

Snohomish County Bar



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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

pened to need transition help (my specialty).

Transition help is a broad term, as wide as the menu of items I've done at other organizations. But the key areas I see SCBA needs to shift are more functional than foundational. This membership organization is already clear regarding who it serves (you), and how. I've enjoyed chatting with you as you make copies. I am impressed by your consistent call for SCBA to be your hub of connection and information. This single goal is shared by a diverse set of attorneys, thus there is no need to clarify our mission.

Now that the LRS is operating smoothly, and the golf tournament has concluded, I am focusing on the following action items:

Remote access member services: More and more of you are working away from the office, and are spending less time in the courthouse. As such, we are launching a new website that is easy to navigate and reflects a current-day aesthetic. This site will allow you to email a link to potential clients you cannot serve who may be good candidates for LRS, preview upcoming events, recent postings from the court administrator, and the latest newsletter. This website becomes live in October and will be mobile device friendly. It will also launch our new logo and design theme. We want you to be proud to add a graphic to your materials that says "Member of the Snohomish County Bar Association" knowing it reflects well on you.

The other remote access member benefit I'm strengthening is our provision of CLE. We have hosted two Zoom-based CLEs since I started and I am in conversation with the King County Bar Association about an opportunity to expand your choices of future offerings. Please reach out to me with any topic ideas as I may need to focus on specific areas.

Courthouse-based member services: We will soon add a full-time administrative staff (assuring more regular office hours to access the at-

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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Kristine Scott, Interim Executive Director

As I wrap up my 6th month at SCBA, I notice how many of you still come to my window and check the business card holder. You are no doubt eyeing that card for my name and title. Your surprise at finding a generic Lawyer Referral Service card speaks volumes. You want to know who you're working with and what you can depend upon. I get that. I hope this article explains why I'm here and what I hope to achieve in my limited time in this role.

SCBA found me through a placement agency called Third Sector. Many organizations use Third Sector when in a leadership transition. Finding an immediate replacement executive director was unlikely due to the void left by Joyce's retirement, and the reboot required due to the COVID pandemic. The SCBA hap-

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BAR CALENDAR

SCBA BOARD MEETINGS, 5:15 PM
10/21 11/18 12/16

10/7/21 SWEARING IN CEREMONY

10/30/21 PRO TEM TRAINING
Snohomish County District Court is holding a Pro Tem Training Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. See county website for details

11/11/21 Courthouse closed, Veteran's Day

11/25, 11/26 Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving

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About Bar News

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Ads, articles, announcements and changes of address all go to executivedirector@snoabar.org. Submissions are due by the 15th

"Director's Desk" continued from front page

torney room). We will also add a computer in that room that is linked to the copier, allowing you to move documents from your inbox into paper form quickly without needing SCBA staff help. Expect those changes in the next 2 months.

Networking and connection opportunities: This pandemic has removed many of the ways members used to rub elbows. As I have learned from speaking with you, there is a sense of isolation during this time that you hope SCBA can address. This takes more than cookies and CLEs. For this, we need a professional who excels in membership-based programs. The part-time position we'll post later this year will do exactly that. We will find a membership director who has skill outreaching to existing and future members, and adjusting program elements to fit your needs. We envision a future SCBA that supports the many ways you connect to each other, and promotes your success in the legal field.

Once our membership director is hired and trained, I will end my contract with SCBA. This means I am now halfway through our time together. Please accept my gratitude for the warm welcome, and know that I am very much enjoying serving you. You are an amazing group of professionals, even though we have not yet swapped business cards.

About Kristine Scott: A native Pacific Northwesterner, Kristine enjoys hiking, hanging with her pet ducks and dog (no, they don't get along) and tackling projects. When not supporting 501 orgs, she consults with employers on how to handle irate and hostile customers, drawing on over 20 years in social service management.

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Re: Unlawful Detainer Cases

Date: September 27, 2021

Governor Inslee has extended the unlawful detainer moratorium bridge through October 31st, 2021: https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/proc_21-09.1.pdf. Snohomish County is postponing unlawful detainer residential nonpayment of rent calendars until November. The October sessions of the unlawful detainer calendar announced previously are canceled.

Updated Unlawful Detainer Residential Nonpayment of Rent Calendar Schedule

The calendar will be heard at the following times:

- **November 5 - 12** ☐ Friday at 9:00 a.m.
- **November 16 until further notice** – Tuesday at 9:00a.m. & 1:00p.m. & Friday at 9:00a.m.

Additional sessions of the calendar may be announced.

Consistent with the September 14th SCBA notice, only unlawful detainer motions regarding nonpayment of residential rent will be heard on the calendar. All sessions of the calendars will be heard in courtroom 3 of the Denney Juvenile Justice Center. All other unlawful detainer motions (commercial cases and residential cases not involving nonpayment of rent etc.) will be heard on the Commissioners Civil Motions Calendar in the ordinary course. Please take note that contrary to previous instruction, **working copies for the nonpayment of rent calendars should be submitted on the first floor of the main courthouse outside the confirmations office located at 1-300**. Representatives from the Snohomish County Housing Justice Project and Volunteers of America may be present at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center for assistance.

This new unlawful detainer calendar may be canceled or additional sessions may be created depending on demand and availability of judicial resources. No party or firm may note more than 8 hearings per session. Notice and confirmation of hearings noted on the temporary Unlawful Detainer Calendar shall be consistent with the rules applicable to the Commissioners Civil Motions Calendar. Each session will be limited depending on the number and type of the hearings noted in a given session. Hearings noted in excess of the calendar limit will be stricken; parties will need to re-note their hearing on a future session of the calendar.

Questions may be directed to Mitch Peterson at Mitchell.Peterson@snoco.org



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Landlord & Tenant Info Links

As the legal landscape continues to shift under the reality of a pandemic-related moratorium, it's important to have up-to-date information and resources:

Snohomish County Evictions Info Packet

Eviction Resolution Program

Superior Court's Press Release

Tenant Resources

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PREDICTING SERVICE

DEMAND: SAVING RATE VS. UNCERTAINTY

Marya C. Noyes, 123LLLT, MBA

Greetings, readers. Many in the legal field saw an increase in demand for services last month. Kristine of SCBA related one conversation with a harried attorney who attributed this to clients who had outstanding issues wishing to “wrap things up in case we do another lockdown.” This got me musing, what are we seeing right now around consumer confidence? Are people opening businesses, making major purchases or starting contracts in the face of this new climate?

In my research of this topic, I found that it appears we have yet to understand what we can expect of this new economy. As stated in my June 2020 article, researchers, Giavazzi and McMahon documented a positive correlation between the level of uncertainty and household savings¹. Specifically, that in the face of uncertainty households tended



to increase their savings rate significantly. In my article I reported that U.S. households were mimicking the very same behavior in response to the uncertainty created by the COVID pandemic.

Since 1959, typical savings rate for U.S. households averaged approximately 8%. In the first three quarters of 2019, Americans were feeling rather secure as evidenced by a dip in the average savings rate to 7.26%. In the last quarter of 2019, the average U.S. household savings rate ticked up to 9.6%. When the first wave of the pandemic hit our shores in the first quarter of 2020, the U.S. savings rate shot up to 26%. In April 2020, the U.S. household savings rate actually hit 33.8%.²

Upon review, the graph (opposite page) does put in stark relief the amount of uncertainty the COVID pandemic has wrought upon U.S. households. The good news is that savings rates appear to be leveling off. In June of 2021, the United States savings rate dropped to 8.8%. Unfortunately, it bounced up again to 9.6% in July of 2021, most likely in response to the spread of the Delta variant. 3 Another

continued on page 8

Kristin L. Timm

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US Household Saving Rate, 6/15-6/21



United States; BEA; June 2015 to June 2021

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er release from the BEA is due on October 1, 2021. It will be fascinating to see how U.S. households have reacted to the recent news of the spread of the Delta variant, and the cessation of many Federal Government interventions enacted to stimulate the economy.

To put this extraordinary level of consumer uncertainty into perspective, it is important to review this data within the context of history. For illustration purposes, I have included a chart of US household savings rates from 1959 until July of 2021 (see below).

Frankly, it is mind blowing to contemplate all the events that have occurred in the United States from 1959 until present that should have added to our level of uncertainty. However, as the reader can easily see, outside of very few temporary spikes or valleys, household savings levels have tended to follow a general trend in one direction or the other. Only the COVID pandemic inspired a level of household savings and/or uncertainty which was truly unprecedented.

Since I am currently under the impression that

things appear to be leveling off, next month I intend to review blue ocean strategies being implemented by law firms in Washington and across the country. This is an exciting development as some people are using this time of uncertainty to redefine what's possible while growing their impact. However, given that the next report on personal income and outlays from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis is due to be published on October 1, 2021, the results may inspire me to write on a completely different topic. I may write on business survival strategies implemented during the Spanish Flu or the Third Plague pandemic. I am kidding, of course. As fascinating as topic would be to me, I am relatively certain I am the only person who would find it as such.

Endnotes:

- 1 Giavazzi, F. and McMahan, M. (May 2012). Policy Uncertainty and Household Savings: Review of Economics and Statistics, MIT Press.
- 2 Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce (2020, November) Personal Income and Outlays.
- 3 Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce (2021, July). Personal Income and Outlays.

US Savings Rates 1959 to present



SOURCE: TRADENECONOMICS.COM | U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS



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