

PROCLAMATION

First Judicial District Bar Association

MARCH 2021

2020-2021

OFFICERS

President	Samantha Lillehoff
President Elect	Andrew Hart
Secretary Treasurer	Preston Branaugh

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nicholas Campbell
Marie Drake
Alan Hendrix
Jennifer Kilpatrick
Joseph Maher
Dennis Polk
Kim Sparks
Kelci Sundahl
Judge Christopher Zenisek

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ryan Hutton
Joe Lusk
Magistrate Marianne Tims
Jennie Wray

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards *Jane Ebisch*
Banquet *Kim Sparks*
Bench/Bar *Judge Lily Oeffler & Tom Walsh*
CLE/Luncheon *Steve Cook*
Community Relations *George Bailey*
Golf *Jon Bradley*
Law Day *Magistrate Marianne Tims*
Membership *Joe Lusk*
Mock Trial *Jennifer Melton*
Nominating *Andrew Hart*
Professionalism *Barry Meinster*
Website *Ryan Hutton*

Executive Director *Vicki Malara*

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 THIS ISSUE

President's Column

JAMS –NEUTRALS YOU KNOW,
PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST

CLE April 13, Top Ten Things Non-
Bankruptcy Practitioners Should
Know About Bankruptcy Law

Virtual Pro Se Clinic (VPC) Program

Introducing Alexis King, District
Attorney for the First Judicial
District



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Samantha Lillehoff

March 2021 President's Column

"I fear the man of a single book."

—St. Thomas Aquinas

I have not seen snow in the Denver metropolitan area like this since the December of 2006. At that time, Akon had not one, but two songs in the top three of Billboard's The Hot 100 Chart, boycotting Fiji bottled water had become a political statement, and Facebook had only just expanded its membership beyond college students and corporations to all people of at least thirteen years of age. I was still learning how to drive, and I was not yet sure whether my love of the history and idea of law would translate into the pursuit of a career in law.

2006 was the real start of the period when I had the honest-to-goodness pleasure of throwing myself into my studies and reading works in a variety of fields that would further stoke my passion for the law and, eventually, would set me on the path to law school and beyond. Now, as I am sure many of you can relate, the lion's share of my average day is dedicated to a relatively narrow area of the law (hello Title 32, my old friend). But back then, my legal studies and curiosity touched the horizons of my then breadth of knowledge. After some nostalgic, blizzardy reflection, I have determined (or remembered?) that, while cultivating depth of knowledge and experience is critical to a successful legal practice, breadth, curiosity, and wonder are also important.

To that end, I dug through the back of my bookshelf to flip through the dog-eared tomes on which I trod my first steps toward becoming an attorney. A notable passage comes from St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologica*. One of the things I like most about Aquinas is that he had the sheer hutzpah to ask a vast rhetorical question, like "Is There an Eternal Law?," and then he would proceed to answer it in just a few concise paragraphs with such brilliance that scholars still pour over and debate them almost eight centuries later. In the *Summa*, I-II, Question 96, Article 4, Aquinas asks "Does Human Law

Continued from page 2

Impose Obligation on Human Beings in the Court of Conscience?" He then answers that just laws "indeed have obligatory force in the court of conscience," but unjust laws do not. According to Aquinas, laws are just from three perspectives: (1) "from their end, namely, when they are ordained for the common good"; (2) "from their authority, namely, when the laws enacted do not surpass the power of the lawmakers"; and (3) "from their form, namely, when they impose proportionately equal burdens on citizens for the common good." By contrast, he continues, laws are unjust in two ways: by not satisfying any of the three foregoing conditions, or by being contrary to the "divine good" or the "divine law."

Whether or not you give credit to the Thomistic world view, I hope you enjoy, as I did and do, engaging with passages like this, taking whatever little gems reveal themselves and carrying them with you to enrich your human experience, including your professional experience. And, I hope you share with others, myself included, what first attracted you to the law and any impactful works you encountered along the way.

NEUTRALS YOU KNOW, PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST.

Samuel Gordon, Esq.
Elaine Wholner, Esq.
Hon. Jim S. Miller
Hon. John P. Leopold
Hon. William F. Downes
Collie E. Norman, Esq.
Richard P. Myers, Esq.

Hon. Norman D. Haglund
Kenneth Bennington, Esq.
Hon. Christopher C. Cross
Hon. C. Scott Crabtree
Frederick B. Skillern, Esq.
Lawrence M. Vogel, Esq.
Florine L. Clark, Esq.

Julie T. Waggener, Esq.
Gary B. Blum, Esq.
Kathy L. Seidel, Esq.
Steven C. Choquette, Esq.
Hon. Kurt A. Horton
Hon. Robert McGahey, Jr.
Hon. John W. Madden

410 17TH STREET, #2440 • DENVER, CO 80202
WEB: jamsdenver.com • PHONE: 303.534.1254



Dispute
Resolution
Systems

FIRST JD BAR ASSOCIATION

Virtual CLE

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

CLE Members \$10

Non- Members \$15



**Top Ten Things
Non-Bankruptcy Practitioners
Should Know About Bankruptcy Law**

Presented by Guy Humphries

Virtual CLE Presented via Ring Central

Register at

<https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2021/4/13/top-ten-things-non-bankruptcy-practitionersshould-know-about-bankruptcy-law-by-guy-humphries>

OR

admin@1stjd.org

**Sign in information will be sent
to you after registration.**

CLE Credit Requested



The *Virtual Pro Se* Clinic (VPC) Program

The Virtual Pro Se Clinic (VPC) is a Colorado *pro bono* program that delivers free monthly legal clinics by computer link at public libraries for folks who do not have an attorney. Volunteer attorneys spend 15-20 minutes meeting one-on-one with clinic patrons to answer questions and explain court procedures and processes in all areas of Colorado civil law. You're invited to be part of that effort. Because of the pandemic, all VPC clinics are being done by telephone to keep everyone safe. Once the libraries re-open, we'll transition back into the libraries for our regular *Zoom* videoconference format.

Speaking one-on-one with a knowledgeable volunteer attorney can make an enormous difference to individual *pro se* litigants by expanding access to legal support for underserved communities.

This new video-conferencing technology makes volunteering easier, and eliminates the travel time, costs, parking and weather issues sometimes associated with volunteer opportunities. But it's not the technology that makes it work, it's the talent of volunteer attorneys who help *pro se* litigants understand the process and procedure of the civil issue that brings them to court.

In this new form of volunteering, attorneys support our clinics from anywhere they have a webcam-equipped device, and broadband internet access. At the other end of the computer link, local libraries rely on their own computers and broadband for VPC clinic patrons.

As the VPC program starts its ninth year in 2021, we'll support monthly free legal clinics at local libraries in thirty seven Colorado rural and urban counties, at 67 different library locations.

Volunteer attorneys are asked to commit to at least three clinics per year (*total of 9 hours over twelve months*). All VPC clinics are from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on weekdays in the first two weeks of each month. To help volunteer attorneys with the challenging task of assisting on any civil issue, a new web site was created at www.checkerboard.co which covers over 60 different Colorado civil issues.

All volunteer attorneys receive one-on-one training via video-conference covering best practices guidance, and ethical issues relating to *pro se* litigants, as well as a hands-on familiarization with the free *Zoom* video-conferencing software. In each VPC clinic, an experienced attorney is available to assist as "*second chair*", until the new volunteer is comfortable with the format, resources, subject material, and the technology.

Finally, volunteer attorneys receive CLE credit (*at rate of five-to-one*) for their VPC *pro bono* volunteer time, to a maximum of nine general CLE credits per 3-year compliance period.

Interested? Please contact Ric Morgan at (303) 520-6088 or morgan@hayday.org

Introducing Alexis King, District Attorney for the First Judicial District

My name is Alexis King, your newly elected District Attorney for the First Judicial District. I am honored to serve this office and our community for the next four years. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share a little bit about my background and the goals I have for my term as your DA.

I was born and raised on the west side of Colorado Springs. I earned my B.A. at Hollins University in Virginia and returned home to Colorado to work on behalf of survivors of intimate partner violence at a community non-profit. This experience drove me to attend law school and in 2006, I graduated from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver, and then clerked for the Honorable William Robbins in Denver District Court. In 2007, I joined the First JD's District Attorney's office as a Deputy District Attorney where I served for ten years, spending the latter half of my career focused on how we serve children in the community, whether they be survivors of violence or charged with offenses. Ultimately, I led the office's Human Trafficking Unit and was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to Colorado's Human Trafficking Council, shaping policy for the community and Colorado.

Thereafter, I became a Magistrate Judge in Denver where I presided over alternative courts as well as Denver's first effort to reduce the incarceration of people struggling with addiction, mental health, and poverty. Before running for District Attorney, I returned to my non-profit roots at the Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center as a Title IX and Victim Rights' Attorney, where I advocated on behalf of students facing gender-based violence and survivors in the criminal courts. I am proud to be the first woman elected to serve as District Attorney in the First JD and I look forward to creating transformative change in our community. My administration's goals for the next four years include establishing a Conviction Integrity Unit, and a pre-file diversion program and reforming bond practices.