

PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association

**APRIL
2026**



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.

2025-2026 1ST JD BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Presidents Column

Coming Soon—Questions from the Bench

ADVERTISING JAMS
OFFICE SPACE GENESEE
UTILIZE THE 1ST JD
WEBSITE

Registration Opens for Your Honor: Journey to the Bench Symposium

Member Spotlight—Traci Worthan

Law Day—May 6 —Please Volunteer

Colorado Access to Justice Commission

CLE June—3 Fit To Practice: A Six Domain Well-Being Assessment For Lawyers

Call for 2006 Bar Foundation Grant Applications

JOB POSTINGS SMITH & COOK
PICKARD LAW



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

JOSEPH MAHER

What did the tree say when spring arrived? "What a re-leaf!"

As the season changes (maybe) and we enter late April (putting our skis and boards away or holding on for one last day), the end of the academic year approaches, and many are making plans for the upcoming summer, from routing out trips to implementing water-saving alternatives in the yard.

I recently read an article (it was definitely a promotional e-mail) about treating April as the new year and the history of April Fool's Day. So, in this same vein, please keep the 1st JD in your mind.

Please let us know if you would like to get involved in the 1st JD. Let us know if you have ideas you would like the 1st JD to take on or support. If you would like to see things done differently, do not hesitate to call or e-mail. We want to hear from you. You can reach us at admin@1stjd.org or feel free to give me a call.

In the meantime, I, along with the board, hope to see you on Tuesday May 19, at *New Image Brewing Company, 9505 W. 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge* at 6:00 pm for the May Board Meeting and Meet & Greet.

Best Joe Maher
720.994.8044

COMING SOON FROM THE 1ST JD

Do you have a professional question for a member of the Jeffco Judicial Bench?

A new dedicated email for those questions will soon be available. Questions will be directed to the individual or to a designated judicial representative if not specified to a specific judicial officer. Questions and answers will be posted in the Proclamation for the benefit of all.

ADVERTISING

NEUTRALS YOU KNOW PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST

Samuel Gordon, Esq.
Hon. John P. Leopold
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410 17th Street, #2440 • Denver, CO 80202
JAMSDENVER.COM • 303.534.1254



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you can utilize
the 1st JD Bar Association
website to:

- ◆ Create a business profile
- ◆ Advertise your firm
- ◆ Find and register for upcoming events
- ◆ Post career opportunities

Registration Opens for Your Honor: Journey to the Bench Symposium

DENVER – Registration is now open for the **Your Honor: Journey to the Bench symposium** to be held on **Friday, May 22, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Colorado Bar Association at 1290 N. Broadway, Denver, CO 80203.

The event is hosted by the Judicial Officer Outreach Program and sponsored by the Denver Bar Association. This dynamic, in-person symposium is specifically designed for attorneys and aspiring judges preparing to pursue a judicial appointment within the next 1–3 years, as well as current judges exploring opportunities on a higher court.

There will be seven engaging sessions offered that feature judicial officers from across the state as they share their experiences, practical advice, insights, and proven best practices:

1. Behind the Robe: A Day in the Life of a Judge
2. Building Bridges: Establishing Connections for Judicial Success
3. The Judicial Nomination Process: Getting Your Name in the Room
4. Silencing Self-Doubt: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome
5. Beyond Your Specialty: Learning New Areas of Law
6. Ethics in Action: Upholding Integrity on the Bench
7. The Judicial Family: Balancing Work and Life as a Judge

The event will also include Judges in a Flash: Speed Networking with the Bench, a high-energy session where attendees connect directly with judicial officers, ask questions, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights in a dynamic, structured setting.

“Judicial leadership begins with intention, preparation, and a deep commitment to serve. Your Honor: Journey to the Bench Symposium provides an honest and practical look at the path to the judiciary,” said Nga Vương-Sandoval, judicial officer outreach program lead.

Space is limited. Register by 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026, to secure your spot at this free, engaging, and interactive event. Registration closes once capacity is reached, which may occur prior to the registration deadline.

To register, visit: <https://forms.office.com/g/OTC9jMV3CK>

For questions, please contact Nga Vương-Sandoval, judicial officer outreach program lead at nga.vuongsandoval@judicial.state.co.us.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT TRACI WORTHAN



It was October 1990. Chief Judge Gaspar Perricone presided over the district, Dennis Howard managed as District Administrator, and John Hollon held down the fort as Chief Probation Officer. The courthouse stood proudly at 17th and Arapahoe in Golden, housing 8 District Court Judges, 5 County Court Judges, and 4 Referees—who today answer to the far grander title of Magistrates. Hard to believe that was nearly 36 years ago; sometimes it still feels like last Tuesday.

Back then, I was just launching my career in the 1st Judicial District as a young, bright-eyed clerk in Court Administration and the Jury Commissioner's Office. I certainly didn't imagine I'd still be here three and a half decades later—though, truth be told, I'm still not entirely sure what I want to be when I grow up.

Those early years were full of energy and opportunity. After six years in Court Administration, I moved to the Domestic Docketing Desk—where typing speed was a competitive sport and the workload always won. Then came 1998, when I was tapped to start a self-help center. This was back in the pre-internet era when "court resources" meant paper forms and pens that sometimes worked. My one humble request was permission to create a generic motion form—and the bench said yes. Progress!

A few years (and countless filings) later, I became a Supervisor overseeing Domestic, District Civil, the Self-Help Center, and later, E-Filing. Eventually, I stepped into the Unit Supervisor role, where over 15 years I had the privilege of supervising every area of the Clerk's Office except County Court Civil—by sheer accident, not avoidance. In 2017, I briefly served as Acting Clerk of Court, only to be selected soon after as Deputy Court Executive. That same year, I was honored by the First Judicial District Bar Association with the Claudia Miller Award—a career highlight and a humbling recognition from the legal community I love.

When I'm not dashing through courthouse hallways (usually the hidden back ones), I'm with my husband, our two kids, and our lively pack of dogs—two yellow labs, one rescue, and a Great Dane who firmly believes he's a lap dog. Our youngest will graduate high school in May and from Westernaires in October. After 16 years as an instructor with that organization, I've passed the reins to focus on just being "Mom" for a while. In our free time, you can find us outdoors—hiking, fishing, 4-wheeling, or relaxing by the lake, living that quintessential Colorado life.

While my career hasn't been flashy or headline-making, it's been deeply fulfilling. I've had the privilege of working alongside incredible mentors, colleagues, and leaders. Over the past 35 years, I've watched the courts evolve—from legal-size paper, typewriters, and five shades of correction fluid, to electronic filing, digital case management, and virtual hearings. The tools may have changed, but the mission has not. The 1st Judicial District community remains innovative, resilient, and unwavering in its commitment to serving the people of Jefferson County—and I'm proud to still be part of it.

Law Day Volunteers Needed

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in the main atrium of the Jefferson County Courthouse! The event is open to the public and will go from **9:00 am – 3:00 pm**, and we are in need of volunteer attorneys to speak with members of the public one-on-one about their legal issues. Each person will be given up to 15 minutes with an attorney. ***We break the day up into 2-hour timeslots (9:00 am – 11:00 am, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)***, and volunteers may select whichever time slot they prefer. We are still in need of volunteers for the following times.

Andy Schultz
Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator –
1st Judicial District
720-772-2501
andrew.schultz@judicial.state.co.us

Family Law:

9:00 – 11:00 (1 spot open)
11:00 – 1:00 (1 spot open)
1:00 – 3:00 (1 spot open)

Civil:

11:00 – 1:00 (1 spot open)
1:00 – 3:00 (1 spot open)

Traffic/Criminal:

9:00 – 11:00 (1 spot open)

Probate:

11:00 – 1:00 (1 spot open)
1:00 – 3:00 (1 spot open)

See flyer on next page for additional
Information.



COLORADO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

[Pro Bono CO](#) launched March 16, 2026! Pro Bono CO is an online clearinghouse of pro bono opportunities designed for legal professionals who are looking for a way to serve the community, amplify access to justice, and provide legal expertise for people in need. Legal service providers post volunteer opportunities, and legal professionals connect through the portal to the opportunities that best fit their skills and availability.

- Searchable & user-friendly
- Opportunities that fit a variety of skills
- Free to use

As of March, we have 28 participating Legal Service Providers and over 70 opportunities posted, and more legal service providers are signing up and posting opportunities every day.

Use your voice to encourage others to volunteer their skills in Colorado with [ProBonoCO.org](#). Create a profile as a volunteer attorney. If you are a Legal Service Provider, please contact [Brett Landis](#) to set up a profile and post opportunities.



Celebrate Law Day

*Wednesday,
May 6, 2026*

9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

in the atrium

*100 Jefferson County
Pkwy in Golden*

**FREE and open
to the public on
a first come,
first served
basis**

Contact the First Judicial
District Court Resource

Center for more
information at

720-772-2501

or by email

01selfhelp@judicial.state.co.us



**MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY
ABOUT YOUR LEGAL ISSUE**



NATIONAL LAW DAY

***IN THE ATRIUM OF THE
JEFFERSON COMBINED COURTS
AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING***

**Talk with an attorney for 15 minutes
about your legal issue.**

Attorneys will be available in the following areas:

- Divorce/Custody
- Child Support
- Tenant/Landlord
- Criminal/Traffic/Juvenile
- Eviction
- Small Claims
- Cases about Money
- Probate

Also featuring: Jeffco Library, Metro Volunteer Lawyers, Ask-a-Sheriff Deputy,
Public Trustee, Fatherhood Program and PorchLight

Sponsored by First Judicial District Bar Association in conjunction with the First Judicial District

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

1st JUDICIAL DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION CLE
FIT TO PRACTICE: A SIX-DOMAIN WELL-BEING
ASSESSMENT FOR LAWYERS



ELAINE PROULX
MA, NBC-HWC Health & Well Being Coach, ESP Wellness

Fit To Practice is a one-hour CLE workshop that approaches lawyer well-being as a professional competency issue rather than a personal health topic

Wednesday, June 3, 2026
12:00 noon

Jefferson County Courthouse
Faye Griffin Meeting Room
100 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO

1stJD Bar Assn. Member-Free
Non 1stJD Bar Members -\$10

Bring your lunch

or

Enjoy a variety of healthy snacks available for your enjoyment
An application for CLE credit has been made

<https://1stjd.org/events/#!event/2026/6/3/fit-to-practice-a-six-domain-well-being-assessment-for-lawyers-by-elaine-proulx-a-workshop-that-approaches-lawyer-well-being-as-a-professional-competency-issue-rather-than-a-personal-health-topic>



CALL FOR 2026 BAR FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS!

Are you aware of a vital local program or project suffering from funding gaps?

Are there important programs or projects near you in need of additional funding?

Refer them to The Colorado Bar Foundation Grants Program!

The CBF awarded \$461,622 in 2025 with an average grant size of \$5,700!

Grant Applications Accepted through June 18, 2026

The Colorado Bar Foundation grants support statewide, regional, or local projects with demonstrated community needs. The grants program specifically seeks to support nonprofit applicants who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- **Assistance with the provision or improved delivery of legal services**, particularly to individuals in marginalized communities, by supporting the representation of individuals in court proceedings, furnishing advice to pro se litigants, and disseminating general information about various legal matters (including, but not limited to, domestic relations proceedings, probate and trust administration, estate planning, immigration, evictions, and bankruptcy)
- **Promotion of law-related education** to the public by supporting organizations that provide information and education about the American legal/justice system to community organizations and school children of all ages
- **Improvement of the administration of justice** by supporting courts and judicial officers, delivering accessible information about the Colorado court system, providing child care for litigants and jurors, and assisting law enforcement and the judiciary in performing their functions

We recommend that prospective applicants review the current [Annual Report](#) for detailed information on average grant award size, funding priorities, and previous grantees. See more information on [program eligibility](#).

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Colorado Bar Foundation Manager [Elizabeth Akalin](#).

Apply <https://www.coloradobarfoundation.org/Grants>

JOB POSTINGS

Legal Assistant/Paralegal Position at Smith & Cook, LLC Private practice emphasizing litigation in family law, criminal defense, general civil litigation, including personal injury, and estate planning

Role Description

This is a full-time, on-site Legal Assistant role located in Littleton, CO. The Legal Assistant will be responsible for supporting attorneys through legal document preparation, organizing and maintaining legal files, conducting research, managing correspondence, and facilitating effective communication with clients and stakeholders. Additional responsibilities include performing general administrative tasks and ensuring the smooth operations of the legal office.

Qualifications

- Proficiency in Legal Document Preparation and familiarity with legal terminology and processes preferred
 - Comprehensive knowledge of legal practices and principles preferred
 - Strong Communication skills with the ability to communicate effectively with clients, legal teams, and other professionals
 - Experience in Administrative Assistance and office organization
 - Prior experience or training as a Legal Assistant preferred
- Strong attention to detail, organizational, and time-management skills

Compensation and Benefits

Base pay for this position will vary depending on experience between \$50,000 to \$65,000. Additional compensation includes:

- participation in the firm's health insurance plan (monthly premium 100% paid by employer)
- participation in 401(k) with maximum employer matching and immediate vesting

HOW TO APPLY

Qualified candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Steve Cook at steve@smithandcook.com.

JOB POSTINGS

Attorney Position at Pickard Law

Pickard Law is seeking a dedicated and motivated Attorney to join our growing firm. This is an excellent opportunity for an attorney with a passion for client service and a desire to build a thriving legal career within a supportive community environment. We are looking for a professional who is committed to providing exceptional representation and upholding the firm's reputation for excellence.

Responsibilities:

- Represent clients in various legal matters from inception to resolution in the areas of domestic, partition, and general civil litigation.
- Communicate effectively with clients, opposing counsel, and court personnel.
- Manage a caseload efficiently and meet deadlines.
- Act as a positive and professional representative of Pickard Law in the community.

Qualifications:

- Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from an accredited law school.
- Active and in good standing with the Colorado Bar.
- **A minimum of one year of experience as a practicing attorney.**
- Strong legal research, writing, and analytical skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- A strong work ethic and a desire for professional growth.

Compensation & Benefits:

- **Salary Range:** The base salary for this position is **\$84,000 annually**, with the potential for additional compensation through performance-based bonuses.
- **Bonuses:** Bonuses are designed to reward hard work and are directly tied to your contributions and the firm's success.
- **Growth and Flexibility:** The compensation and position are structured to provide significant flexibility and opportunity for an attorney who is motivated to grow their practice and build a strong professional reputation.
- **Benefits:** Additional compensation will include eligibility for the firm's health insurance plan (your portion paid 100% by Pickard Law), CLE (Continuing Legal Education) reimbursement, Short term and long term disability, life insurance, etc.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume, and cover letter on a **physically signed letter** to our office manager, Isobel Tutchtton at Isobel@lawpickard.com. This firm is a great place to grow your practice, learn new skills, and significantly advance your practice while still receiving a high level of compensation through the incentive bonus structure. We would love to have a new addition that really wants to learn and grow professionally, and we equally have a desire to help you do that.