

PROCLAMATION

First Judicial District Bar Association

September 2019



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2018-2019

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

RYAN HUTTON

Judgeship in the First Judicial District

"So are you planning on becoming a Judge someday?" This was a question I was always asked in my younger years when informing people I had just graduated from law school and passed the bar. For those of you who know me personally, you know I am always pretty indecisive and non-committal to things, so my response would always be: "Well, I don't know. Maybe. I guess I will have to see where life takes me." I venture to think that I am not alone in experiencing this inquiry and having a similar reaction.

If we all can conjure up some remembrance of our high school civics classes for a minute or two. The term separation of powers may come to mind. Specifically, the Judicial and Legislative branches. This dynamic provides the citizens of the United States with the Legislative branch that passes the laws for their constituents and the Judicial branch who interprets, applies and enforces those laws on behalf of the citizens and the States. Without a knowledgeable, diverse and competitive judiciary willing and able to apply, interpret and enforce the laws in an impartial, competent and reasonable manner, its citizens may arguably find themselves in a state of anarchy. Just imagine for a minute if during your everyday transactions of purchasing an item or going to work, we had to constantly worry about getting the product we paid for or being compensated for our time. Now anomalies do exist, but the vast majority of a person's daily transactions go fairly smooth without the need to initiate legal action. We get our Starbucks coffee as ordered and get paid when we go to work. Having the oversight of law and the judiciary permit these often-effortless transactions.

To ensure this viability, we must have a competitive and diverse judiciary in place. So how do you become a Judge in Colorado you may ask? Could I ever be a Judge? Do I have the knowledge and expertise to try and become a Judge? Well, lucky for you, instead of having me try and parse that out and explain it here, Chief Judge McNulty is hosting a CLE on just this topic. He will be joined by Alison Zinn from the 1st JD Nominating Committee at the September 20, 2019 CLE titled: "WE WANT YOU! How to Apply for Judgeship in the First Judicial District."

I truly believe this is a unique and pertinent CLE for anyone who has ever contemplated becoming a judicial officer or for someone who just wants to understand how Colorado's judicial selection and appointment process works. And did I mention this CLE is FREE for 1st JD Bar Association Members!?! Also, it will have some immediate impact as two Judge positions are likely to open up in the 1st JD at the beginning of 2020. So, I encourage you all to attend the September 20th CLE so that we can all become just a little more knowledgeable on this topic and ensure that our judiciary remains sound and competitive. If only so we can continue to get our coffee as purchased and get paid for work, and not live our lives with constant concerns that we will be taken advantage of.

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STILL LOOKING FOR A GREAT OFFICE?

Golden Hill Law Offices has inexpensive office space available November 1. We are a suite of ten 1st JD lawyers with practices in civil litigation, real estate, criminal law, elder law and estate planning, located at 12600 W. Colfax Avenue in Lakewood. We are close to I-70, West Sixth Avenue and the Jeffco Courthouse.

An office in our suite includes use of three conference rooms, a kitchen area, a digital copier/scanner, full time receptionist, ample parking, an exercise facility, a coffee shop and unbeatable opportunities for interaction with experienced practitioners.

Interested? Call Evan Lipstein at 303 232-5151
or Maureen O'Brien at 303-238-0648



1st JD BAR ASSOCIATION
CLE LUNCHEON
Friday, September 20, 2019

WE WANT YOU
How to Apply for Judgeship
in the First Judicial District

Judge Philip McNulty,
Chief Judge 1st Judicial District
&
Alison Zinn, Esq.,
1st JD Nominating Commission

12:00-1:00 p.m.
Jeffco Courthouse,
Jury Commissioners Room

FREE CLE
Bring your own brown bag lunch

Register at:
[https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2019/9/20/
cle-we-want-you-how-to-apply-for-a-
judgeship-in-the-p1st-jd](https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2019/9/20/cle-we-want-you-how-to-apply-for-a-judgeship-in-the-p1st-jd)

or
admin@1stjd.org
CLE Credit pending

1st JD BAR ASSOCIATION
CLE LUNCHEON
Tuesday, October 8, 2019

**PROFESSIONALISM IN THE
PRACTICE OF LAW**

Presented by David Littman, Esq.

12:00-1:00 p.m.
Lookout Mtn. Room
Jeffco Courthouse,
CLE & Lunch: Members \$20
CLE & Lunch: Non Members \$25
No Lunch \$10

Register at:
[https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2019/10/8/
professionalism-in-the-practice-of-
lawpresented-by-david-littman](https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2019/10/8/professionalism-in-the-practice-of-lawpresented-by-david-littman)

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UPCOMING CLE'S

November 12, 2019
HOW CASES ARE DECIDED
Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Rebecca Freyre

December 10, 2019
FAMILY LAW

January 14, 2020
CBA PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING
Kathleen Hearn Croshal

MEMBER PROFILES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Take a look at one of your member benefits
Choose a Free Listing or Enhanced Profile

FREE LISTING

Your name
Address
Phone Number
Map showing your general location

ENHANCED PROFILE

For \$20 a year our members in good standing can add a photo, a link to your website, email, practice information and bio to the directory search to increase new business leads.

Go to 1stjd.org and select **Find A Lawyer**. Type in your name and you will see your basic profile. If you do not see your name, email to admin@1stjd.org

Select **Gain Account Access** if you would like to make corrections to your profile. Select **Enhanced Profile** if you would like to create an Enhanced Profile. Follow the prompts to enhance your profile.

Questions or problems-admin@1stjd.org

SEEKING WRITERS FOR THE PROCLAMATION

Are you a budding poet?
Do you have a short story about your travels?
Have an interesting legal topic to address?
Nearly finished writing the next Great American Novel?

Send your musings to admin@1stjd.org. AND THE REWARD IS-For each published article, you can choose to attend one free CLE with lunch or one month's business card size ad.

"One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple."

--Jack Kerouac, The Dharma Bums

**2019 1st JD Bar Association Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 19, 2019
Hiwan Golf Club
30661 Clubhouse Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439**

Start at 11:30

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION– SEPTEMBER 13

**Get your team together and join us for a great day.
All are welcome.**

**Cost: \$100 per golfer
Sponsor: \$200 per hole
Free lunch and beer**

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**

To register send names and Flight information for each player to: admin@1stjd.org. Send your check to 1st JD Bar Assn., PO Box 1733, Wheat Ridge, CO. 80034. If you prefer to use a credit card, call the number below.

Questions? Call Vicki at 303-434-2501

REFLECTIONS FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE MVL BOARD- BY STEVE COOK

As I am finishing my term as chair of the MVL advisory board, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the multitude of people who I have met and worked with in different capacities to help continue MVL's role as the nationally recognized program that it has become. I will not provide names for fear that I will commit the unforgivable act of omitting someone. However, there are many individuals at the DBA and CBA who work tirelessly to provide much-needed support and direction to MVL. In fact, the presidents, board members, and executive directors of all of the supporting bar associations have stepped up this year in a renewed effort to refocus our programs and services and to help design a plan to reach more people. The staff at MVL are invaluable as well, and provide the needed infrastructure and support to keep moving forward. The advisory board members of MVL have generously increased their roles, providing guidance and support in the development of new programs, recruiting, and fundraising efforts. Finally, we have returning volunteer attorneys and new recruits who attend FLCP clinics, post-decree clinics, power of attorney clinics, and the Denver Indian Center Clinics, and take on full representation cases for MVL. We rely heavily upon the volunteers to make these efforts, as without them we could not function as an organization providing such services to those in need. Thank you for everything you do for MVL!

At the same time, I would like to issue a challenge to all of us to really invest in performing pro bono legal activities. I know that each of us probably does something that fits the definition of volunteering, and of course the amount of that volunteering seems to ride a wave where each of us has done more in some years than others due to family, work, and other commitments.

But in terms of really providing pro bono legal representation, I challenge each of us to do better. We all have the accidental or unintentional pro bono cases when a client doesn't pay the balance of their fee. This example/situation is not pro bono service that I am referring to. Instead, we should recognize that we are called to service in the legal profession, as the Colorado Attorney Oath of Admission states in part:

I will use my knowledge of the law for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system; I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed...

Providing pro bono legal services betters our society by providing access to justice that some individuals and families would not otherwise have. It allows us to take up the cause of the defenseless and oppressed and in turn may place us in situations where we do not usually find ourselves. To me this is where real learning and growth occurs in each of us. Bryan Stevenson, lawyer and social justice activist, says that proximity to those in need teaches us basic and humbling truths, one being that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice.

In a recent case I was assigned through MVL, I was able to witness firsthand how having legal representation changed the course of a particular client's life for the better. Prior to having counsel, she had tried to explain to the judge how her position differed from that of her brother's as they both argued to be appointed as guardian for their elderly father. However, it seemed that she didn't know the right words to say or when to say them, and she was confused by the speed of the proceedings. She had unwittingly dug herself into a hole and it seemed that she would not be able to make her way out.

For this client, it wasn't about winning or losing, though we all know winning is a sort of magic elixir. It was more about being in the conversation and having a seat at the table. It was about having her concerns heard and being respected for having a different point of view. There is an undeniable comfort one feels when walking into a courtroom represented by competent counsel. We helped organize her thoughts and positions into an understandable template, gaining respect of the court-appointed guardian ad litem and ultimately from the opposing attorney and the judge. This case was not overly complicated with legal arguments or factual analysis. Quite simply, it was about access.

By volunteering and serving MVL, you are providing access to justice to families and individuals who need protection, representation, and assistance in a myriad of situations. We presently have a need for attorneys to take full representation on over 200 cases. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ivonne Esparza by email at iesparza@denbar.org or by phone at 303-866-9307.

Thank you to everyone who supports MVL, and in the next year, let us all try to give a little bit more to the cause.