

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AGENCY LEGAL SERVICES BUREAU
HEARING EXAMINERS
BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Katherine J. Orr is the Acting Bureau Chief of Agency Legal Services (ALS). She has 30 years of experience representing state agency clients and 10 years in private practice in Montana and Washington D.C. Her responsibilities have included advocating before administrative quasi-judicial boards on behalf of agency clients and serving in a hearing examiner role with quasi-judicial responsibilities in the areas including employment law, environmental law, and professional licensing. Her responsibilities also have included litigating cases in state and federal law involving a broad range of subject areas including negligence, employment, civil rights, agency regulatory and programmatic operation, and environmental law. She served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services from 1989 to 1995 and attorney for the Board of Environmental review from 1995 to 2005.

—

Amy D. Christensen is the managing partner of Christensen & Prezeau, PLLP. She has twenty-four years of experience litigating cases in state and federal court involving employment, health care, and professional liability issues. She has also appeared on behalf of clients before numerous administrative agencies involving matters such as discrimination and retaliation, unemployment insurance, wage and hour, personnel grievances, and professional licensing. She also served on and chaired the Board of Public Assistance (BOPA) for the past sixteen years. BOPA is a quasi-judicial board attached to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services that hears appeals of administrative hearing decisions on matters related to TANF, SNAP, Medicare, and other public benefits. Prior to forming Christensen & Prezeau, Amy was the managing partner at Hughes, Kellner, Sullivan and Alke, PLLP, where she had worked for sixteen years.

—

Jeffrey Doud has been with ALS since 2015. During his time here, he has represented various departments, agencies, and employees in federal Section 1983 claims, general tort claims, Medicaid estate recovery claims, compensation grievances, wrongful termination claims, human rights complaints, and general agency advice. As a hearing examiner, he has presided over employment grievances, licensure revocations, retirement pay disputes, state contract debarments, and insurance producer violations. Prior to coming to ALS, Mr. Doud was in private practice and represented clients in personal injury, medical malpractice, commercial defense, and workers' compensation in Kalispell.

—

Lindsey Simon joined ALS in August 2019. While at ALS, Ms. Simon has acted as a hearing examiner in livestock market certificate hearings for the Board of Livestock as well as

employee Step III grievance proceedings for various agencies. She acts as legal counsel for the Department of Livestock and the Board of Milk Control. Her primary practice at ASLB is litigation, including defense of tort claims for Risk Management and Tort Defense, discrimination claims, and contract disputes. Prior to joining ALS, she served as the public benefits attorney at Montana Legal Services Association for three years, where she represented claimants in administrative hearings related to Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment insurance benefits, and Social Security benefits. Ms. Simon came to Montana in 2016 from North Idaho, where she was in private practice doing primarily civil litigation, real estate, and commercial law.

—

In November 2020, **Drew Cziok** (pronounced “Chuck”) joined ALS as an Assistant Attorney General. His work here involves defending State employees in civil tort cases and adjudicating administrative matters before the Board of Environmental Review. In 2014, he started his career as a U.S. Department of Justice honors program attorney in Denver, Colorado, practicing immigration and administrative law as a staff attorney to the immigration judges in Denver and Aurora. Following completion of the honors program, he joined the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, working as a trial attorney on criminal immigration, immigration fraud, and national security cases, including serving on several nationwide operations. In 2017 he returned to Montana to be closer to family, where he worked as an associate at Crowley Fleck, PLLP in Helena, primarily providing immigration solutions for Montana businesses, as well as defending Montana doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice suits.

—

Caitlin Buzzas joined ALS in March 2021. She previously worked in Washington D.C. in science and environmental policy for many years before returning to Montana to attend law school at the University of Montana. In law school, she was on the Public Lands and Resources Law Review and International Moot Court Team. After law school she served as a Judicial Law Clerk and then worked in the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP). At OCP she served as the Hearing Administrator for the Tow Truck Committee, managed multistate investigations, and practiced in nonprofit, privacy, and antitrust law.

—

Michele Snowberger recently transferred into ALS, bringing with her more than 30 years of experience. After graduating from the Pepperdine University School of Law, she worked for the Cook County Public Defender’s Office and then as a litigator in Chicago, IL. Ms. Snowberger handled complex litigation including major criminal defense cases, federal civil rights, class action, employment, discrimination, and medical malpractice cases. She then went to work for a marketing firm on the brand side and then within the IT department. In 2002, she

was appointed as the Belgrade, Montana City Court Judge. She held this position until 2015 and presided over all traffic and misdemeanor cases along with civil cases. In 2015, she joined the Department of Justice Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) as the Records and Driver Control Bureau Chief. A year later, Ms. Snowberger became the Driver Services Bureau Chief and oversaw all aspects of driver licensing, including 48 driver license stations across the state, and all driving records and sanctions for both commercial and noncommercial drivers. Additionally, she implemented the REAL ID Act. In 2019, she became MVD's General Counsel providing advice and counsel to MVD, including interpreting statutory and administrative rules for operations and handling MVD related litigation.