PROCLAMATION

First Judicial District Bar Association

SEPTEMBER 2017

2017-2018 OFFICERS

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1st Judicial District Bar Association
PO Box 1733  Wheat Ridge, CO, 80034
303-279-5568 Phone and Fax
Web Site: 1stjd.org
FB: 1st Judicial District Bar Association
In an unscientific poll administered by me, it was found that the one thing that all 1st 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 1st JD community to attend one bar association event between now and December 31st and introduce yourself to three people. You’ll be helping to build a stronger community one relationship at a time.

- Chris Radeff
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

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

NEUTRALS YOU KNOW, PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST.

Samuel Gordon, Esq.
Elaine A. Wohlner, Esq.
Hon. James S. Miller
Hon. John P. Leopold
Hon. Harlan R. Bockman
Hon. William F. Downes
Collie E. Norman, Esq.
Richard P. Myers, Esq.
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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, 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: __________________

DESIRE COUNTY OR COUNTIES:

☐ Adams/Broomfield ☐ Arapahoe ☐ Denver ☐ Douglas/Elbert ☐ Jefferson/Gilpin
Please indicate what type(s) of case you would be interested in:

☐ Divorce  ☐ Wills/POA  ☐ Public Housing
☐ Adoption  ☐ Probate  ☐ TANF/Medicaid/Other Benefits
☐ Custody  ☐ Guardian/Conservator  ☐ Real Estate
☐ Post Decree Referrals  ☐ Contracts/Warranties  ☐ Landlord/Tenant
☐ QDRO  ☐ Collections  ☐ Tax (Individual)
☐ Juvenile  ☐ Tort Defense  ☐ Immigration
☐ Dependency/Neglect  ☐ Alternative Fees  ☐ Social Security
☐ Mediation  ☐ Limited Scope Services  ☐ 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. Thank you!

www.metrovolunteerlawyers.org
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/#!event/2017/10/14/judges-awards-banquet

OR
admin@1stjd.org

You can also send your check to 1st JD Bar Assn, PO Box 1733, Wheat Ridge, CO. 80034
Please give your guest name and menu choices
A good friend of mine once told me, “The two most important decisions you can 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), that provides us with a platform to, in a very small way, pay it forward.

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!

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 newly 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.

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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 1st JD. For the past several years, she has focused her practice on resolving complex family law disputes through litigation and appeals.
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

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**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](http://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2017/10/9/golf-tournament)
Or
admin@1stjd.org
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

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-arbitratrepresented-by-dennis-b-polkholley-albertson-polkp-c

OR
admin@1stjd.org
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 with a cover letter, current resume, writing sample, salary requirement, and professional references.