

PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association

**MARCH
2025**



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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CLE Unravel the Gavel April 23

Upcoming CLE's

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Bylaws update

Board minutes from 1st JD Bar Assn.



ALAN HENDRIX

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

From Alan Hendrix- The endorsement of the column below is mine. For this month's proclamation, I am submitting, in place of the usual President's column, the following op-ed pulled in full, from the American Bar Association.

March 03, 2025 From the American Bar Association

The ABA rejects efforts to undermine the courts and the legal profession

Three weeks ago, the American Bar Association spoke to you about values that guide us. We called upon every lawyer to insist that the government adhere to four major principles of law that have guided our country for over 200 years: Defending Judges and Courts, Acknowledging the Role of the Courts, Adhering to the Rule of Law, and Respecting the Separation of Powers and the three co-equal branches of government with distinct duties and responsibilities. These principles have been bedrocks of American democracy. The ABA does not shrink from standing in support of each of them.

Since that time, government actions evidence a clear and disconcerting pattern. If a court issues a decision this administration does not agree with, the judge is targeted. If a lawyer represents parties in a dispute with the administration, or if a lawyer represents parties the administration does not like, lawyers are targeted. We issued statements standing up for these four key principles, and a government official targeted us by instructing some of its lawyers not to attend ABA meetings or participate as speakers. These actions highlight escalating governmental efforts to interfere with fair and impartial courts, the right to counsel and due process, and the freedoms of speech and association in our country.

Consider the facts about our courts:

High-ranking government officials (appointed and elected) have made repeated calls for the impeachment of judges who issue opinions with which the government does not agree. There have been calls to impeach "corrupt judges" with no effort to produce evidence of the so called "corruption." These have been directed only at judges who have ruled against the government position.

There have now been statements by officials criticizing judges for not following the will of the people. Judges swear oaths to follow the law, not public opinion polling or political chatter or what someone contends is the will of the people. The chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court wrote in his 2024 Year End Report on the Federal Judiciary, "[w]ithin the past year we have also seen the need for state and federal bar associations to come to the defense of a federal district judge whose decisions in a high-profile case prompted an

Continued page 3

elected official to call for her impeachment. Attempts to intimidate judges for their rulings in cases are inappropriate and should be vigorously opposed.”

We may disagree with interpretation of case law, but it is unacceptable to personally target judges just because we disagree with their ruling. We cannot have a judicial system where the government seeks to remove judges simply because they do not rule as the government desires. Considering the increasing physical threats to judges, these are clearly efforts to intimidate judges and our courts.

The courts are a co-equal branch of our government, and they must be treated that way. We call upon the government and our elected officials to cease making these statements. Government officials know they can appeal decisions they do not like. That is the appropriate way to disagree with a decision of a court.

Despite these efforts to intimidate, our courts are doing their job of reviewing disputes and applying the law. The ABA will defend our courts because we support the rule of law. We encourage every lawyer to do the same and demand these attacks on our judiciary stop immediately.

The efforts to intimidate have now expanded to include the legal profession. Consider the facts:

An executive order has targeted legal and medical organizations because of their DEI advocacy. Just a few days ago, a high-ranking government official indicated that law firms that represent parties against the government should be identified even though this information is already public.

Justice Department lawyers and assistant U.S. attorneys have been the subject of personal attacks, intimidation, firings and demotions for simply fulfilling their professional responsibilities. It is especially disturbing because the government has espoused publicly that it will not weaponize or politicize the Justice Department. The actions against Department of Justice employees belie these assertions.

Now the government has decided to punish a prominent Washington, D.C., law firm because it represents a party that the administration does not like. There are also reports that actions may be taken against more law firms. Clients have the right to have access to their lawyer without interference by the government. Lawyers must be free to represent clients and perform their ethical duty without fear of retribution. These government actions deny clients access to justice and betray our fundamental values.

We support the rights of people to advance their interests in courts of law when they have been wronged. We reject the notion that the government can punish lawyers who represent certain clients or punish judges who rule certain ways. We cannot accept government actions that seek to tip the scales of justice in this manner.

We speak today on behalf of the legal profession and its members who seek to live by the oath each took upon admission to the bar. This is not something we do lightly nor is it the first time we have spoken in opposition to actions against an administration, regardless of political party. We sued or opposed policy proposals of the last few administrations when they failed to adhere to the rule of law or interfered with access to justice, and we are doing the same with the current administration. We are nonpartisan. We stand for the rule of law. We stand for the vital role of our courts and the essential job that lawyers do every day throughout our country. We have stood on this ground for many years.

We reject efforts to undermine the courts and the profession. We will not stay silent in the face of efforts to remake the legal profession into something that rewards those who agree with the government and punishes those who do not. Words and actions matter. And the intimidating words and actions we have heard must end. They are designed to cow our country's judges, our country's courts and our legal profession. Consistent with the chief justice's report, these efforts cannot be sanctioned or normalized.

There are clear choices facing our profession. We can choose to remain silent and allow these acts to continue or we can stand for the rule of law and the values we hold dear. We call upon the entire profession, including lawyers who serve in elected positions, to speak out against intimidation. We acknowledge that there are risks to standing up and addressing these important issues. But if the ABA and lawyers do not speak, who will speak for the organized bar? Who will speak for the judiciary? Who will protect our system of justice? If we don't speak now, when will we speak?

The American Bar Association has chosen to stand and speak. Now is the time for all of us to speak with one voice. We invite you to stand with us.

– *William R. Bay, president of the American Bar Association*

JEFFCO COURTHOUSE NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE JEFFCO COURT

Help us, Help you

Jefferson County District has restarted its Domestic Relations Best Practice Committee

Jefferson County has had a long history of taking a “best practice approach” to our domestic relations case-load. However, through the past several years, with COVID and the departure of several long-term judicial officers our BPC is due for a revitalization. Chief Judge Pilkington has asked me to lead this revitalization.

Our internal BPC meets on a regular basis to assess our processes and train our judicial officers. While we work to assess our own processes and training needs, I do think it is necessary to receive input from the Bar. One of the first issues I would like to address is updating our initial case management order.

I am hosting two “listening/ brainstorming sessions” over the next several weeks. These sessions are intended to allow you to provide input as to what changes should be made to our initial case management order, but I also want input on what other areas we should look at to improve and I also want to build upon what we are doing well.

Please join me on **March 27, 2025, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., in Courtroom 420** for the listening/ brainstorming sessions. Given the conversational format I am hoping for, there will not be a WebEx option. If you have input but cannot make a session, please email me in advance at 01Division2@judicial.state.co.us and please be sure to include BPC in the subject line.

Thank you and I hope to see you soon,

Jason Carrithers



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMBINED COURT CLERKS OFFICE

CONNECTING WITH THE COURTS

2024 was another remarkable year for the Jefferson Combined Court Clerk's Office. The team of 50 dedicated employees works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly, while also being the first point of contact for many members of the public when they visit the court. Despite managing a high volume of cases, they continue to achieve customer satisfaction ratings related to access to justice that surpass the state average.

Below are some impressive statistics that sum up 2024:

In total, the Jefferson County Clerk's Office processed 53,553 cases. Of these, 20,763 were civil cases, and 19,173 were tickets issued by law enforcement. The probate and mental health team led the state in estate filings, processing 2,141 cases. The domestic and juvenile team also made significant contributions, handling 3,406 cases.

In addition to new cases, much work was done on existing cases, with 19,983 orders to seal issued and 337 appeals processed. The traffic and criminal team issued 16,237 warrants on both new and ongoing cases. To manage the growing volume of records, staff across the building purged an astounding 24,881 cases.

Financially, \$21,811,421.19 passed through the registry, and the two account clerks balanced 109,577 over-the-counter transactions. These numbers don't even include the high volume of transactions processed daily via the Colorado Courts E-Filing system. Finally, the court collections team worked diligently to recover \$2,904,053 in restitution for victims and \$462,038 in interest on outstanding balances.

We are incredibly grateful to our hardworking clerk's office staff and are eager to continue providing exceptional service to the Jefferson County community in the year ahead. Happy Spring!

JENNIFER MENDOSA
Court Executive, First Judicial District

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303-384-3284

Office space available for sublease/office sharing in Denver West

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GENESEE LAW OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

One opening in a space with four attorneys

*602 Park Point Drive #240,
Golden, CO 80401.*

Large office furnished or unfurnished with full windows and a west view of front range. 15 minute drive to Jeffco. 25 minute drive to Denver District. Phone and Internet provided. \$800 monthly.

This office is right next-door to the Chart House. Great happy hour.

Contact Deborah at 303-273-2923



UNRAVEL THE GAVEL: 1st JD CHAT SERIES WITH MEMBERS OF THE BENCH

Featuring a Panel Discussion with
**The Honorable Christopher B. Rhamey, Meegan A. Miloud,
and Diego G. Hunt**

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at noon, Virtual Only

Discussing How to Best Prepare for Day 1 of Trial:

- **Pretrial Filings (Motions in Limine & Trial Briefs) and Pretrial Conferences**
- **Judicial Practices and Tips for Submitting Jury Instructions**
- **Trial Day 1 Logistics and Effective Voir Dire**
- **ETHICS: Discussion of Rules Governing Attorney Conduct related to Trial (Rules 3.4 & 3.6)**

**Presented by the First Judicial District Bar Association
Submitted for 1 CLE Credit, including Ethics
1st JD Bar Association members FREE
Non-members \$10**

<https://1stjd.org/events/#!/event/2025/4/23/unravel-the-gavel-1st-jd-chat-series-with-members-of-the-bench-featuring-a-panel-discussion-with-honorable-christopher-rhamey-meegan-miloud-diego-g-hunt>

Upcoming CLE's Details to follow

May/June: Privileges

August: Judges Roundtable

October: EDI

December: Family Law

Join the Board of Directors of the 1st JD Bar Association

- ◆ **Expand your networking opportunities**
- ◆ **Share your experience and expertise with the board**
- ◆ **Time commitment–1 hour monthly in-person/virtual meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm**
- ◆ **Term commitment–2 year term with option to extend**

We are looking for interested people to get more involved in the organization! Being involved in the bar association is a great way to meet other lawyers along with the judicial bench. The nominating committee meets in April 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

Deadline April 1, 2025

UPDATED BYLAWS

Bylaws for the 1ST JD Bar Association Board have been revised. You can see the revision at this link <https://1stjd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Bylaws-2-12-25.pdf>

Please give us your input at admin@1stjd.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

To keep you informed about the happenings on the 1st JD Board of Trustees, you can now see the latest board meeting minutes on the website. To see November 2024 go to: <https://1stjd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2024-11-Minutes.pdf>

Additional months will be coming soon. If you are interested in attending a board meeting you are welcome. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month except July and December. Check the Events tab for the calendar showing the location.