

NOVEMBER 2017

PROCLAMATION

First Judicial District Bar Association

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President's Column

Chris Radeff

I Would Never Have Survived on the Prairie

This month I had the privilege of attending the dedication of Phase Three of The Judges Wall, which is located on the first floor of the Courthouse as you walk into the main Clerk's Office (see accompanying article below on page 3. It is an impressive display of the judicial officers that have served our District since 1858. I would not call myself a history buff, but I do enjoy learning about historical events or people in Colorado that go beyond the gold rush and Molly Brown surviving the sinking of the Titanic. The Judges Wall gives us a glimpse into the Colorado legal world during the Territorial Era and the early Election Era.

Historically, there's much written about circuit court judges riding from town to town to mete out justice, but not much about what life might be like for lawyers in those early years. As a child of the television era, I remember shows like Bonanza, Here Come the Brides and Gunsmoke playing out Hollywood's version of the Wild West. But I don't remember any lawyers in those shows.

Of course, as a young girl I loved Little House on the Prairie – both the books and the television show. No lawyers there either. Like television can do, Little House romanticized life on the prairie, and I was certain that I would have as much fun and excitement as young Laura seemed to have every week. I mean, Michael Landon was playing her dad! But as I got older, surrounded by the creature comforts of plumbing and a furnace, I had to face the reality that I would never have survived on the prairie. Ever. And I would never have survived as a lawyer on the prairie. Ever.

Think about it – let's go back 130 years or so. You wake up in the morning to a freezing cabin and immediately head outside to an even colder outhouse. Back inside, there's no Mr. Coffee, Keurig or Nespresso machine brewing your fuel for the day. "Alexa" cannot turn on your television to catch the latest news because THERE IS NO TELEVISION. And no Alexa. Cranky, deprived of caffeine and your Jimmy Dean microwavable sausage sandwich (right, because there is no microwave), you saddle up the horse and head out to your law office.

The commute has got to be difficult. Sure, it's no I-25 but by god, there is nary a Starbucks in sight along the way! Nothing but your harmonica to keep you entertained since, well, Sirius Radio isn't available on that model of Chestnut mare. Finally arriving at your office – perhaps having traveled up hill, both ways, in a snow storm – you start your research on your new client's issue, but your computer won't boot up. Why? BECAUSE THERE IS NO COMPUTER! And don't get me started on handwriting pleadings! Where's the spell-check? Once done, you walk the pleading you have cleverly labeled "Motion for Emergency Hearing" over to the courthouse for filing. The clerk just smiles: it'll be a few months before the circuit judge comes riding through. Sigh.

History, like many things, looks better from the rearview mirror than when it actually occurred. But the best part about history is it helps us understand where we came from and what opportunities we have because of those who forged the way before us. So maybe go check out The Judges Wall for a little perspective on this crazy thing we call The Law. Rearview mirror optional.

Chris Radeff

The Judges Wall Project

Since most of us now file almost everything electronically we rarely take that walk down the first floor hallway into the main Clerk's area anymore. However, the next time you are at the courthouse, make a point of walking down the right hand side where you will see the three phases of the Judges Wall Project. A coordinated effort by the Jefferson County Historical Commission, the 1st Judicial District, and the Colorado Supreme Court Law Library, these walls now house the photographs and biographies of the judicial officers that served the 1st JD from 1858 through today. Along with the photos and biographies, there are sketches done of the changing boundaries of the 1st JD, and the courthouses that have served us over the years. It is a fascinating walk through history!



50 YEARS OF PRACTICE
Congratulations to Donald Vogt
and Gary Polidori.

Mr. Vogt and Mr. Polidori were
recognized at the CBA President's
Briefing on November 6.

Writing is its own reward.

-Henry Miller

Are you a budding poet?

Do you have a short story about your travels?

Nearly finished writing the next Great American Novel?

Have an interesting legal topic to address?

Then send it our way! This year we will be featuring writings of members of the 1st JD in our Proclamation. If you would like to be a guest writer, please contact Vicki at admin@1stjd.org for deadlines and availability.

*Don't try to figure out what other people want
to hear from you; figure out
what you have to say.*
-Barbara Kingsolver



1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION GRANTS

The bar association is taking
applications for non-profit grants.

Applications are due January 31, 2018
and will be disbursed by April 30,
2018.

You may access the grant application
on the website at 1stjd.org under
Grant Information at the bottom of
the page. The forms should be available
by November 27, 2017. If you
would like to start your process now,
you can obtain an application by sending
an email to admin@1stjd.org.

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**Dispute
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Holiday Giving

The holiday season is approaching and many of our non-profits that provide services to those who come into contact with our judicial system can use your help. Below is a non-exhaustive list of non-profits that could use either financial assistance or donation of items. Check out their websites for further information.

Action Center (formerly the Jeffco Action Center). www.theactioncenter.org.

CASA. www.casajeffcocgilpin.com. Donated items to the CASA Office on the administrative side of the Courthouse.

Court Support Jeffco. www.courtsupportjeffco.org. For donation of items, please drop off at the CASA office.

Family Tree. www.thefamilytree.org.

Savio House. www.saviohouse.org.

Second Wind. www.thesecondwindfund.org.

The Giving Tree Jefferson County Courthouse <https://www.jeffco.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=330>

Committee Corner

Law Day

The Law Day Committee is a twice yearly event held in the Atrium at the Courthouse. Volunteer attorneys provide free legal assistance throughout the day to nearly 200 pro se parties in civil, domestic, criminal, juvenile and child support matters.

The committee is chaired by Magistrate Marianne Tims. Committee members are George Bailey, Chris Radeff and the Clerks of the Self-Help Center.

COMING SOON

Attorney profiles on the 1st JD Bar Association website.

Watch Your inbox for updates.

Happy Winter
Holidays!



1st Judicial District Bar Association CLE



FAMILY LAW CLE

Friday, December 8, 2017

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lookout Mountain Room

Jeffco Courthouse

\$60 Member/\$75 Non-Member

**Trying to subpoena a therapist? Good Luck!
How about a teacher? Think again!**

Presentations by:

**Casey Frank, JD, MPH
and
Christopher Esser, Esq.
Jeffco Public Schools**

**Stranger Things:
The weird and lesser-known adjustments to the
Child Support Worksheet**

Presentation by:

**Kelly Keane, Esq.
Denver Child Support Enforcement
and
Andy Hart, Esq.
Pelegri & Radeff, P.C.**

RSVP: <http://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2017/12/8/family-law-cle-casey-frank-christopher-esser-kelly-keane-andy-hart>

or

admin1stjd@gmail.com

Application pending for 3 CLE credits