

# **PROCLAMATION**

## **First Judicial District Bar Association**

### **APRIL 2020**



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2019-2020

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PO Box 1733 Wheat Ridge, CO, 80034  
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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

RYAN HUTTON

### The Pulse of the 1<sup>st</sup> JD

I believe most of you are familiar with our executive director, Vicki Malara. For those of you who know Vicki, you know that she is the pulse of the 1<sup>st</sup> JD Bar Association and takes on much more than is expected to her. For those of you who do not know Vicki or would like to know her better, she graciously agreed to sit down and be interviewed by me. It only took some coaxing and assurances that it would not be a cross-examination, but she ultimately agreed! If only just to put herself out there for us to learn a little more about her. Thank you, Vicki for all you do and for sitting down with me to chat.

[Ryan: Please state your name and spell your last name for the record?](#)

Vicki: Vicki Malara - M-A-L-A-R-A

[R: How long have you been the executive director for the first JD bar association?](#)

V: 15 years this month.

[R: What things do you enjoy in your personal life?](#)

V: I love estate and yard sales. Love repurposing found items. Love a free day to take day-trips and find great restaurants, I think I could be a restaurant critic. I also love cooking and libraries.

[R: Tell me about these estate sales?](#)

V: It is great fun to hear about the people who lived in the house and their history. A favorite story, is finding an estate sale where we met a woman who traveled all over the world with a theater company. She was selling all the treasures she collected. I found a chair that I refinished and a blanket she said were used in a movie. We also found some great post cards and when we tried to purchase them she started crying and said she had been looking for them for years; they were from her husband. I loved the cards but gave them back to her and she gave us the chair and blanket for free.

[R: Where did you grow up?](#)

V: Colby, Kansas. It is a small town not far from the Colorado/Kansas border, about 4 hours from Denver.

[R: What brought you to Colorado?](#)

V: Some of mother's family was here and we transitioned to Denver when I was about 6. Went to Arvada high school and then Denver county annexed the land at 52<sup>nd</sup> & Sheridan where we lived and I graduated from Denver North High which was an experience.

[R: How did you first hear about this position being open 15 years ago?](#)

V. I had been retired from the bank for a few years but was looking for a part-time job as I was taking care of mom and winding down from traveling with my husband who was on a travelling race team . . .

[R: Your husband was on a travelling race team?](#)

V: Yes, he worked in the shop for Rick Carelli on a Nascar team and traveled with the team. He then worked on a smaller Winston West Circuit stock car team. We traveled to tracks around the country and I cooked for the team. It was great fun, but there was a lot of testosterone in the ranks.

[R: That sounds like quite the experience.](#)

V: It was. So, given those two things, one day I picked up the Wheat Ridge Sentinel. I saw the job posting and called Carol Conklin to apply. Carol said they were closing the posting and I would need to send in my resume that day. I had not looked at my resume for years. I sat down, threw it together, and faxed it to Carol.

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Ryan Hutton  
President's Column  
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**R: And then did you get an interview?**

V: Yes, I went in for a group interview with Jane Ebisch, Joe Pickard, Carol Conklin, Mike Cohen and Mike Beutz at Mike Cohen's office.

**R: Did you hear back about the position?**

V: Yes a few days later, Joe Pickard called. I was distracted at the time of the call and thought he was a salesman. I almost gave my stock response of "not interested" and hung up. But luckily, I asked his name again and he offered me the position.

**R: And what are your duties with the bar association?**

V: Facilitating communications with the members. Handling financial details, budgeting tasks, web-site updating, supporting committees, maintaining the membership dues processing, maintaining historical records.

**R: Had you worked with an association of lawyers before?**

V: No, I did testify ten or fifteen times as a witness for the bank to verify loan transactions for defaulted loans.

**R: What are some of your most positive experiences you have had working for the bar association?**

V: Working with the people. So many interesting people and situations. Lots of diversity. I feel I can make a difference here. At the bank it was all rules and regulations. Here I have flexibility and can think outside the box.

**R: Any examples of your favorite projects that you have worked on?**

V: I liked working with the Bar Summit and contributing to a book for all the local bars and the monthly newsletter.

**R: What are some of the negative experiences?**

V: As in most organizations, many things get resolved and then open up again. I feel like most of things I do never get completely done. Although it is much more positive than negative; working with different personalities each year when the board changes is strangely one of my favorite challenges.

**R: Any inside funny stories you want to share with us?**

V: A few months after I started my position, there was an attempt to get together with other local bars. We decided each local bar would do a dinner in their jurisdiction and invite bar leaders and then rotate. So, I arranged a dinner for everyone. But it turned out that I selected a restaurant in Adams not Jeffco. I was not told about my mistake until after dinner was completed though.

**R: Do you have any other connections to the legal community?**

V: My husband's cousin's wife is an attorney. Her name is Valerie. It's funny because a lot of people skip over the name after the V and she gets calls that are intended for me and vice versa.

**R: What have you found most rewarding about working with a group of attorneys?**

V: Again the people. I think people classify attorneys. They may have a public perception of being lofty and intimidating. But I have found them to be interesting and credible people who strive to do the right thing.

**R: Any last words you want to share with the bar association?**

V: God I think I have said enough.

**Judges & Awards Banquet  
October 17, 2020**

**Nomination is Quick, Easy and Online**  
**See a description of the award with criteria for nomination**  
**and a nomination form at**  
**<https://1stjd.org/awards/#!event-list>**

*AWARD OF MERIT*

*FREDERICK J. MYERS PROFESSIONALISM AWARD*

*LINDA T. PALMIERI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE TO CHILDREN*

*LISA HARNES MEMORIAL AWARD*

*GEORGE HOLLEY YOUNG LAWYER AWARD*

*CLAUDIA D. MILLER LIBERTY BELL AWARD*

**First JD Bar Association Board of Directors**  
**Expand your horizons. Join the board.**

A term on the board is two years with an option to renew for another two year term. Most members of the board choose to serve two terms as they find the process rewarding. Serving as a board member is a great way to meet other attorneys, interact with the judicial bench and serve your local community.

Consider that serving on the board involves a small but very important time commitment which includes a monthly board meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Courthouse. The nominating committee meets soon to consider appointments. If you are interested in a position, please send a letter outlining your interest along with a resume to : [admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

**Deadline April 30, 2020**

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## NEWS FROM THE BOULDER BAR ASSOCIATION

Over the past 2 weeks, the Boulder Bar Association has developed a series of free virtual presentations for their members and recorded them for distribution to all attorneys. They have graciously offered free access to our members. Here are a few of the topics. See them all at this link. : [https://www.boulder-bar.org/bcbavirtualcle?fbclid=IwARITRPPKjt\\_0BqHKMBOZ-edvZeoFOOU-vCRrD8areVBBVivPPjY-nXY6yXc](https://www.boulder-bar.org/bcbavirtualcle?fbclid=IwARITRPPKjt_0BqHKMBOZ-edvZeoFOOU-vCRrD8areVBBVivPPjY-nXY6yXc).

COVID-19 Adaptation and Relief Programs and Resources for Small & Medium Businesses,  
Nonprofits, and Freelancers  
Presented by Jason Wiener and Francisca Pretorius

Employment Law Update in Response to COVID-19  
Presented by Jennifer Lorenz

Technology Tips for Working Safe at Home  
Presented by Jodi Martin

COVID-19 Concerns and Some Legal Effects on Current Real Estate Practice  
Presented by Ron Jung

Landlord/Tenant Issues Related to COVID-19  
Presented by Brett Landis and Karen Burns

Golf Tournament

**Thursday September 24, 2020 12:30**

Hiwan Golf Club

Judges & Awards Banquet

**Saturday October 17, 2020**

Lakewood Country Club