RED RIVER REVIEW

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

Red River Valley PARALEGAL Association

Fall 2018

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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North Region --OPEN

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Mentor Program ---------------------------Rachel Martin
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Legal Assistant's Day------------------------Brooke Raser
Anderson, Bottrell, Sanden & Thompson
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In This Issue

Fostering the utilization, networking, development, and education of paralegals throughout Eastern North Dakota and Western Minnesota.

Words from the President

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to not only serve as the organization's president, but also to oversee the various committees. We have done amazing things and impacted our communities, both professionally and personally, in ways that will have a lasting impact. As you will see in the officer reports, the education committee has facilitated numerous CLE-accredited Lunch and Learns, as well as the fall seminar; our membership continues to evolve and grow as we welcome new members and organizations; current members have been able to participate in fun and meaningful community service and networking events; and we have had an unprecedented number of businesses join us as sponsors. I am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing things we can accomplish as an association in 2018/2019!

Rachel Martin

Treasurer's Report

Welcome to fall! It has been a fun and busy summer, but we are now in the thick of the fall season. School starting (YAY!), no more early Fridays at work (BOO!), sponsorship drives, membership drive, and budgets! Oh my!! We are just wrapping up our annual sponsorship drive and what a response we got. We have 21 pledged sponsors totaling $5,800 in pledged dollars! Plus we have 6 Platinum sponsors!!! I could not be happier about how successful this sponsorship drive was. I want to give a HUGE thank you to all of the Board Members and the Finance Committee for their help in obtaining our wonderful group of sponsors this year. As of 9/27/2018, we have a checking account balance of $12,250.75 and a savings account balance of $7,082.35 for a total account balance of $19,333.10. I am looking forward to a great 2018/2019 year with RRVPA!

Angie Bossert

Are you taking advantage of all of the benefits RRVPA has to offer? Here are just a few…

Employment Opportunities: RRVPA promotes paralegal-related job openings of area employers.

Continuing Education: RRVPA sponsors an annual seminar, providing general legal education benefits, as well as continuing education credits required to maintain the CLA/CP certification. In addition, we host monthly Lunch and Learn opportunities with dynamic speakers.

Networking: RRVPA hosts luncheons, socials, fundraisers, and volunteering events, all of which are a great way to get to know other paralegals in the industry.

Scholarship: RRVPA offers an annual scholarship for members who are interested in taking the Certified Paralegal or Advanced Certified Paralegal exam.

Mentor Program: Members can participate as mentor in the program, which connects experienced paralegals with an up and coming paralegal.

First Vice President's Report

It has been another busy year for the First Vice President and the Education Committee. We have had a total of six Lunch & Learns throughout 2018 on a variety of topics. These continue to be well attended by members and non-members of RRVPA. I would like to thank the O'Keeffe, O'Brien, Lyson, and Foss for letting us use their conference room for the Lunch & Learns! The education committee has also been busy planning the Annual Seminar. It has taken quite a bit of work and I appreciate the hard work of all of the members of the education committee for helping making the seminar another success. I did decide that this past year was the last year that I would run for the position of Vice-President of RRVPA due to not having time to focus on RRVPA as I have had in the past. I want to thank those on the board for all of their support these past few years that I have served as the Co First Vice President and the support of the members.

Magen Pavlicek

Second Vice President's Report

This is my second term as Second Vice President, and I am proud of how membership in our organization has grown. As chairperson of the membership committee, RRVPA has focused on increasing membership this year. After our membership drive this fall, we have 62 voting members, 4 student members, 4 associate members, and 1 sustaining member for a total of 71 members.

Our organization has had a great year and I am very excited about the work the RRVPA board has accomplished in 2018. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining RRVPA or would like information about our organization, please have them contact me at katy.tellinghuisen@swlattorneys.com.

Katy Tellinghuisen

NALA Liaison's Report

The Red River Valley Paralegal Association has been an affiliate of NALA since November 1, 1983. As the NALA Liaison from Red River Valley Paralegal Association (RRVPA), I attended the largest gathering of legal assistants/paralegals in the Nation. The NALA Conference & Expo was a three-day event held July 11-13, 2018 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis. This event included high-level education and abundant network for more than 400 legal assistants/paralegals from across the country. The NALA Conference & Expo schedule of classes, meetings, visiting the vendors, breakfast, luncheons, and dinners kept us busy all day. Thu, the only sightseeing I was able to fit in was a visit to the Old Federal Courthouse across the street from the Conference (famous for the Dred Scott trials of 1847 and 1850).

Eileen Tronnes Nelson

NALA | THE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

NEWS

Above: NALA members and RRVPA NALA Liaison attending the NALA conference in St. Louis, Missouri on Thursday, July 12, 2018. Members were able to attend breakout sessions on topics such as Criminal Investigation, Ethical use of Social Media in Law Practice, The Art and Science of Building Habits, Different Types of Title IX Cases, and Dealing with Difficult People, among many others. Reviews of certain topics for the CP exam were also offered. (from left to right): Magen Pavlicek, Andrea Johnson, and Eileen Tronnes Nelson

Upcoming NALA Webinars:

How to NOT Practice Law
Friday, October 12th - 11:00am

Accounting 101 for Paralegals
Tuesday, October 16th - 2:00pm

Accuracy of Internet Information
Tuesday, October 23rd - 1:00pm

The Care and Feeding of Your Court Clerk
Thursday, November 1st - 12:00pm

Discovery Issues in Insurance Coverage Lawsuits
Tuesday, November 6th - 2:00pm

Red River Valley PARALEGAL Association

2019 COMMITTEES

Membership

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The membership committee is responsible for marketing our organization to new membership within the region, as well as maintaining documentation of current membership, welcoming new members, and acting as a liaison for our organization within the community.

Education

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The education committee is responsible for planning and implementing all educational opportunities for RRVPA members, including Lunch & Learns, our annual Fall Seminar, and other accredited programming. This committee works hard to make sure all content is kept in pace with current technology and the education standards of our ever changing market.

Mentor Program

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The mentor program committee is responsible for facilitating the mentor/mentee program to encourage education through knowledge and experience. This program is especially helpful for area students and those seeking a career in the paralegal profession.

Public Relations

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The public relations committee is responsible for maintaining and distributing all RRVPA materials, as well as making sure the organization's social media presence is current and relevant. Additionally, this committee designs and published the Red River Review, a semi-annual organization publication.

Legal Assistant's Day

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The goal of the Legal Assistant Day Committee is to arrange for event to celebrate Legal Assistant's Day. The Legal Assistant Day Chairpersons are the current Region Directors.

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The outreach committee is responsible for researching, planning, and implementing a variety of impactful volunteer opportunities for membership.

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The finance and audit committee is responsible for maintaining the finances of the organization through transparency and communication. This committee also leads our annual sponsor drive each fall and heads up the scholarship opportunities available through the organization.

What We've Been Up To

RIGHT: RRVPA & WDALA officers traveled to the capital to meet with Governor Doug Burgum, Deputy Chief Attorney General Troy Sibel, and the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court on Thursday, May 31, 2018 in honor of Paralegal Day. After engaging conversation with each, they were treated to a full tour of the Supreme Court chambers by the Chief Justice (from left to right): Laurie Guenther, Melissa Hamilton, Brooke Raser, Doug Burgum, Alice Johnson, Rachel Martin, Afton Basden.

Jeremiah Program Service Project
Above: (from left to right): Brooke Raser, Kelly Brammer, Rachel Martin, Eileen Tronnes Nelson, Kylee Carlin
Right: Rachel Martin and Brooke Raser

Left: Members of the South Region celebrating Legal Assistant's Day with pizza and awesome swag bags at Rhombus Guys in Fargo on Thursday, June 28, 2018 (from left to right): Kaitlin Olson, unknown, Eileen Tronnes Nelson, Kylee Carlin, Winter Brekhus, Erin Nodland, Brooke Raser, Rachel Martin, Abby Hammes, Katy Tellinghuisen, Maurice Rocha, Samantha Daily, and Courtney Guenther

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Krista Andrews
Anderson, Bottrell, Sanden & Thompson

Ruby Tuesday

Asset & Debt Inventory

Share Print

Real Estate	Value	Debt	Equity	Spouse RT	Spouse JT
House - 1901 14th Ave S	$650,000	$123,000	$527,000	$527,000	
Lake Place - 323 Shore Drive	$450,000	$300,400	$149,600		$149,600
Rental - 1068 49th Ave N	$280,000	$123,000	$157,000		$157,000
			$833,600	**$527,000**	**$306,600**

Autos	Value	Debt	Equity	Spouse RT	Spouse JT
Ruby - 2013 Toyota Camry	$19,350	$12,430	$6,920	$6,920	
Jack - 2015 Toyota Tundra	$24,600	$21,340	$3,260		$3,260
Jack - 1974 Harley Davidson	$8,750		$8,750		$8,750
RV - 2004 Winnebego	$42,400		$42,400		$42,400
			$61,330	**$6,920**	**$54,410**

PartUs: Cloud-based Application Eases Divorce Process

By Krista L. Andrews

Like so many other divorce Attorneys, I spend a large percentage of my time helping clients navigate the overwhelming and stressful legal process. Perhaps the worst parts of the process are the time and expense associated with gathering, organizing and updating client financial information, and exchanging that information with opposing Counsel. Specifically:

1. Clients need to gather all of their financial information, and then deliver it to their attorney by either hard copy, email or fax.
2. Attorneys then need to gather, assemble, and maintain the financial information throughout the divorce process.
3. As financial information changes throughout the divorce, attorneys need to update that information.
4. Each attorney and their client creates an inventory of the marital estate. The inventory created by each party inevitably varies by: the order in which the assets and debts are listed, how they are categorized, and how they are described. Hours are spent in settlement discussions and mediation simply trying to reconcile the parties' financial information.
5. When the value of an asset or debt is listed on the inventory, verification of the value is required. The attorney then needs to find the paper or electronic copy that supports the value, and provide it to the opposing party.
6. When settlement offers are made, they are difficult to track and organize due to the various mediums in which they were conveyed: emails, letters, hard copies, verbal offers, etc. No streamlined history of the settlement proposals exist, and it is time consuming for attorneys to review settlement history.

For years, I have felt there has to be a better way. When I realized there wasn't, I sought the assistanceof Tim Brookins--a Distinguished Engineer at Microsoft--to create one myself.

Together, Tim and I created PartUs, a cloud-based application that brings the divorce process into the 21st century. Briefly, PartUs contains the following features:

1. **Organize.** PartUs enables clients, Attorneys and staff to upload and organize financial information more efficiently than other existing platforms. Documents can also be attached to support the financial information that is entered. For example, a mortgage statement can be attached to support the debt on a home and a Kelly Blue book statement can be attached to support the value of a vehicle.
2. **Share.** As information is uploaded in PartUs, it can be viewed immediately by the individuals on the "team"; i.e., Attorneys, Paralegals, Secretaries, and any other individuals the client wants to add such as Accountants, Financial Advisors, or even trusted family members.
3. **Publish and Negotiate.** When ready, PartUs allows attorneys to publish a proposed financial settlement (along with the supporting documents) to an opposing party or Attorney, who is securely "linked" to the case. "Attorney 2" can then review the proposal and "copy" it for his or her own utilization. This ensures the proposal from "Attorney 1" remains intact, and at the same time allows "Attorney 2" to make desired changes to its copy of the proposal without starting from scratch. Finally, Attorneys can work from a common assets and debt list, so that everyone is on the same page!

When "Attorney 2" is ready, he or she can publish the counterproposal to "Attorney 1". PartUs allows Attorneys to publish back and forth as often as they need or want. Note also that although Attorneys are securely "linked" on a case, they cannot view each other's edits until a proposal is "published".
4. **Track.** When two or more proposals have been made, PartUs contains a "history tracker," allowing Attorneys and clients to view the entire negotiation history, complete with any changes that were made throughout the case history.

A 60-second video demonstration of PartUs can be viewed at www.partus.com. We trained the North Dakota Supreme Court mediators on the software in October, and the North Dakota Judges in November. We were also an official sponsor of the 2017 American Bar Association Family Law Conference in Vail, Colorado, where we launched the software on a national stage. We currently have almost 1,000 users in 15 states. Any Attorney licensed in the state of North Dakota may use the software free through 2018 by going to www.partus.com and signing up. ■

Founded in October of 2016 by Krista Andrews and Tim Brookins, PartUs is a business entity in Fargo, North Dakota.

Krista is an attorney licensed to practice law in North Dakota and Minnesota. She works as a family law mediator and collaborative law professional. Based on her experience with clients, Krista saw a need to streamline the divorce process, which is why she partnered with Tim Brookins. With 20+ years of software development experience with some of the top names in tech, Tim is well versed in all aspects of modern software development.
Together, Krista and Tim worked to make the PartUs software a reality.

This article was originally published in the Winter 2018 issue of The Gavel and is reprinted with permission.

APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL? STARTING LAW SCHOOL IN THE FALL? ADVICE FROM A RECENT GRADUATE

By Tara Anderson

Hello, future law students! My name is Tara Anderson, and I am a law clerk at Severson, Wogsland, & Liebl, PC. I began law school in August of 2015, and I just graduated on May 5, 2018. If you are reading this, I am guessing you are considering going to law school, have applied to law school, or maybe you are just wondering, "Is law school really like 'Legally Blonde' or 'The Paper Chase?'" (FYI, it's not.) Law school was completely different than what I expected. It was probably the toughest three years of my life, but it was a great experience. Since I just graduated a couple weeks ago, I thought I would share some tips for those considering law school and entering law school in the fall.

What Do I Need To Do Before I Start Applying To Law School?

- Well, for starters, you need to have a four-year degree from a college or university before you can be admitted into law school. It doesn't really matter what type of degree you have, as long as it's a four-year degree and you've maintained a good GPA. If you plan to attend law school right after you graduate, you should start applying to law schools during the fall semester of your senior year. You will likely have to write a personal statement for your application, so it is best to start brainstorming for that sooner rather than later.

• You should also start building your resume by volunteering, getting involved in school groups or activities, and getting work experience in the legal field. The contacts you make with these efforts will provide another benefit: letters of recommendation for law school applications! Professors and lawyers are also great references for your law school application, so build those relationships.

• Before you apply to law schools, you will need to take an exam called the LSAT. This exam has nothing to do with the law, so don't worry if you were a physics major and not a political science major. This test measures skills like critical thinking, reading & comprehension, analysis, etc. If you want more information about the LSAT, you can find it here. If there are law schools that you are already interested in, I would recommend looking at the school's website and reviewing the GPA and LSAT scores of accepted students from the past couple of years. This was really helpful for me, and it motivated me to work hard.

What Advice Would I Give To Someone Entering Law School?

Get Experience

• My number one piece of advice is to get experience! For me, some of the best learning experiences happened outside of the classroom. I worked at a law firm part-time, had three internships, and participated in a mock trial competition. I did this throughout the three years of law school, so don't try to cram everything into your final year of law school. While I don't recommend working the first semester (or even the first year for some), I started working my second semester of law school as a law clerk, and it really helped me apply what I was learning in class to real-life situations. However, working part-time while being a full-time student is not for everyone. Some people recommend working only during the summer breaks. It can be difficult to manage your time and you do not want your grades to suffer. If you feel like you would have a problem with this, you might consider limiting yourself to internships or working at a law firm during the summer breaks.

• During your second and third year of law school, you will be able to do internships, moot court, mock trial competitions, trial team, law review, school organizations, etc. Check out your school's website to get more information about what your school offers and see what you are interested in! My internships and mock trial experience really helped me improve my legal reading and writing, and trial advocacy skills. I would recommend getting involved in some way because studying hard and having a good GPA will only get you so far. Being involved outside of the classroom is great for helping you learn, but it is also important for building your resume.

Work On Your Time Management Skills

• You are going to be VERY busy in law school. I know you want to hang out with your friends or vent about your professors, but you really need to take the time to study and read cases! You should block off a certain number of hours per day, per subject to study. Buy a planner to organize and track your reading assignments for each day. It will help you in the long run, trust me!

Do Not Be Afraid Of The Socratic Method

- I remember in undergrad wanting to go to law school, but I was so scared of the Socratic method! You may be wondering, what is the Socratic method? If you haven't seen this teaching method in action, watch the movie "The Paper Chase." In short, the Socratic method is a teaching technique used by law school professors, and it's designed to help you learn the cases and principles through discussion. While this may be the intent, this teaching method can be intimidating, and it may seem like the professors are trying to break you down. From my experience, this was not the case. Most professors want you to succeed and will not embarrass you if you get an answer wrong. Plus, I had some teachers who chose not to use this teaching method, so I really worried about it for nothing. As long as you prepare for class, you will be fine.

Be Competitive, But Do Not Be "That Person"

- I get it. You want to be the best! Seriously, who doesn't? While being competitive and trying to succeed is great, it should not prevent you from being kind to your classmates. Those classmates will eventually become your opposing counsel or co-workers. So, don't be that person who is rude to everyone and thinks they are the best. If someone misses class and asks you for your notes, let them borrow yours. If someone needs help to understand a topic you know really well, help them out. You never know when you might need their help too.

Find A Support Group

- My last tip is to surround yourself with people who support you and build you up. At one point during my first year of law school, I seriously considered giving up. Thankfully, I had an amazing group of family and friends who supported me and helped me get through the rough patches. Law school is hard and can break you down at times. You may feel worn out, tired, sleep deprived, and (to be honest) feel absolutely stupid at times. However, if you have a great support system and believe in yourself, you will get through it.

Finally, while I do not think that the movie "Legally Blonde" is an accurate representation of the real law school experience, I think Elle Woods' graduation speech is great advice for someone entering or graduating from law school. "It is with passion, the courage of conviction, and a strong sense of self that we take our next steps into the world, remembering that first impressions are not always correct. You must always have faith in people. And most importantly, you must always have faith in yourself."

Good luck, future law students! ■

Tara is a recent graduate of UND Law School and is working as a personal injury attorney at Severson, Wogsland & Liebl, P.C.

This article was originally published on www.swlattorneys.com and is reprinted with permission.

Why do I Need an Estate Plan?

By Cassie Tostenson

Often times people avoid putting together an estate plan for a variety of reasons. By taking the time and effort necessary to plan your estate, you will be able to reduce the stress and cost on those that have to make decisions when you are gone or incapacitated. A well-organized estate plan can accomplish many goals, some of which can include:

- **Providing for your minor children.** Those families with children under 18 years of age should have an estate plan that nominates guardians to provide for the care of your children until they reach the age of majority. Trusts can also be created to assure that your assets are used for the benefit of your children. Without an estate plan, the court will decide who will care and provide for your children without your input.
- **Minimize Expense by distributing property to beneficiaries.** An estate plan can include lifetime gifting, beneficiary designations on insurance proceeds or accounts as well as moving property to joint ownership. By planning ahead, you can reduce the time and cost of transferring your assets after you die.
- **Planning for incapacity.** People often think an estate plan is really just a will but a will is only operable at your death. During your lifetime you can avoid the time, stress and expense of asking a court to put in place a guardian or conservator in the event you can no longer manage your affairs. This can be avoided by appointing individuals to serve as a power of attorney or health care agents through proper planning.
- **Business continuity.** If you have an interest in a business or farm, you can plan how your business of farm will operate in the future with proper succession planning.
- **Reduce Stress of your family.** Through a well-organized estate plan you can reduce the burden on your family by appointing personal representatives or trustees to simplify the administration of your estate. You can also detail your final wishes and funeral arrangements.

An estate plan allows you to provide for your family, reduce costs in the long run, and most importantly minimize the burden of your loss on your family. Creating a properly crafted estate plan is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. ■

Cassie Tostenson is an expert in conducting legal research. She focuses on business and corporate law, estate planning, probate, and real estate, as well as litigation and criminal defense. She is pleased to be working in a firm that values personal relationships and exceptional representation.

A North Dakota native, Cassie has her bachelor's degree in political science from University of North Dakota and received her juris doctorate and certificate in public interest law from Santa Clara University School of Law in California.

COMICS


Top Secret
Bottom Secret


Thank you for all of your hard work. We are going to reward you by giving you other's people's work to finish.
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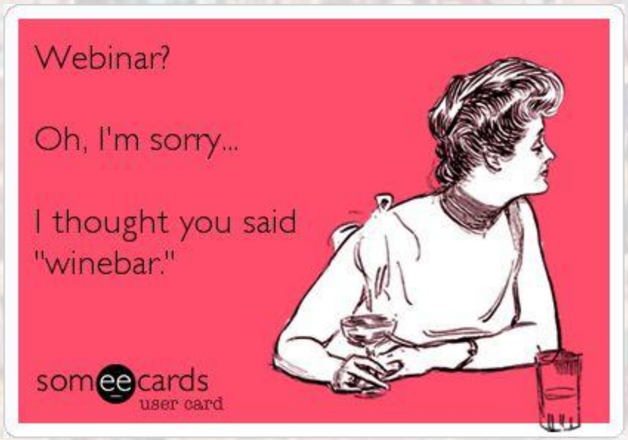
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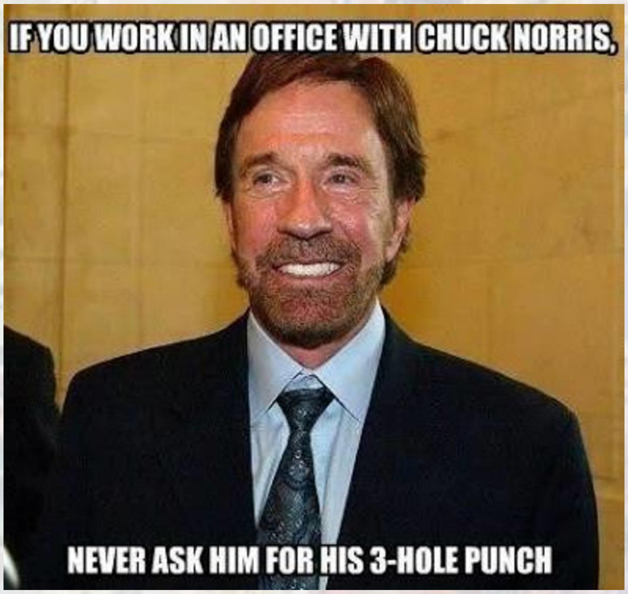
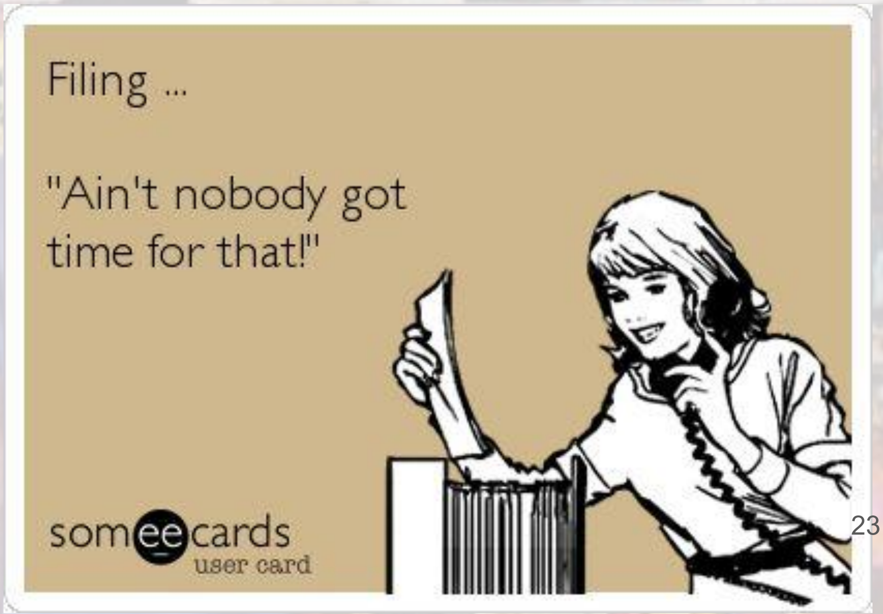

IF YOU WORK IN AN OFFICE WITH CHUCK NORRIS,
NEVER ASK HIM FOR HIS 3-HOLE PUNCH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