

# PROCLAMATION

## First Judicial District Bar Association

SEPTEMBER 2017

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## President's Column Chris Radeff

In an unscientific poll administered by me, it was found that the one thing that all 1<sup>st</sup> JD Presidents dreaded the most was writing an article every month for the Proclamation. Well, that is, all Presidents minus one: (that would be me!). I actually enjoy writing them. I clearly do not write scholarly articles; no, I prefer to muse – some might call it thinking out loud – and perhaps bring a chortle to our members' otherwise stress-filled lives. I do not think we laugh enough on a day-to-day basis. So I try.

However, this month I am breaking from my quest for jocularity. As I write this article Texas has been ravaged by Hurricane Harvey, and now Florida is in the sites of Irma, which just lashed the small islands in the Atlantic. This article is not about helping those in Harvey and Irma's path, although I believe most of us have done so on our own. No, this article is about community, and without it we are a lesser society. Neighbors and strangers rescuing people in the floodwaters merely because they need help is the epitome of a community.

When I first started practicing law I literally did not know anyone in the Jeffco legal field, aside from those in my firm. The first thing Jon Slaughter Pelegrin said to me was "get involved." While I have always been the type to raise my hand, it was daunting to do so in a new career with people who were demi-gods to me when it came to the knowledge of law. But I did. And by doing so, I became an active member of a community.

Now, this article is not an attempt to get you to join the bar association, although we would love to have you. It's also not an attempt to convince you to sign up again next year, although we would also love to have you stay. No, this article is about how we, as a bunch of misfit lawyers, do make this community a place where "getting involved" is not just something to check off on a list. It is about a fellow colleague taking the time to kick around ideas with you about a complicated case; or covering a hearing for a solo attorney who is in a jam; or reaching out to a colleague who may be in distress to just see what you can do to help.

Our profession is dichotomous: we are around people – lawyers, clients, judges – almost all the time, yet, we often hole up in our offices alone in order to avoid said lawyers and clients. Sure, most of us know other lawyers; heck we practice against them all the time. Sometimes they annoy us; sometimes they are a pleasure to work with. Sometimes their name ends up on the bathroom wall with an arrow through their head! But if we never interact with our colleagues outside of a case, we lose out on an opportunity to know them as a person and not just a bar registration number.

If you know someone as a person you are more likely to be congenial towards them, and they to you. The same concept applies to an opposing counsel. Too often we get mired in either our client's "stuff" or even our own "stuff" and snarl and gnash our teeth at each other, all allegedly for the benefit of the client. But other than maybe feeling good, or winning the battle but not the war, this really does not get us anywhere.

Those more seasoned attorneys than I often share stories from the past about meeting opposing counsel for lunch to discuss a case, and actually ended up settling, all without compromising their client's position. And, in the process, they began to know each other as a person. It is much harder to be rude to the person sitting across from you than it is to fire off an email or text to a faceless person. I did take this course of action once in a case, and while we did not settle 100% of the case, we were able to narrow the issues and get some resolution for our clients.

I certainly do not mean to wane philosophic, but it strikes me that in times of crises – hurricanes, traumatic events, etc., - we are kinder to each other than we are on a day to day basis. Our community deserves better. So I challenge everyone out there who does not feel that they are part of our 1<sup>st</sup> JD community to attend one bar association event between now and December 31<sup>st</sup> and introduce yourself to three people. I challenge those that are already involved in our 1<sup>st</sup> JD community to not only reach out to three new faces at one of our events, but perhaps invite them to lunch. You'll be helping to build a stronger community one relationship at a time.

-Chris Radeff

**What is YOUR passion?  
What is YOUR escape?**

We hope you will enjoy a new section that gives you an opportunity to learn more about your fellow 1st JD Bar Association members. This month we feature **Hannah Jannicelli Westmont**

**My escape is skiing.** I appreciate that skiing provides a way for me to catch up with my family and friends during long car rides on I-70 or on the chairlift. In addition, skiing provides me moments of solitude to pause in the trees and reflect on my week, while searching for the perfect line or fresh powder.

I love that each day on the mountain is different, and I enjoy the challenge of finding the "best" run of the day. I love that skiing keeps me outdoors from sunrise to sunset during the dark winter months, and the fresh air and stunning views reenergize me within minutes.

Hannah Jannicelli Westmont

pelegrin & radeff, pc

**We've Moved!**

Our new offices are located at:

**350 Indiana Street, Suite 200  
Golden, CO 80401**

Our telephone and email will remain the same

**(303) 985-8787**

[home@prfamlaw.com](mailto:home@prfamlaw.com)

**NEUTRALS YOU KNOW,  
PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST.**

Samuel Gordon, Esq.  
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DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION  
METRO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

**METRO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS  
MENTORING PROGRAM**

*No issue is more fundamental to our constitutional mandate of providing equal justice under the law than ensuring adequate legal representation. –Jonathan Lippman*

Metro Volunteer Lawyers wants to remind you about its Pro Bono Mentoring Program and encourage you to get involved!

We truly appreciate all our volunteers and want to make taking a pro bono case as easy as possible. Our mentoring program is designed to allow you to be a mentor or mentee on a pro bono case in an area of your choosing. Our program allows mentors to customize their level of involvement to meet their demanding schedules, while finding time to help those in need of legal assistance, as well as new attorneys in need of mentorship. Mentees are always expected to take primary responsibility over a case!

You may be an experienced attorney who wants to take on a pro bono case with a mentee as co-counsel, or simply field questions when needed. Or you may be a new attorney looking to take on a case with the assistance of a mentor. This program is also an excellent way to fulfill pro bono requirements and gain CLE credits. If you wish to take on a new matter with a particular mentor or mentee who has agreed, please notify our office and we will assign you a case.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete this form as soon as possible and either email it to [robin@denbar.org](mailto:robin@denbar.org), fax it to 303-837-0019, or mail it to:

**METRO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS**  
Attn: Mentoring Program  
1905 Sherman St., Suite 400  
Denver, CO 80203

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  MALE  FEMALE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BAR#: \_\_\_\_\_ HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN IN PRACTICE?: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DESIRED COUNTY OR COUNTIES:

- Adams/Broomfield  Arapahoe  Denver  Douglas/Elbert  Jefferson/Gilpin

*2017-2018*

Please indicate what type(s) of case you would be interested in:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills/POA              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption              | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate                | <input type="checkbox"/> TANF/Medicaid/Other Benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Custody               | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian/Conservator   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Decree Referrals | <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts/Warranties   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QDRO                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Collections            | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax (individual)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile              | <input type="checkbox"/> Tort Defense           | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency/Neglect    | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Fees       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Scope Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy                   |

**MENTORS** (Mentees can skip this section)

MY DESIRED LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IS:

- I would like to take on a case full-on with a mentee as co-counsel
- I am willing to be a mentor, but only to field questions when needed\*\*
- I am willing to be a mentor according to the following restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\*\* Please note that we have the greatest need for mentors who can take a case full-on as co-counsel and mentees are always expected to take primary responsibility over the case.*

**MENTEES** (Mentors can skip this section)

I AM SEEKING A MENTOR TO:

- Take on a case full-on with me as co-counsel
- Be available to answer questions
- Other: I am seeking a mentor to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have any preferences in a mentor/mentee, if possible (e.g., years of practice, geographic practice area, gender, age etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Interests, activities, and/or interesting facts about you?: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please call email [robin@denbar.org](mailto:robin@denbar.org). Thank you!

# FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION JUDGES & AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday October 14, 2017

Lakewood Country Club,  
6800 W. 10th Ave, Lakewood, Co 80214

Cash Bar 5:45 to 6:45 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm  
Cost \$60 per person

## MENU CHOICE

Filet Mignon\*Halibut\*Vegetarian

Award of Merit: Joe Pickard  
Frederick J. Myers Professionalism Award : Gary L. Polidori  
George Holley Outstanding Young Lawyer: Joshua T. Keltner  
Lisa Harness Memorial Award: Laura H. Arcilise  
Claudia D. Miller Liberty Bell Award: Traci Worthan  
Linda T. Palmieri Award: Leah Varnell

New Judicial Officer  
Judge Harold Sargent  
&  
Outgoing Judicial Officer  
Judge Tammy Greene

Tribute to  
Judge Michael Villano  
Virgil Boatright

You can register now at  
<http://1stjd.org/events/#levent/2017/10/14/judges-awards-banquet>

OR  
admin@1stjd.org

You can also send your check to 1<sup>st</sup> JD Bar Assn, PO Box 1733, Wheat Ridge, CO. 80034  
Please give your guest name and menu choices

## GUEST ARTICLE BY TERESA LOCKE

When I tell people that I recently traveled on a humanitarian mission trip to Kabul, I typically get two questions. The first question is "Did you say Kab-ul or Cab-o?" When I answer "Kabul, Afghanistan," the second question inevitably is "Are you out of your mind?!?" or something that expresses the same bewilderment. The answer to the second question is not as difficult as you might think and can be found in these sweet faces. Those faces!



A good friend of mine once told me, "The two most important decisions you can't make in life are where you're born and who your parents are." The ironic truth packed into that simple sentence is mind boggling. Why was I born in the United States to loving middle-class parents and not in a war-torn country to uneducated parents struggling each day to simply stay alive? Having hit the jackpot on where and to whom I was born, I have an undeniable moral obligation to pay it forward. A few years ago, my husband (Darin) and I were introduced to an incredible organization, Sozo International ([www. Sozointernational.org](http://www.Sozointernational.org)), that provides us with a platform to, in a very small way, pay it forward.

Sozo is a non-governmental organization that focuses on transformational and sustainable solutions for Afghans through education, healthcare and economic development. On the education front, Sozo operates a school in Kabul for 780 street-working kids in grades 1-7. Because Sozo funds the school, it can insist that the girls are given an education equal to that given to the boys. On the healthcare front, Sozo operates a clinic in the community of Barek Aub (about an hour outside of Kabul), where they provide free medical care to people living in surrounding villages. Sozo staff and volunteers teach the villagers basic health and hygiene practices. Those individuals are then able to use their new-found knowledge to educate their families and neighbors and so on. On the economic development front, Sozo operates a training center in Kabul where adults can learn basic skills in trades, such as plumbing, electrical, sewing or embroidery (as well as literacy), so that they can become self-sufficient and earn an income to support their families.

Over the past few years, Darin has gone to Afghanistan to work with Sozo three times, and I have gone twice, most recently in May 2017. On this last trip, we were able to host a field day for approximately 100 young girls in Barek Aub. For many of them, as girls living in a very restrictive society, this was the first time they were able to run, jump, and throw things with total abandon. We also were allowed to take about 400 kids from the Kabul school in small groups over a two-day period to the Kabul Zoo. (Who knew Kabul had a zoo?!?)

I've never seen kids get so excited to see rabbits and peacocks. They tried to teach me Dari words for the various animals, and they were anxious to learn the English words. For one day, perhaps these kiddos were able to forget that they live in a city where suicide bombs are, sadly, a frequent occurrence. To get to be even a small part of that experience was priceless.



One thing I have learned through my two trips to Afghanistan is that at the end of the day, 99.9999% of the Afghans want the same things as you and I do: they want the dignity of having a job so that they can support their families; they want their children to be healthy, to have a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs, and to get an education; and they want meaningful and lasting relationships with others. The Afghan people are welcoming and hospitable, and they are so appreciative that Americans would travel from half-way around the globe to spend time investing in their lives. So, despite the perplexing looks we get from our friends and family, Darin and I will likely go back to Afghanistan in the future to continue to be a part of Sozo's humanitarian effort there because when we do, we get far more than we could ever give.

*Teresa Locke is a partner at The Locke Law Firm, PC in Denver and often practices in the 1<sup>st</sup> JD. For the past several years, she has focused her practice on resolving complex family law disputes through litigation and appeals.*

**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 1<sup>st</sup> JD in our Proclamation. If you would like to be a guest writer, please contact Vicki at [admin@1stjd.org](mailto: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



**pelegrin & radeff, pc**

Join us at our new offices for an

**Open House**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017  
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

350 Indiana Street, Suite 200  
Golden, CO 80401

RSVP appreciated (303) 985-8787 or [home@prfamlaw.com](mailto:home@prfamlaw.com)

We are just south of 6th Avenue and east of the Jefferson County Fairgrounds

# Committee Corner

## Golf

The Golf Committee is chaired by Jon Bradley with the following committee members: Phillip Geigle, Andrew McLetchie, and Elizabeth Miot

Jon and his committee bring you our annual Golf Tournament, which will again be at Hiwan Country Club on October 9, 2017.

Go to [www.1stjd.org](http://www.1stjd.org) for more information, or email Vicki at:

[admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

## 2017 1st JD Bar Association Golf Tournament

Monday, October 9, 2017

Hiwan Golf Club

30661 Clubhouse Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439

Shotgun start at 10 am

Cost: \$100 per golfer  
Hole sponsorship-\$200 per hole.

### Two Flights

◇ 1st Flight-Traditional Scramble event.

◇ 2nd Flight-each player plays their own ball. The two best net scores per hole are scored for the foursome with a maximum score of triple bogey. Players selecting the second flight must submit current GHIN Indexes with their registration.



You can register now at:

<http://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2017/10/9/golf-tournament>

Or

[admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)



## 1st Judicial District Bar Association CLE

### ETHICS CLE

Friday, September 22, 2017

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lookout Mountain Room, Jeffco Courthouse

#### Truths & Untruths - The Consequences of Lying

A Practical Look at Ethics

*Presented by the Honorable Kim H. Goldberger  
Retired Jefferson County Judge and current Senior Judge*

\$60 Member/\$75 Non-Member

3 Ethics Credits

Register at: <http://1stjd.org/events/#!/event/2017/9/22/judge-goldberger>

OR

[admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

### TO LITIGATE OR ARBITRATE

Presented by  
Dennis Polk

Holley, Albertson & Polk, P.C.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lookout Mountain Room, Jeffco Courthouse

Members -\$20 CLE & lunch

Non-Members-\$25 CLE & lunch

No lunch -\$10

1 General CLE Credit

Register at

<http://1stjd.org/events/#!/event/2017/10/10/to-litigate-or-arbitratepresented-by-dennis-b-polkholley-albertson-polk-p-c>

OR

[admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Part Time Litigation Paralegal

A small Golden law firm with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere is currently seeking a part-time (25-30 hours per week, flexible) Litigation Paralegal to assist with all aspects of office management.

Ideal candidate must have a professional demeanor, maintain a positive attitude, have excellent written and oral communication skills, and be able to work well independently as well as in a team setting. Strong attention to detail and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work well under occasional pressure as well as establish and maintain positive client relations. Salary depends on experience.

Responsibilities include: Assisting attorneys, State and Federal e-filing, preparation of pleadings, correspondence, scheduling, organizing records and office management. Candidate must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum of 3+ years paralegal experience
- Excellent organizational skills
- Knowledge of Quickbooks and Timeslips (or other billing program)
- Ability to multi-task and maintain multiple case records and requirements
- Ability to be efficient and meet deadlines
- Excellent computer skills

Please email [rdodson@dodsonlawfirm.com](mailto:rdodson@dodsonlawfirm.com) with a cover letter, current resume, writing sample, salary requirement, and professional references.