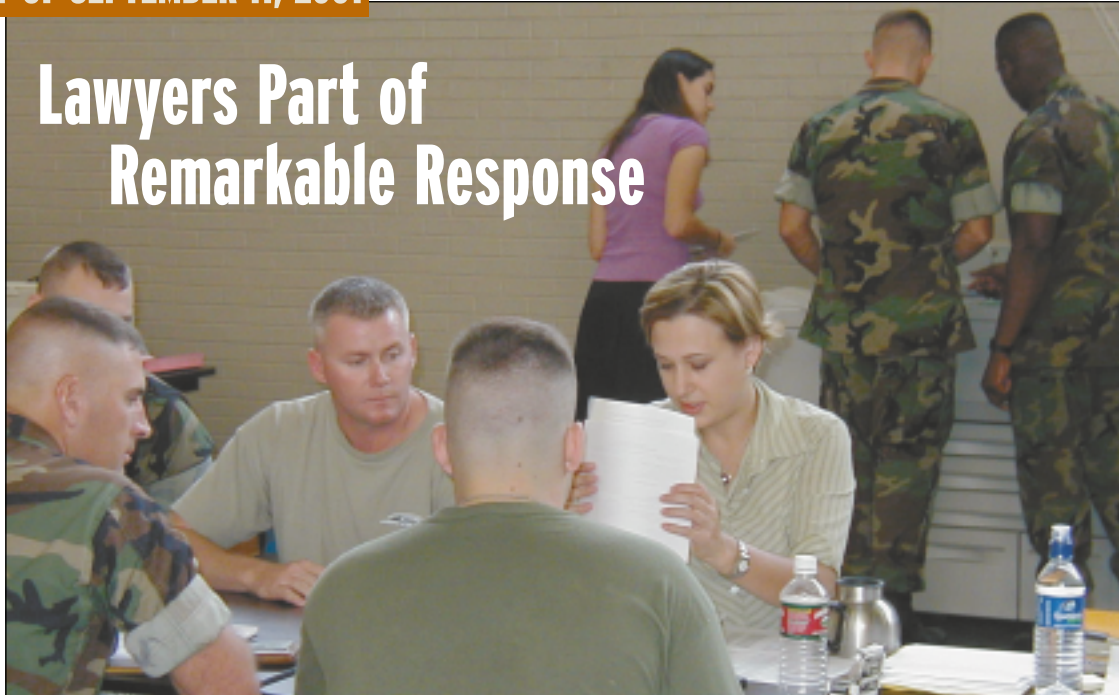
Here are just a few of your stories.

Local Military Assistance

Phoenix sole practitioner and sustaining fellow of the Arizona Bar Foundation **David Dannacher**, with his team of volunteer paralegals and a CPA, went into action recently to help prepare local Marine and Navy reservists for active duty.



DANNACHER



Volunteer Carly Holden reviews documents with Marines. Sgt. John Tichi (to her right) serves as a witness.

Lawyers Part of Remarkable Response

Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, is the largest company in its battalion and one of the first reserve units to be deployed during Desert Storm. In light of the September 11 events, it is likely that they'll soon be called upon again.

With activation and deployment on the horizon, the unit needed wills, living wills, powers of attorney, organ donation and related documents updated immediately.

Unfortunately, there is no legal officer at that unit. That's when Captain Rick Erickson, the company's second senior officer (who also happens to be an attorney with Fennemore Craig), called on his friend and colleague Dannacher.

Over the course of two and half weeks, Dannacher, also a former Marine, and his dedicated team worked around the clock to prepare documents for 238 men and women. He says it was a tedious and time-consuming endeavor, but due to the events of September 11, his practice was trailing off some and he needed to keep busy.

"My practice was in the dumps and so was I," Dannacher said. "Doing this really helped me, too. Don't just do something, do something that makes a difference."

What's even more notable is that Dannacher quickly created a specialized computer program, designed to fit the unique needs of these military men and women. While he interviewed clients, his legal team successfully used the timesaving program to

prepare hundreds of documents. "I'd be more than happy to share the program with other attorneys who want to volunteer their services," Dannacher said.

Dannacher's team, from various Valley firms, was comprised of CPA **John Degnan**, who also donated several laptop computers, and paralegals **Jill Matten**, **Carly Holden**, **Jennifer Bannen**, **Nancy Smith**, **Amy Wilson**, **Amanda Heady** and **Dennis Graviss**.

Legal Hotline Aids Victims



WISSINK

Another local attorney is also making a difference. Fennemore Craig's **Susan Wissink** led the effort to set up free legal services via a toll-free hotline for victims of the September 11 attack.

"Everyone across the nation is assisting in any way they can. My role as the Disaster Legal Services Coordinator has allowed me to do my part, as well," Wissink said.

More than 500 people already have called the toll-free number, the majority of whom are New York City residents. Attorneys and paralegals continue to assist callers on a pro bono basis. More than 1,500 attorneys nationwide have contacted Wissink to volunteer.

This project was made possible under an agreement between the Young Lawyers Division, the American Bar Association and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To assist families in need, volunteer attorneys and paralegals across the nation are working with state legal services coordinators from New York, New Jersey, Washington, DC, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Connecticut.

Trans-National Aid From Mohave County

Attorneys in Mohave County wasted no time in getting involved, by donating \$1,000 to their New York colleagues. **Kirk S. Cookson**, President of the **Mohave County Bar Association**, announced the bar's new "United We Stand" resolution, lending moral and financial assistance to the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA).

The members of the NYSBA have spearheaded the legal profession's relief efforts to the victims of September 11, providing untold hours of pro bono legal assistance and material to victims and families, and by assisting in the passage of special legislation to handle the

onslaught of legal issues recently created.

Mohave County's contribution is a tribute to the people of New York City to help fellow attorneys defray the economic costs of their relief efforts. Cookson offers this philosophy: Individuals and organizations, great or small, can contribute to the united efforts to ensure that our freedom is not lost or taken.



Jennings, Haug and Cunningham staff

other staff of **Jennings, Haug & Cunningham, LLP**, have made a collective donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund in the amount of \$5,000. Managing partner **John Sinodis** wrote a firm check to the Red Cross in late September.

Ryley Carlock & Applewhite and several individual shareholders of the firm challenged their employees by promising to

Arizona Law Firms Lend a Hand

Lawyers, paralegals, secretaries and

match employee donations to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. In a strong showing of support and solidarity, the firm raised \$6,695. **James W. Brophy** spearheaded the firm's matching contribution initiative.



BROPHY

Trial Lawyers Make a Difference

In a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives from **Leo Boyle**, President of the **Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA)**, the organization has stated its commitment to provide free legal services to approximately 7,000 families affected by the tragedy of September 11. This announcement comes on the heels of Congress' *September 11th Compensation Act of 2001*, a fund created to aid these families.

ATLA believes that 100 percent of the compensation from the fund should go directly to the families, and the officers and Executive Committee of ATLA have volunteered to be the first attorneys to provide legal services, free of charge, under this program. ▀