

# PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association



## MISSION STATEMENT

The purposes of the Association shall be to enhance the practice of law within Gilpin and Jefferson County, to promote professionalism and the administration of justice, to encourage legal education, to uphold the honor and dignity of the bar, to cultivate cordial relations among the legal communities of the 1st Judicial District, to perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members, to facilitate and improve the provision of legal services to the community, and to administer the budget for professional, social and community-oriented purposes.

### 2024-2025 1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## JANUARY 2025

Presidents Column

ADVERTISING  
**JAMS**

JOB POSTINGS  
3 Term Law Clerks

COURTHOUSE EVENTS  
Mock Trial Volunteers

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT  
**Stephen Cook**

UPCOMING CLE'S

THINGS TO WATCH FOR

CBA PRESIDENTS BRIEFING & CLE  
Great presentation on Lawyer  
Wellness & Recognition of 50  
year members



## ALAN HENDRIX

### PRESIDENTS COLUMN

I am not conspiratorially minded whatsoever, unless the conspiracy comports with my world view and then I'm all in.

That makes me a cherry picker or if you prefer, I am handpicking, culling, preferring, etc. We are all getting exceptionally good at singling out "facts" in our various echo chambers. Unfortunately, we don't have Uncle Walter or Chet and David to talk to us anymore.

This cherry-picking thing becomes so obvious if you have a car accident "bio-reconstruction" mechanical battle of the experts or really any case, even those without experts.

Judges and juries have to decide which facts are most persuasive by ignoring others. I think it's common to have clients who want to run everything up the flagpole. I tell them we cannot run a real time movie showing every detail, which is about as useful as a full-size map.

Some number of years ago when Alexa first became a thing, friends told a story of talking about cats, but not owning one, in front of their Alexa. (Wow, dictating here in my office, my office Alexa said she did not quite know how to help me with that, twice now.) Anyway, suddenly, they were being offered all kinds of cat toys and food via their phones and computers.

At this point, we all know we are being tracked online to some extent. Supposedly/allegedly/so they say, there is a way to be private and incognito (they claim) so when you are shopping or whatever you are doing, you are not being tracked. I just learned that Venmo sizes you up socially and puts out information about your transactions. I went into Venmo and made my transactions hopefully private. under a settings button.

Anyway, you may have learned more about me already and now even more, then you ever cared to, but I am being offered these kinds of suggestions online. Things Americans should not do when abroad. Places Americans should consider retiring to abroad. How does my retirement savings measure up. Emerging battery technology. Best places and beaches in Florida. Insurance and other property crises in Florida. Political stuff, which I have warned myself not to write about. How to buy a house for a dollar in Italy. Rick Steeves' suggestions.

Although I understand those, here is one that came at me this morning. You can judge, even if you are not a Judge, whether or not it is coincidental.

I got an email back from a witness telling me that he was in Greece, and he would get back to me when he is in country. I emailed back saying I would contact him when he was back. Moments later, I was offered multiple suggestions for trips to Greece. Things to do in Greece. What not to do in Greece. When to go to Greece. What is happening in Greece.

You tell me. Am I paranoid? No answer required.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://tralfaz.blogspot.com/2022/07/david-brinkley-not-celebrity.html>

<sup>ii</sup> This gives me an idea for another column, about persuasion tips from the Joe Nacchio/Qwest insider trading conviction in front of Judge Nottingham, defended by a prior U.S. District Court Judge, Herbert Stern.

# ADVERTISING

## NEUTRALS YOU KNOW PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST

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## JOB POSTINGS

We are pleased to announce the availability of  
3 Term Law Clerk positions within the  
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Andrea Martinez, Human Resources Assistant  
USDC, USPO, USBC – District of Colorado  
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[https://www.cod.uscourts.gov/HR/  
EmploymentOpportunities.aspx?FileID=7475](https://www.cod.uscourts.gov/HR/EmploymentOpportunities.aspx?FileID=7475)

## COURTHOUSE EVENTS

### Mock Trial Volunteers

February 21, 2025 & February 22, 2025

Two rounds each day.

- Morning round check in at 8:30 am in Courtroom 130
  - Afternoon check in at 12:30 pm in Courtroom 130.
- Please specify whether you are volunteering as a scoring panelist or a presiding judge

To volunteer **respond to:**

**[1stJDMockTrialVolunteers@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:1stJDMockTrialVolunteers@judicial.state.co.us)**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT STEPHEN COOK

I grew up in South Bend, Indiana, and attended the business school at Indiana University before graduating from Valparaiso University Law School. During my earlier travels to Colorado, I discovered my deep connection to the state and knew I wanted to make it my home. That dream became a reality when I officially moved to Denver after graduation in 1996. From the moment I arrived, I felt a sense of belonging that has stayed with me ever since.

I didn't actually know anyone in Colorado when I first moved here. However, through mutual friends, I met Curtis Smith, and we became fast friends. Later, we formed Smith & Cook, LLC, in 2005. While I initially started out by hanging out at the corner of the library conference room table and taking overflow work from others in the building, over time, I officially hung out my shingle in the Colorado National Bank building (now the US Bank building) located at South Wadsworth and Bowles in southern Jefferson County where we remain today. It's a space that has housed some of the best lawyers in the area, including former 1st Judicial District Bar President and Public Administrator Michael Beutz, as well as John Vierthaler, Leo Gemma Jr., Chuck Hemphill, Bob and Gretchen Eberhardt and of course Curtis.

I have been fortunate to co-counsel cases with these incredible attorneys, learning invaluable lessons from each of them. What stands out most is how their diverse specializations allowed me to cultivate a well-rounded and deep general practice, which includes family law, criminal defense, probate, juvenile law, as well as some business and personal injury cases. It's a practice model that's increasingly rare in today's legal landscape, and I'm proud to carry it forward.

Over the years, I've also had the honor of serving as the CLE Chairperson for the 1st Judicial District Bar Association. I've heard that some even refer to me as "the CLE guy!" Additionally, I'm deeply committed to my role as an advisory board member of Metro Volunteer Lawyers, where I serve as the 1st JD liaison, ensuring access to justice for those who may otherwise struggle to find it. I have previously volunteered for Family Tree/Karlis Center, presenting at their Women in Violence Clinic, served on the 1st JD Adult Diversion Council, the CBA Leadership Selection Committee, and recently became a member of the 1st JD Judicial Nominating Commission. These opportunities to give back to the legal community and the general public have been among the most rewarding aspects of my career. Receiving the 1st JD Award of Merit in 2023 was a humbling recognition of this work.

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When I'm not practicing law, I cherish spending time with my beautiful wife, Jamie, and our three wonderful children, all of whom are currently in college. Colorado's natural beauty is one of the reasons I moved here, and I take full advantage of the outdoor lifestyle. I'm passionate about fly fishing, skiing, trail running, and camping, as well as many other outdoor activities. Golfing and fishing, in particular, provide me with a much-needed respite from the demands of legal practice. Living in Jefferson County feels like having a playground in our backyard, and Jamie and I make the most of it as often as we can.

I'm grateful for the journey that brought me here and for the chance to live, work, and raise a family in such a vibrant and inspiring community—which includes you all! Hope to see you on the river, the slopes, the golf course, or, if not, then maybe the courtroom.



Upcoming CLE's  
Details to follow

March:	Evidence Practicum
Feb/April:	Unravel the Gavel
May/June:	Privileges
August:	Judges Roundtable
October:	EDI
December:	Family Law

## THINGS TO WATCH FOR

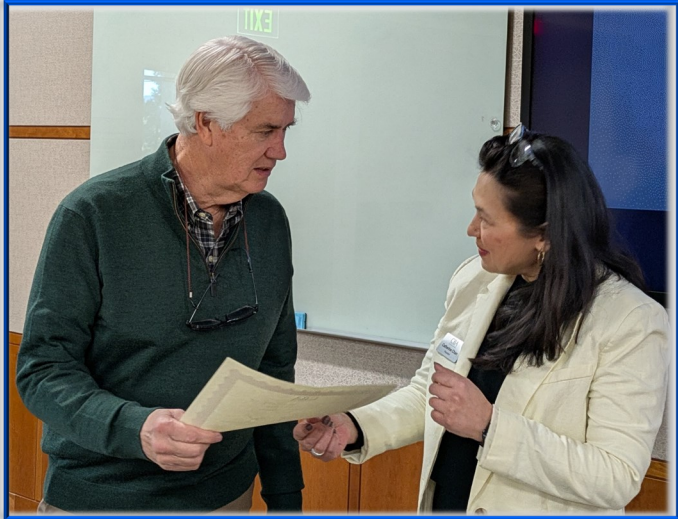
- ◆ *1st JD Bar Association Bylaws have been updated. Watch for the draft and give us your input.*
- ◆ *The Board Minutes from each board meeting will soon be available on the 1st JD website. Our goal is to keep you informed about what is happening at your bar association.*

### Watch for opportunities to:

- ◆ Join a 1st JD Bar Committee
- ◆ Join the 1st JD Bar Assn. Board
- ◆ Nominate Award Nominees



Congratulations to our 50 Year Members who were recognized at the CBA Presidents Briefing and CLE on January 16. ***Evan Lipstein, Mike Hulen, and Pete Ramarez could not attend.***



Guy Heyl and CBA President Catherine Chan



George Nichols and CBA President Catherine Chan



Kevin McReynolds, Catherine Chan, Andrew Hart, Steve Cook

