

# PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association



## 2023-2024 1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION

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PO Box 1733 Wheat Ridge, CO 80034  
303-279-0753 Message and Fax  
Web Site 1stjd.org

## **APRIL 2024**

### Advertising

JAMS

Carol Johnson Fiduciary Services

Free Ads for 1st JD members

Member Spotlight Magistrate Cara Sweet

Law Day Event

1st JD Bar Events

MVL Fundraiser

Membership Renewal Notices

Award Nominations

Mark Pautler Obituary

Ric Morgan Obituary

Nominees for Board of Directors

Job Postings

News from the Court

CASA Champions for Children Breakfast

MVL Volunteer Opportunities

## ADVERTISING

### 1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Free adds in the  
Proclamation  
for all members.

Questions  
[admin@1st.org](mailto:admin@1st.org)



## Fiduciary Services

Carol Johnson  
Attorney

[CarolJohnsonFiduciary.com](http://CarolJohnsonFiduciary.com)

# NEUTRALS YOU KNOW PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST

Samuel Gordon, Esq.  
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Collie E. Norman, Esq.  
Kenneth R. Bennington, Esq.  
Hon. Christopher C. Cross  
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Kathleen E. Craigmile, Esq.  
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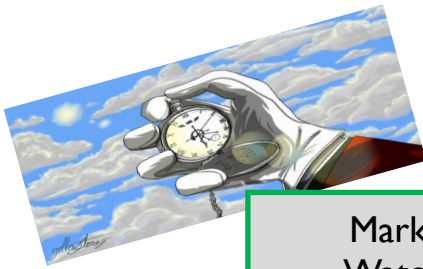
Dispute  
Resolution  
Systems

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT MAGISTRATE CARA SWEET

**Cara Sweet** attended the University of Virginia for her undergraduate degree and the University of Denver, as a Chancellor scholar, for law school. She started her legal career as District Attorney in the 18th Judicial District. She spent almost a decade prosecuting Special Victim's crimes and started the office's Human Trafficking Unit. In 2018, she joined the Attorney General's Office as the Director of Professional Development and split her time between training members of the office on trial skills, and litigating high profile or complex civil cases involving torts, employment discrimination claims, and constitutional law violations.

In 2020, Cara joined the Jefferson County Attorney's office where she has spent the past four years litigating dependency and neglect and other juvenile law matters. Cara spends most of her free time with her family, including her two younger daughters. Cara and her husband spend their weekends at the pool in the summer and teaching their girls to ski in the winter. Cara loves to travel, to cook, and is an avid book reader and has been in the same book club for the past 15 years. Cara volunteers through the Women's bar association and at her daughters' school, and is looking forward to becoming more involved with the 1st JD bar. Cara is thrilled to be joining the bench in the 1st JD and to interacting with the many excellent practitioners here in Jefferson County.





Mark your calendars  
Watch for upcoming  
dates and events

## 1st JD Bar Events

\***Golf Event** –Information will be available soon

\***Judges & Awards Reception**  
Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Red  
Rocks Country Club

**MVL's annual fundraiser is just around the corner on April 27. This year it is the 2024 Spring Soiree and Auction: Under a Spring Moon.** What that really means is we are looking forward to a fun night of food, drinks, and a live auction. The view is amazing from the DaVita Event Center in downtown Denver.

It is going to be on  
**Saturday, April 27**  
**at 7 PM.**

DaVita Event Space & Outdoor Patio  
2000 16th Street Mall Denver, CO  
80202

Please join us! Get your tickets here:  
<https://tr.ee/1IjrDyZLgn>

The CBA will soon be sending membership dues renewal notices to you by email. Please watch for those reminders. We are looking forward to working with you this year.

If you have any questions about your membership, contact us at:

CBA  
[membership@cobar.org](mailto:membership@cobar.org)  
303-860-1115

OR  
1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION  
[admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

## LAW DAY

**Wednesday May 1, 2024.**

There is still a need for  
**Traffic/Criminal**  
attorneys on May 1.

Please contact  
Andy Schultz at  
720-772-2501

## The Judges and Awards Reception is working on bringing you a great event Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Red Rocks Country Club

**We need your nominations to make it successful.** Please take a moment to nominate one of your deserving colleagues. Check the qualifications below to assure your nominee meets the qualifications. Questions? Email to [admin@1st.org](mailto:admin@1st.org).

**TO NOMINATE GO TO:** <https://1stjd.org/awards/#levent-list>

### AWARD OF MERIT

Awarded to the **attorney member of the First Judicial District Bar Association** who primarily practices in this District, and has provided distinguished service to the Bar and the community deserving of our Association's highest recognition.

### FREDERICK J. MYERS PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

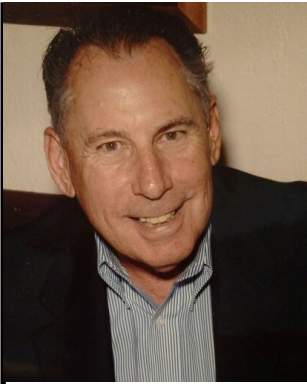
This award is to be bestowed upon a **member of the First JD Bar Association** to honor that attorney who is a model of civility and respect in the legal profession. This is an award to an attorney who demonstrates outstanding professionalism, which is defined as dedication to service to clients in a civil, respectful manner. This award is intended to honor lawyers who demonstrate exemplary ethical conduct, civility and respect, toward all Parties, Counsel, and the Court. Professionalism and civility foster respect and trust between lawyers, the judiciary, and the public. Professionalism serves the best interests of clients, promotes the efficient resolution of disputes, and improves the administration of justice. **The attorney honored with this award does not need to be a litigator and his/her area of practice is irrelevant.**

**LINDA T. PALMIERI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CHILDREN** – This is given in recognition of an individual's demonstration of a superior degree of professionalism and commitment to children, and who has worked actively to advance the welfare of children. **The individual need not be an attorney, but shall have made significant contribution to the children of the First Judicial District, and the legal system as a whole.**

**LISA HARNESS MEMORIAL AWARD**- This person demonstrates a superior degree of professionalism, knowledge and dedication to the **position of a Clerk of the Court and has worked in the judicial system for a least one year.** Persons who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to going above and beyond to assure that the judicial system and the public are served with an exceptional degree of service are appropriate nominees.

**GEORGE HOLLEY YOUNG LAWYER AWARD**- This is given to an **attorney under the age of 37 or in practice for less than 5 years who is a member of the First J.D. Bar** and is deserving of recognition for her or his activities with the Bar, the community and in the practice of law. The recipient should be someone who reflects a strong commitment to the legal profession and to community service.

**CLAUDIA D. MILLER LIBERTY BELL AWARD** This award is given to an individual who has furthered the interaction of the community and the legal system and provided an uncommon contribution to the system or government as a whole.



Mark Christopher Pautler, age 82  
passed away unexpectedly on April 6, 2024.

Born on April 6, 1942, Mark was raised in St. Louis, Missouri where he attended St. Louis University High School and then completed 6 years at St. Stanilaus Jesuit Seminary. While contemplating whether or not he would continue his future in the Jesuit priesthood, he asked to be transferred to Denver in 1968 to teach at Regis Jesuit High School where in addition to his academic responsibilities he established Regis's first soccer program. Upon deciding to leave the priesthood, he met and married his first wife Cheryl and they established their family life together. While working as a program administrator with the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Mark completed his law degree at the University of Denver night school program.

Mark went on to dedicate his professional life to criminal justice and service to his community. He was a fierce advocate for law enforcement and worked as a Chief Deputy District Attorney for some 30 years. He was the Jeffco District Attorney's Office point person for handling every critical incident and mass casualty event including the Columbine School shooting tragedy. He taught at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office academy for many years, lectured around the country on the handling of mass casualty events, and served on the board and ultimately as President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Bar Association. He served on statewide committees overseeing and developing criminal justice legislation. Upon retiring from the DA's office he achieved the zenith of his professional career by serving 10 years as an associate municipal judge for the communities of Lakewood and Mountain View.

Mark was a devoted husband, a dedicated father, and a proud grandfather. Mark is survived by his beloved wife of 31 years Betsy, his sons Chris (Tess) and Dan, his stepson Ryan (Karla), and his four grandchildren, Tyler, Kylie, Sebastian, and Lucas. Mark is also survived by his brother Bill (Rose) and nieces Aimee (Bill), Melissa (Keith), and Katie (Rachel). Family was the ultimate joy of his life.

Mark was an avid golfer, pickleball player, bowler, a master of trivia night, and considered himself quite skilled on the dance floor. He will be remembered by so many for his compassion, his personal warmth, sense of fun, and wild sense of humor. Mark touched so many people's lives. His love and support of his friends and family was limitless. Mark was the type of man people knew they could go to with their problems or for advice. Fellow workers knew him as a leader, mentor, friend, and confidant. Your problems were his problems and your dreams were his dreams.

A "Celebration of Mark!" was held on Monday, April 15th where the dress code was casual, bright, cheery, and goofy tee shirts were welcomed. Instead of flowers, those wishing to honor his life can make a donation in Mark's name to the Salvation Army.



## Frederick Nathan "Ric" Morgan

### Obituary of Frederick "Ric" Nathan Morgan

Ric Morgan passed away unexpectedly on Saturday February 17th 2024 while working in his law office at his rural Elbert County ranch. Ric was born on July 30, 1953 in Arlington, VA, to LaHonda Jo (Walton) and John Daniel Morgan. After attending Langley High School in [Langley, VA](#), Ric spent several years at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs before finishing up his undergraduate studies at Colorado State University in 1978 with a degree in physics/geology.

Ric began his distinguished military career in 1979 when he was commissioned into the US Navy. His Navy assignments took him all over the world and to the Pentagon as he was tasked with increasing responsibilities in Naval Intelligence. In 1985 Ric reported to the Naval Postgraduate School in [Monterey, CA](#), receiving a MS degree in Space Systems Operations and the designation of Navy Space Specialist. For the next several years Ric was involved in high profile naval missions in the Middle East and former USSR.

In 1989 Ric reported to Headquarters, US Space Command for duties in the intelligence directorate, and later deployed for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm where he performed military intelligence functions aboard the USS Kennedy and USS Saratoga. While garrisoned in Turkey he led efforts to establish bases for US and allied combat operations within Turkey during the Gulf War. During active hostilities Ric deployed with forward units conducting search and rescue missions along the northern Iraqi frontier.

In 1993 Ric was assigned to a NATO military intelligence task force headquartered in England and spent the next several years supporting crisis operations throughout Europe and northern Africa. During conflicts in Bosnia and Croatia, Ric supported US and NATO combat operations from various in-country locations. Ric eventually returned stateside and was assigned to US Space Command where he served as Chief of the Intelligence Watch inside of Cheyenne Mountain at NORAD.

Ric met his future wife Claudia (Bernet) of Basel, Switzerland while on assignment in Italy aboard the USS Belknap in 1988. After a long military career Ric and Claudia purchased 80 acres in rural Elbert County in which to retire on. They set up a saw mill and built a beautiful timber post and beam home from Ponderosa Pines felled from their land. Not long after his Naval retirement a local church elder approached Ric and expressed that the local community needed a good lawyer and recruited Ric to attend law school. Three years later and at the age of 50 Ric graduated from the University of Denver Law School and passed the bar exam in 2003.

***Over the past two decades Ric has been a passionate advocate for justice and a legal system that is accessible to all citizens. One of the ways Ric combated "legal deserts" in rural Colorado was to establish the Lawyers at the Library program, an offshoot of the Access to Justice Virtual Pro Se Clinics which Ric helped grow and nurture throughout most of rural Colorado's judicial districts. Ric also set up the online Colorado Legal Checkerboard giving users free and valuable legal advice and forms.***

It is likely that Ric will be best known for his staunch and unwavering support and legal advocacy of military veterans. Ric was the Elbert County Veteran Service Officer for years and has helped countless veterans get the assistance and benefits they deserved. He has held leadership and command positions in the VFW and American Legion for decades.

Ric's personal interests were many, and included genealogy, geology, history and ranching. Ric and Claudia established the only breeding herd of Swiss Valais Blackneck Goats in North America and were great advocates of sustainable ranching, farming, conservation, and forestry management. Ric's knowledge of Elbert County history, from settlement times to today's legacy ranches, was incredibly extensive. His historical knowledge of, and contributions to, the veterans interred in the Elbert Cemetery was legendary.

Ric is survived by his wife of 34 years Claudia; as well as his two sons Eric (Jennifer) of [Dover, DE](#), and Ryan of Fort Collins, CO. His extended family includes 3 granddaughters, 7 brothers and sisters and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



## ***Nominees for the First JD Board of Directors***

**The following slate of board members are  
nominated for the 2024-2025 term.**

***As stated in the bylaws The members of the Association shall have an opportunity to object to any proposed officers, proposed trustees, and proposed appointees to the BOG and make nominations. The officers and Trustees and representatives to the BOG then elected shall take office July 1 following such election, unless said official is already holding office, in which case he or she shall continue until his or her term expires."***

**Please email to [admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org) by May 6, 2024 if you wish to object to any new nominee.**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Alan Hendrix, President

Joe Maher, President Elect

Magistrate Nic Campbell, Secretary, Treasurer **NEW NOMINATION**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Ali Brady

Courtney Baldwin **NEW NOMINATION**

Garen Gervey

Judge Keith Goman **NEW NOMINATION**

Judge Russell Klein

Andrew McLetchie

Josh Raaz

Tariq Sheikh

Rebecca Taylor

April Murtha **NEW NOMINATION**

Catherine Tieman

Judge Lindsay Van Gilder

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Judge Andrew Poland **NEW NOMINATION**

Preston Branaugh

Mario Nicholais **NEW NOMINATION**

Judge Tammy Russell **NEW NOMINATION**



## JOB POSTINGS

**The Colorado Access to Justice Commission is looking to hire two experienced attorneys or paralegals in order to restart the Virtual Pro Se Clinics.**

These clinics ground to a halt in March of this year when an incredible full-time volunteer attorney Ric Morgan, who built, ran, and manned the clinics, passed away unexpectedly.

<https://coloradononprofits.org/careers/colorado-access-to-justice-commission-virtual-pro-se-clinic-legal-facilitator/#>

**Deadline to apply April 25, 2024**

The U.S. District Court, District of Colorado, is accepting applications for a **Law Clerk** in the chambers of U.S. District Judge Charlotte N. Sweeney. This position is expected to commence on **April 1, 2025**, and will start as a term of two years, with potential to extend up to the term limit, or convert to a career position. All applications must be submitted through [OSCAR](#) for consideration.

As always, please contact our office with any questions!

**Sayre Deane** | Human Resources Specialist  
[US District Court, District of Colorado](#)  
(303) 335-2491

## NEWS FROM THE COURT

### **Governor Polis Appoints Andrew C. Poland to the 1st Judicial District Court**

DENVER - Today, Governor Polis appointed Andrew C. Poland to the 1st Judicial District Court. This appointment fills a vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Ann Meinster and is effective June 1, 2024. Mr. Poland is a Jefferson County Court Magistrate in the 1st Judicial District, a position he has held since 2023. His docket consists of domestic relations and juvenile matters. Previously, he was an Attorney at Poland Law, LLC (2012-2023) and Adjunct Professor at Metropolitan State University (2021-2023). Mr. Poland earned his B.S. from Colorado State University in 2009 and his J.D. from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2011.



# CHOOSE to SEE

*Champions for Children  
Breakfast*

**MAY | 2ND | 2024**

**7:30-8:30 A.M. DENVER MARRIOTT WEST**



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPORTANT  
WORK CASA IS DOING IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY**

**ENJOY A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST**

**HELP CASA JEFFCO/GILPIN RAISE CRITICAL  
FUNDS TO CONTINUE OUR WORK**

Janessa and Jayce are siblings who entered the court system in 2019 due to physical and substance abuse in their home. Four months after the start of the case, Laura Markus was assigned as their CASA. Of her CASA Laura, Janessa says "I think I wanted her to give up on me. But no matter what I did, or what I said, or how I acted, she kept showing up...my mom always talks about what legacy we will have, and I want mine to be like Laura's." Hear more from Janessa and Jayce at our Champions for Children Breakfast and see for yourself the difference a CASA can make in the life of a child.



**SCAN TO  
RSVP**

**CONTACT LAURAPOWERS@CASAJEFFCOGILPIN.COM  
FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**  
JEFFERSON & GILPIN COUNTIES

**Reservations**

[https://www.casajeffcogilpin.com/  
championsbreakfast/](https://www.casajeffcogilpin.com/championsbreakfast/)

# PRO BONO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## MVL May Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a few hours of time to assist an individual or family in need of legal assistance? Volunteer with MVL to help bridge the gap in access to justice for those who could not otherwise afford legal services for their civil legal issues.

### Family Law Court Program

Assist pro se parties with uncomplicated divorce or parental responsibilities cases. No experience necessary. Contact [Patrick Marzolino](#) to volunteer.

#### Friday, May 10

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Permanent Orders) | Jefferson County Courthouse

1:00–4:00 p.m. (Client Meetings) | Jefferson County Courthouse

#### Thursday, May 16

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Permanent Orders) | Adams County District Court

1:30–4:30 p.m. (Client Meetings) | Adams County District Court

#### Friday, May 17

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Client Meetings) | Douglas County Courthouse

#### Monday, May 20

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Permanent Orders) | Douglas County Courthouse

#### Tuesday, May 21

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Permanent Orders) | Denver City and County Building

1:00–4:00 p.m. (Client Meetings) | Denver City and County Building

#### Friday, May 24

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Permanent Orders) | Arapahoe County District Court

1:00–4:00 p.m. (Client Meetings) | Arapahoe County District Court

### Family Law Advice & Guidance

Family law practitioners needed to provide a single consultation to pro se parties with pre- or post- decree divorce or parental responsibilities cases by focusing on early resolution and problem-solving. Only a 1-hour commitment. Contact [Liz Jones](#) or [Joe O'Leary](#) to volunteer.

#### Thursday, May 2

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Adams County District Court—Staffed by Volunteers from the Department of Law

#### Monday, May 6

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Virtual

# MORE PRO BONO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## MVL May Volunteer Opportunities

### Thursday, May 9

1:00–4:00 p.m. | Arapahoe County District Court

### Tuesday, May 14

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Denver Courthouse

### Friday, May 17

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Douglas County Courthouse

### Wednesday, May 22

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Virtual

### Friday, May 24

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Jefferson County Courthouse

## Wills Clinic

Powered by [InterActive Legal](#). Assist seniors in completing various advance planning documents, including a last will and testament, medical and financial powers of attorney and advance health care directives in the Denver Metro Area. No experience is necessary. Contact [Liz Jones](#) to volunteer.

### Tuesday, May 14

11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | Aspen Place | Aurora, CO

### Friday, May 17

1:00–4:00 p.m. | Corona Residences | Denver, CO

## Legal Clinic at the Denver Indian Center

Provide legal resources and information to the local Native American community at MVL's monthly walk-in clinic. Contact [Patrick Marzolino](#) to volunteer.

### Wednesday, May 1

6:00–8:00 p.m. | Denver Indian Center

## Referral Program

Provide full pro bono representation for a variety of civil legal matters, including family law, probate, consumer/financial, and public benefits. Contact [Ivonne Esparza](#) to volunteer.

## Mediation Program

Provide pro-bono mediation to applicants in one of MVL's other programs. Contact [Ivonne Esparza](#) to volunteer.