

Colorado Bar Association 2016–17 Annual Report

Continuing a Strong Mission

The CBA's refocused mission is to advance members' practices, support the justice system and enrich our communities. The following offers a summary of CBA accomplishments during the 2016–17 fiscal year.

Advancing Members' Practices

The CBA **Membership Department** recorded 18,806 members as of July 1, 2017. The CBA is always adapting to remain relevant to its diverse membership.

The CBA **Law Practice Management (LPM) Department** is pleased to announce the completion of its latest Economic Survey. The survey results are found on the CBA's website (cobar.org/economicsurvey) and are available to CBA members only. Forms2Share (cobar.org/forms2share) is an evolving collection of law practice management forms for members and is a project of the LPM Department. The department continued to publish its monthly e-newsletter (www.cobar.org/lpm), distribute an LPM computer tip in the C-Brief e-newsletter and add titles to its free lending library (cobar.org/lendinglibrary). LPM Tech Tuesdays webinars, created to help members learn new technology to practice more efficiently and better serve their clients, covered relevant technology-related topics (cobar.org/techtuesdays). Casemaker continued to add functionality and additional materials, enhancing the value of CBA membership. As in the past, the department presented Casemaker trainings (live and by webinar) at no cost to CBA members.

The CBA **Sections and Committees Department** had another busy year. The department worked hard with a very dedicated group of section volunteers to put together the new Best Practices Playbook. The goal is to make all sections high functioning while also opening up paths to leadership in sections. A similar playbook will be produced for committees.

With the assistance of sections, staff and leadership, the department put on more than 170 CLE programs, networking events and receptions for approximately 7,000 attendees and held more than 600 meetings for various sections and committees. The department will continue to assist sections and committees in providing engaging CLE programs for their members and help sections determine best practices.

More than 10,000 CBA members are members of sections and committees. We thank you for your continued support and participation.

Use of **STRATUM**, a members-only co-working space at the CBA and DBA offices, increased during its third year. STRATUM gives members a stronger sense of community and collegiality while providing the business amenities needed to enhance 21st-century practices. Amenities include power for devices, meeting space, Wi-Fi access, printing, scanning, copying, and faxing.

The CBA **Internet and Technology Department** continued to improve the responsively designed website launched last year. The department routinely maintained and upgraded the network, specifically focusing on security and performance issues.

COBALT, the CBA's leadership training program, has continued to contribute to the legacy of leadership and professionalism in Colorado. The 2017 class met once a month from January through June. Graduation was held on June 19 at the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center. Participants heard from prominent speakers, including Justice Monica Márquez, Justice William Hood III, Justice Nancy Rice, CBA President Patricia M. Jarzobski, Hon. Theresa Spahn, former governor Bill Ritter, Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran, David Beller and many others. The class focused on topics such as authentic leadership, civic leadership, diversity, bias and inclusiveness, core values for leadership, and leadership during changing times.

A special congratulations goes to the dedicated and inspiring COBALT class of 2017: Angela Boykins, Christopher D. Bryan, Hon. Natalie Chase, Ryan Coward, Caryn Datz, Christine M. Hernandez, Erika Holmes, Ruchi Kapoor, Suzanne Leff, Sarah Lipka, Ruth Mackey, John McHugh, Pax Moultrie, Tariq Sheikh, Jason St. Julien, Kathryn Starnella, Tammy Sullivan, William E. Trachman, Veronique Van Gheem and Jill Dorancy.



Communications

This was a big year for ***Colorado Lawyer*** (formerly known as *The Colorado Lawyer*). CBA Director of Communications and Marketing Heather Folker spearheaded a redesign of the publication, drawing on results from a 2016 readership survey of CBA members. To kick-start the effort, a subcommittee of *Colorado Lawyer* board members — Marcy Glenn, Amy DeVan and Forrest Plesko — met regularly to discuss how to tailor the magazine’s content to best meet member needs. Editorial staff then worked closely with a design firm to hone the look and feel of the magazine. The publication ultimately stayed true to its longstanding emphasis on substantive law, but content was reordered, shorter pieces were added and a completely new full-color design was launched in July 2017.

Colorado Lawyer also said goodbye to its longtime desktop publisher, Gaynor Bloom, who decided to pursue other passions after more than 13 years with the CBA. Kate Schuster, whose work on *The Docket* helped the Denver Bar Association earn a National Association of Bar Executives Luminary Award for Excellence in 2016, has taken over as graphic designer for the publication. She joins the team of Susie Klein (managing editor), Jodi Jennings (legal editor) and Jessica Volz (*Colorado Lawyer* and *Docket* editor).

As always, *Colorado Lawyer* thanks the countless volunteers who contributed their time, energy and legal wisdom to the publication as board members, coordinating editors, article authors and cover photographers. *Colorado Lawyer* would not exist without the generosity of CBA members.

Continuing Legal Education

Colorado Bar Association CLE (CBA-CLE), the nonprofit educational arm of the CBA, provides outstanding legal resources for Colorado attorneys. It was an exciting year for CBA-CLE, as we welcomed a new executive director. Vince O’Brien joined the organization in January 2017, replacing Gary Abrams, who announced his retirement in late-2016 after serving as executive director for more than 20 years. Prior to joining CBA-CLE, Vince O’Brien was assistant director for Minnesota Continuing Legal Education, where he served for 30 years. Until 2011, he also served as president of the Association of Continuing Legal Education and head of its Executive Committee.

Other highlights from the past fiscal year included record attendance at the 2017 Rocky Mountain Intellectual Property & Technology Law Institute. More than 600 IP professionals attended, including 140 from other states and seven from other countries. There is significant collaboration between CBA-CLE and CBA sections in producing the large annual conferences held at outside venues, such as the IP Institute, the Estate Planning Retreat, the Real Estate Symposium, the Family Law Institute and the Elder Law Retreat.

CBA-CLE also publishes more than 70 substantive Colorado-specific law books. This year, CBA-CLE added a number of “Book Programs” that feature one of our legal publications as the course materials, offering the opportunity for authors and editors to highlight portions of their work and to answer questions in person.

The CBA-CLE Pass is still going strong, offering CLE packages at an exceptional price. This year, new law firm pricing was added, which has, in turn, increased law firm participation.

Supporting the Justice System

The **Modern Law Practice Initiative** (formerly Modest Means Task Force) continued to focus on providing lawyers with the tools to incorporate moderate-income clients into their practices. *Successful Business Planning for the Modern Law Practice* (2nd edition) is available on the CBA website as a free download for members. A book club focusing on *Business Planning for the Modern Law Practice* meets monthly to discuss the nuts and bolts of setting up a law practice. The Unbundling Roadshow toured the state, providing lawyers with the tools to incorporate limited scope representation into their practices.

The **Access to Justice Commission, Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Supreme Court** received a **Justice for All grant** from the National Center for State Courts. The purpose of this one-year grant is to develop a strategic plan on how to provide access to justice for all. This grant will culminate in a Justice for All Summit in October 2017.

The CBA **Appellate Pro Bono Program** provided legal assistance to indigent litigants in seven cases. The **Legal Fee Arbitration Committee** continued to provide arbitrations between a lawyer and a client regarding fee disputes.

The CBA **Access to Justice Department** is involved in several statewide initiatives, including the Supreme Court's Colorado Legal Help Center, the Chief Justice's Professionalism Service Committee, Colorado Legal Services Pro Bono Innovation Grant, Legal Information Network of Colorado and Victims of Crime Act funding for civil legal services for crime victims. The work is accomplished through collaborations with relevant agencies, such as the Office of Victims Programs (Department of Public Safety), the Legal Information Network of Colorado, Colorado Legal Services and the state courts.

The CBA makes its policy and takes position on legislation through the **Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)** — a panel of 13 members appointed by the CBA president and representatives of the CBA sections. The panel is assisted by liaisons and leadership from each section. These members consider the merits of bills and recommend whether the bar should adopt a position and, if so, what that position should be.

The LPC led the bar in another successful session at the State Capitol. This year, the committee looked at nearly 700 bills and took positions on 33 pieces of legislation. The CBA achieved its intended outcome on 32 of the bills — an outstanding achievement for the LPC and the bar association's agenda at the Capitol. The LPC sponsored the following bills: HB 1087 (Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program); HB 1213 (Transfers of Automobile Titles upon Death); HB 1280 (Disability Trusts 21st Century Cures Act Language); SB 097 (Vacated Alleys Presumed Included in All Deeds); SB 124 (Colorado Uniform Trust Decanting Act); and SB 127 (Originator Exemption Mortgages to Family Members).

Additionally, the CBA helped defeat a number of harmful bills aimed at upending due process, attacking the judiciary and creating ambiguity in the law. Overall, the LPC achieved the goals of the CBA and maintained the bar association's voice as a respected and involved stakeholder at the Capitol and as the premier resource for legislators who have questions about the legal implications of their bills or the impact of pending legislation.

Enriching Our Communities

Our Courts, a joint activity of the Colorado Judicial Institute and the CBA, provides nonpartisan information programs to adult audiences around the state to further public knowledge and understanding of the state and federal courts in Colorado. The group is expanding its collection of online videos, including one about courts for jurors in federal and state jury assembly rooms.

Much work has been devoted to targeting Hispanic outreach across Colorado. To date, the following presentations have been offered in Spanish: *Nuestros Cortes — Estatales* (Colorado State Courts); *Nuestros Cortes — Federales* (United States Courts); *Nuestros Cortes — La Vida de un Pleito Civil* (The Life of a Civil Lawsuit); *Nuestros Cortes — La Vida de un Caso Penal* (The Life of a Criminal Case); and *Introducción a los Tribunales de Inmigración* (Introduction to Immigration Courts).

The CBA **Military and Veterans Affairs Section** continued to provide pro bono services to returning veterans and active duty military personnel in our community. John Vaught, partner at Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell, and Douglas Tumminello, partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, served as chair and vice chair respectively. The section educates attorneys on matters that affect members of the military and veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and Veterans Administration filings. The section's Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans (CLCV) program has assigned 400 pro bono or low-cost cases to volunteer attorneys. These cases have come from direct calls to CBA offices and other nonprofit and government agencies, such as Rocky Mountain Human Resources and Colorado Legal Services. With the support of the Denver courts, the section also volunteers at the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the U.S. Armory. The section staffed and represented veterans while Judge Beth Faragher, a DBA Access to Justice Committee member, put on a temporary court for the veterans to clear tickets and warrants related to misdemeanor and nonviolent violations through community service rather than jail time.

The CBA **High School Mock Trial Program** was sponsored by the CBA Litigation Section and the Colorado Bar Foundation. In the fictional Colorado High School Mock Trial case problem, Kyle Robert's five-year-old daughter Marley got into Kyle's marijuana edibles, which were packaged to look like candy, and ate several of them. The fictional case has seen national recognition and several other states will soon be adapting a version of the Colorado case. A special thank you to the CBA Mock Trial Committee Chairs Hon. John W. Madden IV and Porya Mansorian who wrote the 2017 Colorado Case Problem.

More than 110 high school teams participated with approximately 1,800 students performing as attorneys and/or witnesses in a court case. Hundreds of attorneys, judges, teachers and other community leaders volunteered their time to instruct students about the judicial system and the trial process through this educational program. Teams from across the state competed in nine regional tournaments. Twenty-four high school teams competed at the CBA State Mock Trial Tournament in March at the Adams County Justice Center. After nine regional tournaments and months of practice, Colorado sent Colorado Academy High School to the National Tournament in Hartford, Connecticut in May. The team scored the 3rd highest point total of any team in the tournament. The team was coached by Mark Grueskin, Victoria Sharp, Byeongsook Seo and John Funk. The teacher coach, Luis Terrazas, started the Colorado Academy High School Mock Trial program almost 10 years ago. Mr. "T", as he is called by students, is the main reason for the continued extraordinary success of the Colorado Academy High School Mock Trial program.



Young Lawyers Division

The CBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) had another successful event-filled year. On October 30, the CBA YLD and DBA YLD, along with other specialty and diversity bars, held a well-attended reception welcoming new young lawyers to the Colorado legal community. They also conducted several Bullyproofing events in schools across the state, held a successful CLE with the CBA Sections, organized a number of happy hours and further developed the new program "Lawyers with Littles."