

~ ~ 2018 Holiday Edition ~ ~

SPEIDEL BENTSEN LLP
WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON

News of Interest



Attorney Russ Speidel; Legal Assistants Tiffany Reyes, Tawnya Nelson, Lizette Ornelas; Attorney Justine Groome; Attorney David Bentsen; Firm Administrator Jean Speidel

We wish you, our clients, friends and colleagues, a holiday season warm with smiles and bright with joy! As we look toward the end of 2018 and anticipate the beginning of the new year, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with you; and we want to take this occasion to share news of interest from our firm.

Attorney **Russell Speidel** spent a significant portion of the year working with volunteer Washington Fellows of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) to draft new state legislation in light of the Washington State Supreme Court ruling in *“Estate of Rathbone.”* The intent of the proposed legislation is to clarify the authority of a personal representative with nonintervention powers to administer an estate.

Attending the Annual Meeting of ACTEC in San Antonio in March, and the Seattle Annual Estate Planning Seminar in November enabled Mr. Speidel to stay abreast of current developments in the areas of fiduciary income tax, fiduciary litigation, charitable planning, estate and gift tax, elder law, business planning, and powers of appointment. For the 12th consecutive year he was named a Super Lawyer, one of the top five percent in the state, by the magazine, *Washington Law & Politics*. This December, Mr. Speidel concludes a 2-year term as Treasurer of the statewide Board of Directors of Northwest Justice Project. Locally, he joined the Board of the Wenatchee Downtown Association this year and continues over 25 years of service on the Advisory Board of The Salvation Army, Wenatchee Corps.

Attorney **David Bentsen** contributed to our profession and our community by presenting seminars this year regarding Trusts and Alternatives to Trusts; Estate Planning for Indian Tribal Members by the Non-Indian Law Attorney; and Wills and Estate Planning Concepts. He attended the annual meeting of the Real Property and Probate Section of the Washington Bar and the Seattle Annual Estate Planning Seminar to keep up to date in the field. Mr. Bentsen also continues to emphasize complex tax and real estate transactions in his practice of law. He is a founding Board member and President of the Wenatchee Confluence Rotary Foundation and was recognized in 2018 as the “Changemaker” of the Wenatchee North Rotary Club. Mr. Bentsen continues his service as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club.

Speidel Bentsen LLP welcomed Associate Attorney **Justine A. Groome** in May. Justine grew up in both western and eastern Washington, before settling east of the mountains. She graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Washington University, with a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and a minor in Government. Justine received her law degree from the University of Idaho in 2017 and is a member of the Idaho Bar as well as the Washington Bar. She has a special passion for helping the senior community. We are pleased that Justine has joined us at Speidel Bentsen.

In administrative staff news, firm administrator **Jean Speidel**, senior legal assistant **Tawnya Nelson** and legal assistant **Tiffany Reyes** sadly said goodbye to legal assistant **Katherine Miller**, who has moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are happy, though, to welcome **Lizette Ornelas** as our new legal assistant.

It has been a good year for us, and we hope it has also been a good year for you.

Best wishes for joyful holidays and a bright new year!