

# PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association

**JUNE  
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 JD, 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.

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Presidents Column

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Job Postings

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Call for Participation

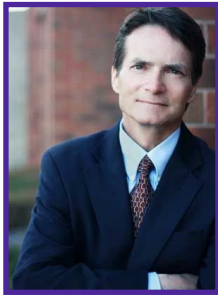
Upcoming Events

Golf Event

Judges & Awards Reception

Judges Roundtable CLE

Award Nominations Request



## ALAN HENDRIX

### PRESIDENTS COLUMN

#### ALAN'S GRAB BAG

This is my last column as President of the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Bar Association. If my last column was my penultimate then this one is my ultimate.

I've been on the "Board," since 2018 which means that my daughter, who was going into her junior year of high school, has now graduated from college and my son who was going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade will soon be a junior in college. At this point, the Bar is asking me to leave our Board of Directors, pursuant to our bylaws but will allow me to participate on the Board of Governors for a two-year stretch.

If you can't find a theme here, there is a reason. When you don't have a theme go for the grab bag.

In law school, we had professors who mostly shared war stories. And we had professors who mostly stuck to the Socratic method and worked through elements to a contract, a tort or the worst of all, administrative law. I had fellow students who loved the war stories, and I had fellow students who downgraded a war story professor because most likely the story wasn't teaching you what you really needed to know. So it goes with evaluations.

I like to think of myself as a realistic optimist. Others, who shall remain nameless, but are very closely related to me, may think of me as a cynic. Maybe I'd be perfect for a jury for a rear-end car collision case (do not say accident) where the verdict comes down that the driver who crashed into the car ahead of them, for some reason is not negligent. I've had what I think is more than my share of low impact rear-enders and sometimes the jury seems to believe there is a conspiracy between medical providers, plaintiff's counsel, and plaintiff that has gone on for years between crash and court result. But, let me give you a feel of my "optimistic realism." I too have had concerns, that a rear-ender showing little to no damage, might not cause an injury to the driver in front.

1. When my kids were young, we were down at the playground by the Golden Rec center, and I grabbed the handles for a track where the mechanism, when you push off, sends you forward or backwards parallel with the ground. I push backwards just for a foot or two coming to a sudden stop with my head slightly turned. I walked around for two weeks holding my neck. Could not have been moving any faster than zero mph. That made me more of a believer.

2. Another example, in the early 90s, I ended up with a commercial property in place of a judgment. Home brewing was becoming a real thing, and my wife bought me a kit because I was laying around after getting an ACL graft from blowing my knee out skiing. Every time I went to the homebrew shop, there were lines to buy supplies. This was the same time when another garage

brewer had the insight to open up New Belgian, brewers of Fat Tire Ale and many others. A really good opportunity missed.

A space opened up in our commercial property and my wife was only working full-time as a claims adjuster and I was only working full-time as an attorney. This was pre-kids, so we thought how better to use up all of our spare time but to open up a retail homebrew shop.

We hired an employee to whom I should have given more credit. She kept having computer problems. Our computer ran our point-of-sale cash register, tracking inventory as it went. She said every time she opened up an aluminum ladder to put product up on a shelf, the computer would freeze up. Yeah, right. However, experiencing something is a great teacher. Working the store, I opened up the ladder across the storeroom and at once the computer froze up. You can believe what you want.

3. Are you familiar with the former hotel in Empire known as the Peck House? It was a glorious place back in the day with running water and toilets that flushed when that was very uncommon. It also has a spooky history with a rather elaborate ghost story. Now on this, I cannot give admissible testimony, but the victim of the incident has great credibility with me. Spending the night there she encountered and then channeled various ghosts. Her sister "participated". After a terrifying night there, she discovered what had happened historically and how she acted it out unknowingly. You can believe what you want.

4. This next story was related to me by JJ. For 22 years, I had the privilege of office sharing with James J Johnston, lawyer and professor at the University of Denver business school. He taught business law for nearly 60 years and taught three generations of some families during that time.

Everyone involved in this situation are now long gone. Shortly after World War II, my office partner was teaching classes downtown then. JJ was living down there as well. One night a student rang his door after committing a terrible assault. Later, after being retained as attorney, the professor, in a cafeteria downtown was introduced to a psychiatrist from his building. In conversation, the attorney mentioned his client and that the client presented as having a psychiatric condition. The psychiatrist, then said, "is the man's name such and such" and identified the man.

The psychiatrist related the following story. The client during the war was posted at airbases. He became known for saying goodbye to various flight crews telling them that he had a vision, the Virgin Mary had come to him and told him that they would not be returning from their flight. Pretty soon, you can imagine, the client became persona non grata. Nobody wanted to see him walking across the tarmac to say goodbye.

The psychiatrist was called into interview the client in discharge proceedings from the Army Air Corp. The psychiatrist said, "well now you seem to be able to predict the future. Do you have any predictions that you can share with me". The client then correctly predicted the death of General Patton. This was all related to me when the client many years later after doing significant prison time came into the office and was introduced to me. There is more to the story but as to this part, you can believe it or not.

5. Not to name drop, but I was sitting having a beer on the island of Rhodes, outside, as one does, next to a set of wooden steps, probably eight steps in total. Before drinking a beer, which probably is crucial to my credibility here, I tripped on one of the steps going up. Thought nothing of it until I sat and had a beer and maybe a little ouzo, and almost everyone who came up the steps tripped on this same step. Very entertaining. Obviously I am easily amused.

Turns out that step was slightly off, unobservably, a little higher than the other steps. When you walk in the woods, you understand a lack of uniformity but when you go up a set of steps, it's crucial that the installation of each step be at the same height because you get trained very quickly to expect the step to be at the same height. Had I been a little more creative. I would've done a video then in there and hired myself as out as a step expert. Another opportunity lost.

6. I was recently in St. Augustine, Florida<sup>i</sup>, which claims to be the oldest town in North America, but I think Santa Fe, New Mexico challenges that as an Indigenous civilization (and Quebec City too). I recommend St. Augustine, although somewhat touristy. It has a marina, beaches, an old fort, cobblestone streets and it's reasonably walkable. I came across a sign.



Lacking compartmentalizing abilities, I thought of this next sign with a similar message in the entry to one of our District Courtrooms. However, does the message in St. Augustine implicitly conflict somewhat with Jeffco?



7. Different grab bag. Check out Professor Robert Putnam<sup>ii</sup>, who authored a book titled *Bowling Alone*, arguing our country has undergone a collapse in social capital since the 1960s. Better do it quick because he's associated with Harvard and may become completely defunded. I just read about a total walkable community that was expected to fail but is thriving. This made me think of all of us alone in our separate cars driving potentially fair amount of distances, which doesn't really get us what we need socially. Professor Putnam agrees.

8. JJ, *supra*, told me a story of fishing with a friend down an embankment, where the river came out from under a dam. They looked up and saw who they thought was a Ranger looking down on them. So, they took out their casting plugs and pretended to practice casting because they did not have fishing licenses. But the Ranger never went away, and they finally went up to face up to their fate. The man turned out to be just a traveling through. He laughed and told them you weren't likely to catch any fish in the very cold water coming out from underneath the dam. He also said, "I waited up here for you because I lost my wife and I am traveling by myself. I just wanted to share this beautiful scene with some others."

I've always been astounded by the life story of Helen Keller<sup>iii</sup>. More than once, I've searched up her quotes for potential use in a closing argument. She wrote, "I would rather walk with a friend in the dark than walk alone in the light."

As I head out the door, please think about walking with our Bar and as many others as you can for your benefit, ours and theirs.

<sup>i</sup><https://magazine-archive.du.edu/featured-categories/magazine-feature/johnston-touched-thousands-of-lives-colleagues-say/https://www.denverpost.com/2008/08/16/dus-jim-johnston-loved-teaching-law/>

<sup>ii</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_D.\\_Putnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_D._Putnam)

<sup>iii</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen\\_Keller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Keller)

At 19 months old, Keller contracted an unknown illness described by doctors as "an acute congestion of the stomach and the brain", which is now thought to have been scarlet fever or meningitis. The illness left her both deaf and blind, completely shaping the way Keller would live her life. We have vaccinations for both of those diseases now.

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*Located in Conifer Colorado, Mountain Resource Center is the only agency along the Highway 285 corridor that provides multiple, related services for low-income Western Jefferson and Eastern Park County residents.*



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Contact Rachel Johnson at  
[rachael@drexler.law](mailto:rachael@drexler.law)

## BAR NEWS

### 1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION CLE/PROFESSIONALISM COMMITTEE



Looking for members interested in joining the  
CLE/Professionalism Committee.

Respond to [admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org)

**Committee Responsibilities:** The Committee is responsible for recruiting presenters for relevant topics for the practice of law in all areas. The Committee hosts lunch-hour CLE's in person and with an option for Zoom.

The following slate of board members are nominated for the 2025-2026 term beginning July 1, 2025.

Email to [admin@1stjd.org](mailto:admin@1stjd.org) by June 20,, 2025 if you wish to object to any new nominee.

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## Magistrate Pathway – Your Journey Begins Here

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Join a panel discussion with Court of Appeals Judge Pax Moultrie, Magistrate Timothy Johnson, Magistrate Rod Foreacher, Magistrate Michal Lord-Blegen moderated by Judge Dina Christianson to learn what Magistrates do, why this role is important, the positive aspects of the position and why Magistrates are needed.

**July 22, 2025, noon - 1 p.m. (Virtual)**

Contact [judicialwellbeing@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:judicialwellbeing@judicial.state.co.us) to register.  
CLE Credit will be offered.

This program is sponsored by the Magistrate Recruitment subcommittee of the Magistrate Wellness and Support Committee

# JEFFCO COURTHOUSE

## **Call for Participation: Legal Services Directory for Low- and Moderate-Income Pro Se Parties**

The 1st JD Bar Association, in collaboration with the 1st Judicial District Access to Justice Committee, is seeking attorneys and licensed legal paraprofessionals (LLPs) who are interested in being included in the *Legal Services Directory for Pro Se Parties with Low or Moderate Income*. This directory features legal professionals who are willing to consider clients' financial circumstances when determining fees and/or offer unbundled legal services. It is available on the [Colorado Judicial Branch 1<sup>st</sup> JD webpage](#) on the Colorado State Courts website and is also distributed at the Courthouse. If you would like to be included in the directory, please contact Anthony Pereira at [apereira@denbar.org](mailto:apereira@denbar.org) and provide the following information:

- Full Name
- Firm Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Firm Website (if applicable)
- Practice Areas
- Whether you consider financial circumstances and/or offer unbundled services (you must offer at least one)
- Colorado Supreme Court Registration Number
- Please indicate if you are an LLP

We appreciate your commitment to increasing access to justice in our community.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **JUDGES ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday,  
August 13, 2025  
12:00  
Jury Room**

**Registration will  
open soon**

### **JUDGES AND AWARDS RECEPTION**

Saturday, October 11  
Red Rocks Country Club.

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Description, qualifications and  
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each award at the link below.  
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*LINDA T. PALMIERI AWARD*

*FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CHILDREN*

*LISA HARNESS MEMORIAL AWARD*

*GEORGE HOLLEY YOUNG LAWYER AWARD*

*CLAUDIA D. MILLER LIBERTY BELL AWARD*

### **1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION GOLF EVENT**

**Thursday, September 18  
Hiwan Golf Club**

