

# WDLA FALL SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 10-11 2026

ND HERITAGE CENTER  
612 EAST BOULEVARD AVE  
BISMARCK, ND





# SEPTEMBER 10 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration/Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Keynote Mark Hardy – Kratom Overview

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Sheldon Standish – Three Affiliated Tribes Court – Civil Matters

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Oliver Bromke – Filing on Someone's Behalf: The Criminal Line  
Between Assistance and Practice

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Janelle Portscheller – State Crime Lab Overview & Roadside  
Oral Fluid Drug Screen Pilot Project

# SEPTEMBER 11 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration/Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rachel Sinness – Office of Guardianship & Conservatorship

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (provided/included in registration)

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. John Birmingham – the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution  
– Protecting Individual Rights & Limiting  
Powers of the Federal Government

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Justin Vinje – DUI from A to Z: Administrative and  
Criminal Practice Pointers

**NALA CLE:** This seminar meets the requirements of the NALA Certifying Board for Paralegals for continuing legal education credit required to maintain the CP credential. The seminar has been approved for 10.0 hours (8.5 Substantive and 1.5 Ethics).

**SBAND CLE:** SBAND has approved 8.5 ND CLE credits plus 1.5 ND Ethics credit for a total of 10.0 ND CLE credits. Event #20260910WDALA.



# SPEAKERS:

## **Mark Hardy, Pharm D, Executive Director – North Dakota Board of Pharmacy – Kratom Overview:**

Dr. Mark Hardy, Pharm D is the Executive Director of the ND Board of Pharmacy. Mark is a native of Neche, ND and a 2007 graduate of the North Dakota State University College of Pharmacy where he earned his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. On behalf of the Board of Pharmacy, Dr Hardy ensures the public safety by supervising licensing of pharmacists, pharmacies, pharmacy technicians, prescription drug wholesalers and manufacturers; establishing policies and regulations for the practice of pharmacy. He also is responsible for the operation of the state of North Dakota's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which facilitates controlled substance information to help identify and inhibit diversion in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

*The presentation will provide an overview of kratom products, including their background, history, and introduction into U.S. markets. It will also examine federal and state regulatory frameworks, including the Governor's Executive Order banning kratom products in North Dakota and the subsequent call for a Special Legislative Session.*

## **Sheldon Standish - Three Affiliated Tribes Court - Civil Matters**

Sheldon Standish is an Enrolled Member of the Three Affiliated Tribes. ("Tribe") Sheldon graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in May of 2022. Sheldon is currently the lead criminal prosecutor for the Tribe. He has been practicing for the Tribe since September of 2022. Sheldon's client is the Tribe. He is passionate about helping the Tribe navigate the complex legal issues in Indian County. Sheldon is dedicated to achieving the best possible outcome for the Tribe. He believes it is not always about incarcerating individuals but rather helping them get into treatment if there are alcohol or drug issues in their lives. By helping the individuals, it helps the Tribe have a more sober community.

*Attendees will gain an understanding of the Three Affiliated Tribes Court's civil matters jurisdiction, along with practical guidance and best practices for working effectively with the court.*





### **Oliver Bromke - Filing on Someone's Behalf: The Criminal Line Between Assistance and Practice**

Oliver Bromke is a partner at Bromke & Lees PLLP, a general practice law firm that primarily provides legal services to rural communities in North Dakota and Minnesota. He also serves as the state's attorney for Wells County and McHenry County, and previously worked as a special assistant attorney general for the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and as a county prosecutor in Bismarck and Grand Forks. Before being admitted to the bar, Oliver received his law degree from Rutgers Law School in New Jersey, served on the editorial board of the Rutgers University Law Review, and spent a year as a judicial clerk for the Kodiak Superior Court in Alaska. The youngest state's attorney in North Dakota, Oliver is the president of the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar Association of North Dakota and the vice president of the North Dakota State's Attorney's Association.

*Mr. Bromke's presentation examines the case of State of North Dakota v. Mandy Deann Olson, which involved a prosecution for the unauthorized practice of law. Ms. Olson was charged under N.D.C.C. § 27-11-01, found guilty in Wells County District Court, and later had the conviction upheld by the North Dakota Supreme Court. Attendees will gain insight into the distinction between providing assistance and engaging in the unauthorized practice of law.*

### **Janelle Portscheller – State Crime Lab Overview & Roadside Oral Fluid Drug Screen Pilot Project**

Janelle Portscheller is the State Toxicologist and Toxicology Unit Technical Leader with the North Dakota Office of Attorney General – Crime Laboratory Division. She has been employed by the Crime Laboratory Division for 21 years. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Dickinson State University and Graduate Study in Organic Chemistry from the University of Kansas. Janelle is a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT). She is a member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) and International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT). She also serves on the North Dakota Oral Fluid Technical Advisory Committee, Impaired Driving Task Force, DRE/SFST Advisory Board, and Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. She has analyzed and peer reviewed thousands of toxicology cases for DUIs, the State Medical Examiner, County Coroners, and Drug Facilitated Sexual Assaults.

*Attendees will receive an overview of the State Crime Laboratory, including its units and services, followed by a discussion of the roadside oral fluid drug screening pilot project.*



## **Rachel Sinness – Office of Guardianship & Conservatorship – Updates on the ND Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship**

Rachel Sinness is the Executive Director of the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship (OGC). Rachel is originally from North Dakota, where she resides with her wife, two kids, six dogs, one cat, and three horses. When she is not working at the OGC, Rachel plays violin with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra and teaches piano and violin lessons out of her home. Her devotion to family, animals, music, and career is rivaled only by her fondness for gardening and all things Golden Girls.

*Building on Ms. Sinness' Spring Seminar presentation, this session will provide updated information on the North Dakota Office of Guardianship & Conservatorship, including statistics on the number and types of cases it handles. Attendees will learn about the Office's mission, responsibilities, and the ways it supports the legal community.*

## **John Birmingham – the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution – Protecting Individual Rights & Limiting Powers of the Federal Government**

John A. Birmingham, Jr. Esq. is a licensed attorney in Pennsylvania and New Jersey who has over 15 years experience as in-house counsel and is currently heading commercial transactions at Halozyme, Inc., where he leads negotiations in business deals, transactional matters, corporate law, and contract law. Attorney Birmingham is a professor who teaches Constitutional Law, Business Law, and other various law classes for Purdue University, Southern New Hampshire University, and Centenary University. Attorney Birmingham received his Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies at Arizona State University, his MBA with a Concentration in Criminal Justice at St. Leo University and his Juris Doctor at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Further, John Birmingham was elected by the people of Upper Mount Bethel Township in Pennsylvania in the November 2015 General Election to the Board of Supervisors and was re-elected for a Board of Supervisor position in 2021, serving until 2027. Currently John is the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Upper Mount Bethel and has been for nine years.

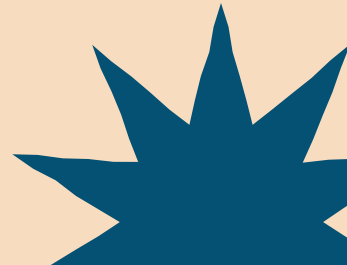
*Attorney Birmingham's presentation examines the Ninth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and its significance in protecting individual rights not expressly listed in the Constitution. The session will explore the historical background, legal interpretation, and practical impact of the Ninth Amendment, as well as its role in limiting federal government authority and preserving personal liberties. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how this often-overlooked amendment continues to influence constitutional law and debates over individual rights.*

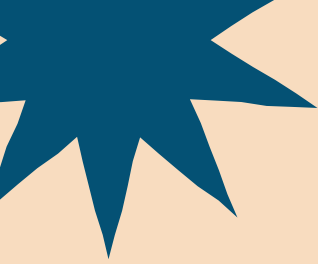


## **Justin Vinje - DUI from A to Z: Administrative and Criminal Practice Pointers**

Justin Vinje is a 2006 graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Law. After law school, Justin worked at the Vinje Law Firm with his father, Ralph Vinje. As an attorney, Justin specializes in criminal defense and personal injury cases.

*Attendees will learn about the administrative and criminal processes involved in Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases in North Dakota. The presentation will examine how these parallel proceedings operate, highlight key differences between them, and provide practical guidance for navigating the legal and procedural issues that arise throughout the course of a DUI case.*





# REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/School/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ NALA Affiliated Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Attending in Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Attending Virtually: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees:

### STUDENT:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60: Full fee if registered after 9/3

### WDLA/RRVPA MEMBER:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$135: Full fee if registered after 9/3

### NON-MEMBER (paralegal/Legal Assistant):

\_\_\_\_\_ \$140: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$155: Full fee if registered after 9/3

### ATTORNEY:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$225: Full fee if registered after 9/3

### 1 ATTORNEY/1 SUPPORT STAFF TEAM:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$275: Full fee if registered after 9/3

### LUNCHEON ONLY:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20: Early Bird if registered by 9/3

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25: Full fee if registered after 9/3

**Email Registration Form To:** mhamiltonacp@outlook.com

**Mail Registration Fee To:** WDLA, PO Box 371, Bismarck, ND 58502-0371

**Cancellation:** Cancellations must be received before September 3, 2026 to receive a full refund of your registration fee.

**Handouts:** Handouts for all sessions will be emailed to attendees.

**Virtual Attendees:** The Zoom link will be sent out the week before the seminar to the email address provided on the registration form.

**Questions:** If you have any questions regarding the seminar or registration, please contact Melissa Hamilton at 701-220-7244 or mhamiltonacp@outlook.com.

