

PROCLAMATION First Judicial District Bar Association

**JUNE
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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Ali Brady, Secretary Treasurer

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

Presidents Column

Upcoming Bar events—Mark your calendars

ADVERTISING JAMS
OFFICE SPACE GENESEE
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1st JD Problem Solving Courts
Behavioral Health Court
Veterans Treatment Court
Recovery Court

Member Spotlight—Christopher Johnson

Colorado Access to Justice Commission

MVL CLE –Ethics of Pro Bono Representation June 25

Annual CBA membership renewals

Job Postings
Kutak Rock
Judicial Law Clerk

Nominate a deserving colleague for the Judges & Awards Reception

Award History 1986-2025



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

JOSEPH MAHER

Over the past year, it has been great to see the board expand its reach into the community with more functions, and I believe the new year will bring further growth! I also hope that members remain comfortable reaching out to the Executive Board, Board of Trustees, and other members to facilitate growth for other attorneys, the organization, and, most importantly, the community at large.

As my year comes to a close, I wish the best for Magistrate Campbell and the new Executive Committee. I also want to thank Vicki Malara for her help throughout the year and for her commitment to the 1st JD and its individual members.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming functions, including the golf tournament in September, the award ceremony in October, and regular events throughout the year.

Best, Joe

Judges Roundtable-Thursday, August 13

Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 17
Hiwan Country Club

Unravel the Gavel-September-details to follow

Judges & Awards Reception
Saturday, October 10
Red Rocks Country Club

*Don't
Forget!*

ADVERTISING

NEUTRALS YOU KNOW PROFESSIONALS YOU CAN TRUST

Samuel Gordon, Esq.
Hon. John P. Leopold
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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

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

1ST JD PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS Behavioral Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Recovery Court



A Smarter Approach to Justice & Recovery

Problem-solving courts offer a non-traditional approach to integrating treatment and criminal case processing. These courts bring together judicial and treatment professionals to provide accountability and services aimed at reducing substance use and repeat offenses. They provide an alternative sentencing option for high-risk, high-need individuals who require structured support and intervention.

How to Be Considered

- 1 Request a program-specific screen and Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) ordered by the Judicial Officer.
- 2 Screening begins after plea or probation revocation (BHC is for Probation revocations only).
- 3 Court notifies probation and court coordinator.
- 4 Participants are interviewed and assessed by the probation department during the PSI.
- 5 Coordinator submits eligibility report to the court before the sentencing hearing.
- 6 If eligible, the specific program will be a sentencing option for the Judicial Officer and can be referred to the proper next available docket for sentencing in Division S, courtroom 100.

Existing Courts

Behavioral Health Court – For high risk / high need individuals with mental health disorders, with or without co-occurring substance use disorders. Probation revocations only.

Veterans Treatment Court – For high risk / high need justice involve military veterans.

Recovery Court – For high risk / high need individuals with substance use disorders. Felony cases only.

Basic Eligibility Requirements (contact john.feil@judicial.state.co.us for full eligibility criteria)

Participants Must:

Must meet high-risk/high-need assessment levels and have multiple prior supervision and treatment engagements

Why It Matters

- 1 Reduces repeat offenses
- 2 Supports recovery and rehabilitation
- 3 Provides structured accountability
- 4 Connects individuals with critical services



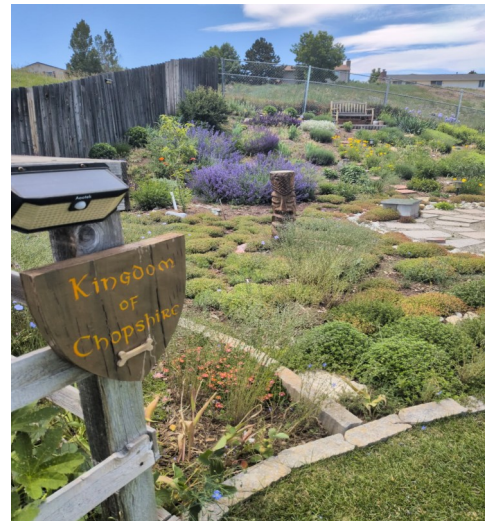
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT— CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

I have been practicing law for 8 years and have always been in public service. After graduating law school I clerked for Justice Boatright. I then was an Appellate fellow at the Attorney General's Office. I then joined the First Judicial District Attorneys office and have been here ever since. I currently prosecute felonies in district court.

Prior to law school I was a Botanist in South Africa for four years. I met my wife there. We have a beautiful dog named Pork Chop who is the center of our lives. Neither of us are ashamed of that fact.

I am involved in a number of organizations outside of work. I've been a member of the Minoru Yasui Inn of Court for a decade and currently I'm the head of the Mentorship Committee. I was involved in the Denver Bar Association for years prior to moving to Jefferson County and I'm excited to have joined the Board this year.

I am an avid gardener and maintain my love of flora and fauna. I am also addicted to golf though I should be better with how much I play and practice.





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.

Watch for your annual membership dues billings from the CBA.

Renew your dues with the CBA by applying online at cobar.org/membershipapplications, or contact the CBA membership team at membership@cobar.org or 303-860-1115.

If you have any questions about your membership options at 1st JD, contact us at admin@1stjd.org.

METRO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

The Ethics of Pro Bono Representation

Co-sponsored by the following Bar Associations
Adams/Broomfield, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas/
Elbert, and First Judicial District

June 25 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Applied for 1 CLE Ethics Credit

Participation in pro bono activities, such as those offered by Metro Volunteer Lawyers, is a great way to give back to the community while getting connected with like-minded legal practitioners. These representations also support the aspirational goal set forth in Colo. RPC 6.1 to provide 50 hours a year of pro bono representation. Practitioners often have questions about the lawyer-client relationship in these settings, including how the Rules of Professional Conduct will be applied. In this discussion, we'll address the governing authority for pro bono representation, common questions that arise in the clinic setting, as well as current considerations for amending the Rules and providing additional guidance specifically for the clinic setting. Questions and enthusiasm for pro bono representation welcome!

<https://www.denbar.org/CLE-EVENTS/Info/sessionaltcd/062526MVLACLE>

ASSOCIATE, TAX CREDIT FINANCE – DENVER

JOB SUMMARY

Kutak Rock LLP's Denver office is seeking a corporate attorney for its Corporate Finance/Tax Credit Group. This dynamic role is ideal for an attorney with experience or interest in developing their knowledge and skills in debt, equity, real estate, and renewable energy and new markets tax credit financings while working closely with experienced partners. Knowledge of structured finance transactions is preferred but not a requirement.

Kutak Rock, a U.S. News and World Report rated "Best Companies to Work For: Law Firms", provides associates the opportunity to grow their legal career in a collegial and collaborative environment.

\$175,000-\$200,000+ Base salary, plus discretionary bonus, commensurate with education and experience.

Interested individuals may find the full description and details on how to apply on our website:

<https://www.kutakrock.com/general-content/careers-attorney>

JUDICIAL LAW CLERK

The U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado has an opening for a [Judicial Law Clerk](#) in the chambers of U.S. District Judge Regina M. Rodriguez. This position is expected to commence as soon as possible and will begin as a one-year term, with the potential to extend up to the term limit or convert to a career position. Additional information regarding this position and other vacancies, including [Pro Se Law Clerk](#), and [Court Law Clerk](#), is available on our [Employment Opportunities](#) page. We welcome local applicants with diverse experiences, perspectives, and professional paths.

Summer Matthews | HR Division, District of Colorado
US District Court, District of Colorado 303-335-2494

TAKE A MOMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Nominate a deserving colleague for the
Judges & Awards Reception

Nomination is quick, easy and ONLINE
<https://1stjd.org/awards/#!event-list>

See list of previous year award winners on the next page

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.



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.



1st Judicial District Bar Association Award History 1986-2025

AWARD OF MERIT	CLAUDIA D. MILLER LIBERTY BELL AWARD	LINDA T. PALMIERI AWARD	FREDERICK J. MYERS PROFESSIONALISM AWARD	GEORGE HOLLEY OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER AWARD
2025 Joe Lusk	2025 Chelsea Sittner	2025 Sara Gatewood	2025 No nominations	2025 Courtney Baldwin
2024 Robin Beattie	2024 No Nominations	2024 Kathleen Curley	2024 Ron Servis	2024 No nominations
2023 Stephen Cook	2023 Michael Coughlin	2023 Debbie Gabriel	2023 Melissa Garscin	2023 No nominations
2019 David Thomas	2019 Mark McIntosh	2019 Doris Waters	2019 Christopher O'Dell	2019 Hannah Westmont
2018 Peter Weir	2018 Jon Bradley	2018 Alison Hansen	2018 Bob Frie	2018 Samantha Lillehoff
2017 Joe Pickard	2017 Traci Worthan	2017 Leah Varnell	2017 Gary L. Polidori	2017 Joshua T. Keltner
2016 Judge Anne Stavig	2016 Erin Burns	2016 Graham Peper		2016 Ryan Hutton
2015 Stephen Munsinger	2015 Carl Blesch	2015 Fred Peters		2015 Paula Holt
2014 Judge R. Brooke Jackson	2014 Norm Brisson	2014 Katie Kurtz		2014 Jonathan Carlson
2013 Victor Boog	2013 Jeff Glenn	2013 Mag. Marianne Tims	LISA HARNESS MEMORIAL AWARD	2013 Alexandra Harpp
2012 Maureen O'Brien	2012 Ray Washington	2012 Hal Sargent		2012 Brett Myers
2011 Scott David Albertson	2011 Vista Exline	2011 Stacey Nickolaus	2025 Nadeau Gigetta	2011 Robertson Cohen
2010 Jim Arndt	2010 No award	2010 Kerry Simpson	2024 Eileen Kraus	2010 Matt Kristofco
2009 Evan Lipstein	2009 Felix Cook	2009 Joe Pickard	2023 Rosetta Ceja	2009 Jenna Roth
2008 Gary Polidori	2008 Pete Jacobson	2008 Tom Walsh	2019 Joe Cremons	2008 Erin Hickey
2007 Judge Lee Anderson	2007 Jeff McDonald	2007 John Thirkell	2018 Judy Cross	2007 Jenna Reulbach
2006 Aldo Notarianni	2006 Michael Riede	2006 Seth Grob	2017 Laura H. Arcilise	2006 Robert Hoben
2005 Mike Beutz	2005 Carol Conklin	2005 David Risher	2016 Ronda Pine	2005 Stacey Nickolaus
2004 Robert B. Frie	2004 George Anders	2004 Ann Gail Meinster	2015 Sandi Downey	2004 Robert Gregory Busch
2003 W. Robert Montgomery	2003 Harriet Hall, MD	2003 Babete Norton	2014 Karla Beston	2003 No nominations
2002 Richard Mishkin	2002 Sen. Norma Anderson	2002 Christine Bess	2013 Lisa Paganetti	2002 Thomas Joaquin
2001 Dennis Polk	2001 Gregg Kildow	2001 Dougals Hanze	2012 Tammy Bartholomew	2001 Gailyn James
2000 Robert L. Ransome	2000 Tony Sabatini	2000 Alane Holsteen	2011 Toni O'Brien	2000 Paul Danborn
1999 Hon.Thomas G. Elliott	1999 Martha Menin	1999 Mark Randall	2010 Melody Glogowski	1999 George H. Brauchler
1998 Dennis J. Jacobson	1998 Russell Boatright	1998 Constance F. Hieb	2009 Beth McFarland	1998 George Koons
1997 Judge Linda Palmieri	1997 Barbara Schrader	1997 Linda T. Palmieri	2008 Judy Ulmer	1997 Margaret M. Ochoa
1996 Carolyn L. Sampson	1996 Rita Schnidt		2007 Shirley Williams	1996 Marnie & Tom Walsh
1995 Richard J. Scheuer	1995 Sen. Clair Traylor		2006 Deborah George	1995 Charles E. Mortimer
1994 Justice Antony F. Vollack				1994 Kathryn M. Beck
1993 Judge Gaspar Perricone				1993 Karen Roan Novatny
1992 Judge Ruthanne N. Polidori				1992 Brian Boatright
1991 Dale H. Helm				1991 Mark M. Randall
1990 Judge Aurel M. Kelly				1990 Daniel P. Powell
1989 Bernard P. O'Kane				1989 R. Marcus Williams
1988 Harold D. Lutz				1988 John D. Beckman
1987 George A. Holley				1987 Barbara B. Koehler
1986 Judge Joseph P. Lewis				1986 Jeffrey N. Herren

Nomination is quick, easy and ONLINE
<https://1stjd.org/awards/#!event-list>