

The Advocate

A Publication of the Colorado Women's Bar Association

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Colorado Civil Access Pilot Project Rules

by Advocate Staff

Volunteer With The CWBA For LawLine9

by Advocate Staff

The CWBA will partner with other Colorado specialty bar associations to present, "Colorado Civil Access Pilot Project Rules." This program will preview the new rules going into effect on January 1, 2012 that are designed to improve the delivery of court services and provide access to a just, speedy, and inexpensive court system.

The program will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and will be held at and sponsored by Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP. The program will be presented by Tamara F. Goodlette and Jessica L. Fuller, both of Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP.

Admission is free for specialty bar members: CWBA, APABA (Asian Pacific American Bar Association), CHBA (Colorado Hispanic Bar Association), CGLBT (Colorado Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Bar Association), Sam Cary Bar Association, and SABA (South Asian Bar Association of Colorado). Visit the CWBA's calendar at www.cwba.org for all of the details and registration information. ♦

Join the CWBA and participate in our semi-annual LawLine9 event on December 7, 2011. You do not need expertise in any specific area of law, and will not be giving specific legal advice. Rather, volunteers help direct callers to appropriate resources in the community, specific to the caller's individual situation.

There are two shifts, 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.; and 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., about six attorney volunteers are needed for each shift. We hope that you will help us staff this fun and valuable community event. Visit the CWBA's calendar at www.cwba.org for all of the details. ♦

Save the Date - Annual CWBA Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Offices of Haddon Morgan and Foreman PC
150 E. 10th Avenue, Denver
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Admission is free for current CWBA members!

(See the flier in this issue for details)

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President's Letter: by Kara Veitch

"We Have A Long Way To Go"

The Colorado Women's Bar Association was established in 1978, before some of our members were even born. At that time, a few brave women attended law school and after graduation, and if they were fortunate, they were able to work as attorneys in all male law firms.

Things have changed. For two decades, women have made up approximately half of all law school graduates. They enter law firms where there are not only women attorneys, but women partners. Law firms even have programs designed to encourage diversity and retain these women.

But we have a long way to go. Women make up only about 15% of equity partners in national law firms, 27% of appellate judges, 8% of managing partners, 20% of general counsel at Fortune 500 companies, and 21% of law school deans.

The Colorado Women's Bar Association is a place where women can work together to identify and overcome these obstacles. For example, our Membership Reception held in October offered a great opportunity to learn more about the CWBA and our Committees, and to meet and get to know CWBA Board members and other CWBA members. In the next few months, we will be hosting several events to help women attorneys become more successful.

The CWBA will host a "Getting Benched" CLE with Colorado's other specialty bar associations. The co-chairs of the Programs Committee, Cat Shea and Monica Loseman, are putting together a fantastic panel of members of the bench, judicial nominating com-

missions and Governor's Office to talk about the judicial appointment process.

The CWBA will partner with the other specialty bar associations again on December 1st, to present "Colorado Access Pilot Project Rules." This program will offer a preview of the Rules going into effect on January 1, 2012.



Kara Veitch,
CWBA President

The Programs Committee will also organize a National Institute of Trial Advocates (NITA) program early next year.

The Professional Advancement Committee, led by Alison Zinn and Jessica Brown, will be putting on a self-promotion CLE aimed at young attorneys. Too often young women attorneys do not take credit for work they have done and are not able to talk about themselves confidently. This CLE will help young attorneys gain these necessary skills.

The CWBA also addressed the unique issues facing attorney mothers at our second "Mom's Lunch." The event is always a huge success, offering tips from those who successfully achieve a healthy personal/professional balance.

Check out these and other opportunities for involvement at our website at <http://www.cwba.org>.

We hope you will join us at the CWBA. Things have changed. But we have a long way to go and we need your help to get there. ♦

CWBA Programs Committee Announces Plans

by Monica Loseman, Programs Committee Co-Chair

The CWBA Programs Committee has three events planned this year and looks forward to your participation: the “Getting Benched” CLE, the annual CWBA Holiday Party, and a NITA training program.

Getting Benched CLE – (further details to be announced). Promoting diversity in both practice and on the bench is one of the CWBA’s goals. Colorado has much to be proud of in terms of diversity in the state courts, particularly in the state’s highest court. But while the state courts are better than in most states, women are still under-represented in the Colorado judiciary. Five of the twenty-two Court of Appeals judges are women; two of the ten U.S. District Court judges are women; two of the seven U.S. District Court magistrate judges are women; just one of the five U.S. Bankruptcy Court judges is a woman; and the number of women in lower state court judgeships as compared to men remains similarly low.

The “Getting Benched” CLE, approved for 2 general CLE credits, will provide an insider’s view of how best to position yourself to pursue a career in the judiciary. Panelists will include a recently appointed judge, members of two of the state’s judicial nominating commissions, and others involved in the nominating and confirmation process. Each panelist will provide advice on the nominating and confirmation process and steps to take early in your career that will best position you to pursue a nomination. Watch for news about date and location.

Colorado Access Pilot Project Rules -- December 1, 2011 (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) at the offices of Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP. This program will preview the Rules going into effect on January 1, 2012. Colorado is a leader nationally with this Pilot Project, to work towards improving the delivery of court services and providing access to a just, speedy and inexpensive court system.

Holiday Party – December 8, 2011 (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) at the offices of Haddon Morgan and Foreman, P.C. The CWBA’s annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 8, and the law firm of Haddon Morgan and Foreman has graciously agreed to host once again. As always, the CWBA will spotlight a Colorado charitable organization at the event, and this year’s charity is SafeHouse Denver. We hope everyone will join us to share a little holiday cheer.

NITA Program – February 2012 (further details to be announced). This year, like last year, the CWBA will sponsor an incredible two-day NITA trial skills program, which we are able to offer at a substantial discount to our members. This program will be presented by top-notch faculty, including judges and practitioners. Space will be limited, so be sure to keep an eye out for program details and registration information later this year. ♦

Save the Date

35th Annual CWBA Convention

“When Push Comes to Shove,
Grace Under Pressure”

June 8 - 10, 2012

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa
Vail, Colorado




Giving Back to Our Community

by Ryann MacDonald, Legal Services Committee Co-Chair

The Colorado Women's Bar Association's Legal Services Committee is excited to jump into another busy year, filled with great Denver partnerships and a calendar full of ways to get involved. The Legal Services Committee is dedicated to serving the Colorado legal community by providing legal services and other community outreach to underprivileged women and children.

In addition to its legal services, including the Permanent Protection Order training, local Legal Nights and LawLine 9, the Committee also coordinates events to benefit its community partners. Events include: the Dress for Success clothing drive in October 2011; the book drive in early 2012; and the Baby Shower in April 2012.

 The Dress for Success clothing drive and the book drive both benefit the Center for Work Education and Employment ("CWEE"). CWEE helps low-income, single parent families by providing programming geared towards three goals: 1) preparing for employment; 2) finding employment; and 3) keeping employment. CWEE's First Impressions Boutique gives participants the opportunity to build a professional wardrobe for when they enter the workforce.

We recently learned from CWEE that our clothing drive held in October was very successful, with over 250 garments appropriate for professional and business casual wear received. "Thank you" to everyone who made a donation! Last year, CWEE honored the Legal Services Committee with the 2010 Partner of the Year award. For more information about CWEE and their work in the community, visit www.CWEE.org.

Our annual Baby Shower is our most popular event, and its goal is to collect items that you would typically give to someone at a baby shower. Our community partners then provide these items to underprivileged mothers and families. The Baby Shower benefits FamilyStar, The Gathering Place, and WeeCycle.

Created in 1991, FamilyStar is a Denver nonprofit organization that serves local children and parents and works to help "children enter school ready to learn, regardless of socio-economic background." FamilyStar's mission is "Transformation through Montessori education that empowers children and parents to think for themselves, to do for themselves, and to create better lives." For more information visit www.familystar.net.



The Gathering Place is a daytime drop-in center for Denver's homeless women and children. Created in 1986, The Gathering Place is the only organization of its kind in the Denver area, and they describe themselves as "more than just a place; it is the collective soul of our participants, our staff, our volunteers, and our community." For more information visit www.tgp-denver.org.



WeeCycle is a Denver nonprofit organization providing low-income families with new and gently used baby items free of charge. WeeCycle distributes high chairs, cribs, strollers, car seats, changing tables, bouncy seats and other baby gear "...through local community organizations already serving families with infants and toddlers affected by poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, teen pregnancy and under-employment." For more information visit www.weecycle.org.



The Legal Services Committee looks forward to another successful year with its community partners. For more information on the Legal Services Committee's partnerships, events, legal services and community involvement, please contact Co-Chairs Nicole Mundt (nicolemundt@gmail.com) or Ryann MacDonald (RMacDonald10@law.du.edu). We look forward to seeing you out in the community! ♦

Mary Lathrop Award Winners Announced - That's Right, *Winners*

by Jessica Brown, Professional Advancement Committee Co-Chair

The Professional Advancement Committee is proud to announce this year's winners of the Mary Lathrop Award: Chief Judge Janice Davidson of the Colorado Court of Appeals and attorney Lynn Feiger. The Committee received numerous award nominations this year, and all nominees were very qualified. But, paralleling their impressive legal careers, Judge Davidson and Ms. Feiger quickly rose to the top – and there they stayed.

The Mary Lathrop Award is presented to an outstanding female attorney who has enriched the community



Mary Lathrop

through her legal and civil activities, and who embodies the trail-blazing spirit of Mary Lathrop. Mary Lathrop was the first woman admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court in Colorado, to open a law office in Colorado, to argue before the Colorado Supreme Court, to be admitted to the U.S. Supreme

Court, and to join the Denver and Colorado Bar Associations. Past award recipients include Brooke Wunnicke, Jean Dubofsky, Zita Weinshienk, Gail Norton, Rebecca Love Kourlis, Pamela Mackey, Lynda McNeive, Mary Mullarkey, and Elizabeth Starrs.

Notably, many of these honorees received the Mary Lathrop Award simultaneously with other women. In fact, in about half of the years that the CWBA has presented this award, more than one woman has received it. Although the award has not been presented to multiple recipients since 2003, the Professional Advancement Committee felt that this was the perfect occasion to renew the tradition of presenting the award to two recipients, both of whom are incredibly deserving of the award.

Judge Davidson is the Chief Judge of the Colorado Court of Appeals. She is the third woman ever appointed to this court, and the only woman in Colorado to have served as chief. Judge Davidson has implemented numerous procedures to increase the court's efficiency and expedite the delivery of justice to litigants. In her most recent evaluation, she received support for retention from 93% of attorneys and 99% of judges. She also has a long history of public service, including time with the New York Legal Aid Society, the Colorado State Public Defender's Denver office, the Denver Litigation Center of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Colorado Attorney General's Office.



Judge
Janice Davidson

Lynn Feiger tried the first successful sexual harassment case under Title VII in the United States. She also negotiated a \$19 million settlement (the largest in a Colorado employment case) for female Outback Steakhouse employees and a \$9 million settlement for female Denver Mint employees. She successfully argued a Colorado Supreme Court case that gave workers the right to enforce representations in employee handbooks. She has been included among *The Best Lawyers in America* for over twenty years. And she was the first plaintiffs' employment lawyer in Colorado elected to the ABA College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.



Lynn Feiger

Join us for our 2012 Convention to learn much more about our award winners, Chief Judge Davidson and Lynn Feiger. We look forward to honoring them for their accomplishments in the practice of law. ♦

A First for Governor Hickenlooper

by Sarah Chase-McRorie, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Since the announcement in August that Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez will be stepping down effective October 31, 2011, the Governor's office has been preparing for its first pick of a Colorado Supreme Court justice. This selection process will be the first of at least two for Governor Hickenlooper. In 2014, Chief Justice Michael Bender turns 72, the mandatory age of retirement for state court judges, including justices of the Colorado Supreme Court. The vacancy will provide Governor Hickenlooper with another opportunity to select a justice.

Most recently, the Governor's office has been finalizing the nominating commission that reviews the applications and interviews the candidates for the judicial vacancy. The Governor's last pick to round out the nominating commission was a non-lawyer selection from the 4th Congressional District. The nominating commission serves a critical role in selecting a Supreme Court Justice. It screens all the applications, conducts the interviews, and selects three finalists from which the Governor will pick. The commission is composed of fifteen members, including a lawyer and non-lawyer from each of the seven state congressional districts, and one at-large non-lawyer. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is the ex-officio chair of the commission, in a non-voting capacity. The commissioners are appointed for six-year terms. Lawyer members are selected by the governor, attorney general and chief justice, while non-lawyer members are selected by the Governor only.

The majority of the current nominating commission is made up of the same commissioners who selected the three finalists for last year's seat now filled by Justice Monica Marquez. Of these fifteen commissioners, only five are women, and of those five women, only one woman is a lawyer. There are eight democrats, five republicans and two unaffiliated commissioners. The experience these commissioners bring to the committee is vastly different, for example, there is a Franciscan nun, a rancher, and a bank president. The nominating commission met on three different days,

once to review all the applications submitted and twice to interview applicants before sending three finalists to the Governor. The three finalists were Judge Brian Boatright, a District Court Judge in the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties); Frederick Martinez, an attorney with Hall & Evans; and Patrick O'Rourke, chief litigation attorney for the University of Colorado. Governor Hickenlooper announced his appointment of Judge Boatright to the Colorado Supreme Court on October 27, 2011.

This will be an exciting time to watch and see who the new Governor chooses to fill vacancies on the state's highest court; decisions with great opportunity to influence our state's judicial system.

Do you want to make a difference? Consider applying to serve on a judicial nominating commission. In 1966, the people of Colorado passed a constitutional amendment which provides that state judges be appointed rather than elected on a political ticket. Now, when a vacancy occurs in a county or district judgeship, the judicial district nominating commission interviews applicants and recommends individuals to the governor for consideration and appointment. Three nominees must be submitted to the governor for judgeships on the court of appeals or supreme court; two or three names can be submitted for county or district court judicial vacancies.

Vacancies currently exist on a number of Colorado's Nominating Commissions. Some positions are open now; the majority of vacancies will occur when current commissioners' six-year terms end on December 31st. To learn more about the work of Colorado's Judicial Nominating Commissions and how you can apply, please visit the Colorado Supreme Court's website at http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Nominating.cfm. ♦

“Raising the Bar” Recap

By Advocate Staff

On September 1, 2011, the CWBA Foundation held its 6th Annual “Raising the Bar” Dinner at the historic Brown Palace Hotel & Spa. Over 300 attendees helped us honor Colorado’s “Famous Firsts.” Honorees included **Jean Dubofsky**, First Woman Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court (1979); **Gale Norton**, First Woman Attorney General of Colorado (1990), and the First Woman Interior Secretary (2001); and, **Patricia Schroeder**, First Woman elected to the U.S. Congress from Colorado (1972), and the First Woman to serve on the House Armed Services Committee (1973). The honorees were featured in individual video presentations, and spoke from the podium about their careers in public service.

Our thanks to Emcee Tamara Banks as well as to everyone who attended the event. We offer special thanks to event sponsors, whose support was vital to the event’s success as well as to the ongoing work of the CWBA Foundation.

Sponsor acknowledgment

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 - ♦ Elizabeth Starrs and Lorraine Parker

CWBA Comings and Goings

By Advocate Staff

Wedgle & Associates, PC is proud to announce that

Theresa Spahn



has joined the firm
Of Counsel in August of 2011.

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IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
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JESSICA M. SCHMIDT



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