

PROCLAMATION

First Judicial District Bar Association

JUNE 2017

2016-2017 OFFICERS

President Justin Ross
President Elect Chris Radeff
Secretary Treasurer Joe Lusk

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Matthew Durkin	Judge Randall Arp
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Andrew Hart	Kathryn Kurtz
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AnnMarie Spain	
Magistrate Marianne Tims	

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BANQUET Sherene Stenger
BENCH/BAR Judge Lily Oeffler
CLE/LUNCHEON Steve Cook
COMMUNITY RELATIONS Open
GOLF Jon Bradley
LAW DAY Magistrate Marianne Tims
MEMBERSHIP Joe Lusk
MOCK TRIAL Amanda Cruser & Judge K.J. Moore
NOMINATING Chris Radeff
OPEN HOUSE Chris Radeff
PROFESSIONALISM Barry Meinster
WEBSITE Justin Ross

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Vicki Malara

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President's Column Justin Ross

"Concluding the Term: Reflections on the Past Year and State of the 1st JD Bar Association"

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end..."
– Seneca

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly one year since I assumed my role as President of the 1st JD Bar Association. The last year has been challenging, busy, but, most of all, enjoyable. I have enjoyed getting to know more of our membership. I have enjoyed meeting monthly with our Board of Trustees and Governors to facilitate discussions as to how to keep our Association healthy and vibrant. I have even enjoyed writing these monthly articles – after all, it is not often that I get a semi-captive audience to listen to my ramblings.

With this, my last President's Column, I thought it appropriate to give the Association some general thoughts about the state of the Bar, as well as to acknowledge a few of our members and committees who have been particularly active during my term.

Our Association is strong. We are financially healthy, and our core membership remains committed and involved. To those of you who are regularly involved: thank you. Your efforts and participation are greatly appreciated. To those of you who are not regularly involved: I would encourage you to find ways to connect and get involved. I am convinced you will find such personally and professionally fulfilling.

Our CLE programs have been expertly handled in the past two years – first by Chris Radeff, and currently by Steve Cook, who have been thoughtful and diligent chairpersons for the CLE Committee. I want to thank all who serve on the CLE committee, as well as all our presenters this past year. Steve and his committee already have future CLE's planned, and I have great confidence that this committee is in great hands.

We have seen a new injection of life into our annual golf tournament. Jon Bradley volunteered (or was, perhaps, somewhat conscripted...) to take over the event, and the 2016 tournament was fantastic. I am excited that Jon is continuing on in this role.

Our annual banquet continues to highlight our District's judicial officers and our Association's annual award winners. Sherene Stenger has done a superb job as chair of our banquet committee, and her committee members' many hours of efforts toward this event have ensured that the high standards of our banquet have been maintained.

Judge Lilly Oeffler has invested great efforts toward chairing our bench/bar committee; including taking her own personal time to host groups of attorneys and judicial officers to facilitate conversations to improve our bench/bar relations.

Our Board of Trustees has devoted significant resources into improving our Association's website. Although the site is still a work in progress, I am proud of the progress we have made with the site, and I am excited to see (and use) the finished product.

Of course, there are many, many more who have contributed throughout this year. I want to personally thank the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, and our Board officers Chris Radeff and Joe Lusk, for making my term enjoyable and, from my perspective, productive. I am confident that the Association is in good hands next year with our new leadership.

I want to thank our Executive Director, Vicki Malara. It is hard to over-state how critical Vicki is to our Association. Vicki is organized, efficient, diligent, and (perhaps most impressive) has put up with me for an entire year. Vicki truly is the "central nervous system" of our Association. The next time you see her, please take a moment to stop and thank Vicki for all she does for us.

Finally, I want to thank our entire Association for entrusting me with the position of President for this past year. I remained humbled by, and I hope that I proved myself worthy of, your trust.

I am excited to see what our future brings!

1st Judicial District Bar Association Board 2017-2018

President-Chris Radeff

President Elect-Joe Lusk

Secretary Treasurer-Ryan Hutton

Board of Trustees

*Marie Drake
Matthew Durkin
Andrew Hart*

*Samantha Lillehoff
Andrew McLetchie
Sean Paris*

*AnnMarie Spain
Jim Stanley
Magistrate Marianne Tims*

Board of Governors

*Judge Randall Arp
Jon Bradley*

*Katie Kurtz
Justin Ross*

SAVE THE DATE

**Monday, October 9
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Hiwan Country Club**

**Saturday, October 14
JUDGES & AWARDS BANQUET
Lakewood Country Club**

MEMBER BENEFIT

The 1st JD Bar Association Membership Committee has arranged for a member discount for all 1st JD Bar Association members.

15% off the first order
at

Ratio Clothing
2559 16th St. Denver, CO
www.ratioclothing.com

Call 303-434-2501 or
email to admin@1stjd.org
and ask for the discount code.

NEUTRALS YOU KNOW, PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST.

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Dispute
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1st Judicial District Bar Association CLE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jeremy Schupbach, the Legislative Director for the CBA will provide an update of the 2017 Legislative session.

**Tuesday, July 11, 2017
12:00 TO 1:00 pm**

**Lookout Mountain Room
Jefferson County Courthouse
Members -CLE & Lunch \$20
Non-members -CLE & Lunch \$25
No-Lunch -\$10**

This is always a popular CLE luncheon so make your reservation soon.

JUDGE'S ROUNDTABLE CLE LUNCHEON

It's that time of year again for the very popular 1st JD Bar Association Judge's Roundtable Luncheon. Each Judge and Magistrate will choose a topic for discussion at their table.

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017
12:00 p.m.**

**Jefferson County Courthouse
100 Jefferson County Parkway
JURY COMMISSIONER'S ROOM**

**FOR THIS LUNCHEON ONLY
\$22 CLE with lunch for 1st JD members
\$27 CLE with lunch for non-members**

This luncheon does not offer the bring your own lunch option.

**RSVP to:
admin@1stjd.org or call
303-434-2501**

CLE credit requested



2017 1ST JD Bar Association Judges & Awards Banquet

The Nominating Committee thanks those of you who have sent in your nominations. We do still need nominations for several awards. There are so many deserving recipients among your peers. Please recognize them by making a Quick & Easy nomination at:

<http://1stjd.org/2017-awards/>

New Award**

Frederick J. Myers Professionalism Award - This award is to be bestowed upon a member of the First JD Bar Association to honor that attorney who is a model of civility and respect in the legal profession. This is an award to an attorney who demonstrates outstanding professionalism, which is defined as dedication to service to clients in a civil, respectful manner. This award is intended to honor lawyers who demonstrate exemplary ethical conduct, civility and respect, toward all Parties, Counsel, and the Court. Professionalism and civility foster respect and trust between lawyers, the judiciary, and the public. Professionalism serves the best interests of clients, promotes the efficient resolution of disputes, and improves the administration of justice. The attorney honored with this award does not need to be a litigator and his/her area of practice is irrelevant.

Award of Merit – Awarded to the attorney member of the First Judicial District Bar Association who primarily practices in this District, and has provided distinguished service to the Bar and the community deserving of our Association's highest recognition.

Claudia D. Miller Liberty Bell Award – This award is given to a non-lawyer who has furthered the interaction of the community and the legal system and provided an uncommon contribution to the system or government as a whole.

Lisa Harness Memorial Award- This person demonstrates a superior degree of professionalism, knowledge and dedication to the position of a Clerk of the Court and has worked in the judicial system for at least one year. Persons who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to going above and beyond to assure that the judicial system and the public are served with an exceptional degree of service are appropriate nominees.

George Holley Young Lawyer Award – This is given to an attorney under the age of 37 or in practice for less than 5 years who is a member of the First J.D. Bar and is deserving of recognition for her or his activities with the Bar, the community and in the practice of law. The recipient should be someone who reflects a strong commitment to the legal profession and to community service

Linda T. Palmieri Award For Outstanding Service to Children – This is given in recognition of an individual's demonstration of a superior degree of professionalism and commitment to children, and who has worked actively to advance the welfare of children. The individual need not be an attorney, but shall have made significant contribution to the children of the First Judicial District, and the legal system as a whole.

Why This Top Cannabis Attorney is Optimistic About Legalization, Even in the Sessions Era

By Robert T. Hoban

Entire libraries have seemingly been written about Attorney General Jeff Sessions' distaste for cannabis. We all know the 70-year-old former U.S. Senator from Alabama is not a fan of marijuana. We also know he is very much against the recreational pot sales already happening, and those yet to come online. But while most of the writing on the subject has signaled some sort of apocalypse for the legalization movement -- "Jeff Sessions' Coming War on Legal Marijuana," a lengthy Politico Magazine piece predicts -- I'd like to approach this from a very different angle. The legal marijuana industry, which will create more than 250,000 jobs and be worth more than \$22 billion by 2021, has legitimate concerns under Sessions, yes. But there is absolutely no reason for cannabis businesses to press the panic button just yet.

In fact if you look beyond Sessions' off-handed tough talk on marijuana -- the basis for most of the industry's concern -- and focus instead on what he's directly said about his intentions for enforcing this new and burgeoning industry, you might even feel a growing optimism. I'm referencing a late-April meeting between Sessions and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper in Washington D.C. Earlier that month Hickenlooper, alongside the governors of Alaska, Oregon and Washington state, penned a letter to the Attorney General urging him to leave their state-legal retail cannabis industries alone.

After their face-to-face meeting Hickenlooper told MSNBC that Sessions "didn't give me any reason to think that he's going to come down and try and put everyone out of business. He certainly was very direct and clearly said they've got a lot of priorities, and, at one point, he said, 'Well you haven't seen us cracking down, have you?'" The Colorado Governor's chief of staff later added that Sessions also talked about having far greater enforcement priorities than state-legal marijuana, but most importantly that the AG referred to the all-important Cole memo -- an Obama administration directive that gives federal guidance to cannabis businesses -- as "not too far from good policy."

In a follow-up to his MSNBC comments, Hickenlooper said he expected Sessions to revise the Cole memo and doubled down on his expectation that the Attorney General (who he described as "honest," "straightforward" and "direct") won't come after states with recreational cannabis. So instead of trying to read into Sessions' many anti-cannabis remarks we should pay attention to what he's directly saying about his Justice Department's policy priorities. This is good news for the legal marijuana industry -- and some of cannabis' biggest supporters in the federal government are recharging for the next push forward.

"The legalization train has left the station," Oregon Rep. Earl Blumenauer, who co-founded the Congressional Cannabis Caucus earlier this year, recently told BuzzFeed. "There will never be another president elected who's anti-cannabis. Mark my words. Public support is growing. The evidence is getting clearer. There are more of my colleagues that care about this issue." And as Sessions' enforcement intentions become clearer and legalization's momentum continues to build at the federal level, many of the investors who stepped back from legal cannabis opportunities after President Donald Trump's election are beginning to feel more confident about their investments in the industry's future.

"My view in a nutshell: the voices of the 28 states that have voted for medical marijuana are so loud now," Jeanne M. Sullivan, a New York-based investor and cannabis industry advisor, told Mashable. "And what about the thousands of new jobs that are being created, revenue, and tax revenue in the eight adult-use states? The current White House team cannot overlook that." Jobs and escalating tax revenues -- now that's language Sessions and his boss understand.

Robert T. Hoban is a managing partner at the Hoban Law Group, America's premier cannabis law firm. Hoban is the former president of the Cannabis Business Alliance and a member of the National Hemp Association, the National Cannabis Industry Association the Colorado Cannabis Chamber of Commerce.