

2015-16

ANNUAL REPORT



**DENVER
BAR
ASSOCIATION**

2015–16 Denver Bar Association ANNUAL REPORT

The Denver Bar Association advances professionalism within the legal community and promotes justice in the broader community. The DBA works to do so by promoting the administration and availability of justice to all; supporting and assisting its members; upholding the honor and dignity of the Bar; fostering respect for the legal profession; encouraging a thorough and ongoing legal education; cultivating positive relations among all Denver-area lawyers; and perpetuating the history and traditions of the profession. We are inclusive, purposeful, impactful and professional.

This Annual Report presents a snapshot of the past fiscal year, which culminated in the development of the **DBA's Five-Year Strategic Plan**. It demonstrates what the DBA is doing in its 125th year to advance its mission and its goals.

DBA President's Message

BY JANET DRAKE



The Denver Bar Association is 125 years old. Denver has grown tremendously, and so has the Denver legal community. The Denver Bar Association has historically provided significant pro bono services to the community. Pro bono work and community service have always been important to me. As a result, my presidential initiative was **Make a Difference**. Each month, the *Docket* Committee created an issue themed around different

ways to serve others. Topics included children, homelessness, human trafficking, Metro Volunteer Lawyers, mentoring and substance abuse. As Denver lawyers, we are uniquely situated to help others. We should not stand idle and ignore racism, discrimination or oppression. I urge everyone to support a cause and to continue to make a difference.

In an effort to change with the times and respond to members, much of 2015–16 was dedicated to developing a strategic plan. The strategic planning committee was composed of Past-President John Vaught, President-Elect Nancy Cohen, Franz Hardy, Mo Watson, Deputy Executive Director Greg Martin and Executive Director Patrick Flaherty. Members provided input, and the Board of Trustees gave guiding advice throughout the process. In May, the Board of Trustees approved the DBA Strategic Plan, which includes the following key components:

Mission Statement: The Denver Bar Association advances professionalism within the legal community and promotes justice in the broader community.

Values: We are inclusive, purposeful, impactful and professional.

Vision Statement: The Denver Bar Association is committed to promoting member success by:

- Cultivating an inclusive and engaged legal community;
- Delivering programming focused on enhancing professional excellence; and
- Supporting and advancing justice.

By completing the strategic plan, we completed a chapter; now we begin implementation. The process is a fluid one that requires member participation to be successful. Over the next five years, the DBA's Board of Trustees and staff will take action steps to improve the member experience through active recruitment, better engagement, increasing diversity and inclusivity, improving communication, and including new/young lawyers. Additionally, there will be a focus on core programming that will encompass ongoing evaluation. Core programming includes professional development, pro bono clinics and public engagement/community service.

This message would not be complete without extending my thanks to the committee chairs and active members. Part of the strategic planning process involved critical assessment of those programs. Now that the strategic plan has been adopted, work needs to be done to ensure mission alignment and the prioritization of resources. Last year, committees enhanced bench-bar relations, engaged young lawyers and embraced senior members.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support over the past year. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president of the Denver Bar Association. Thank you for the opportunity. **Make a difference!**

DBA'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

{Let's Talk: Networking On & Off-line}



NUMBER of
DBA MEMBERS

8,372



DBA SOCIAL
NETWORK UPDATE

FACEBOOK: 714 likes

TWITTER:

2,459 followers
and **2,184** tweets

LINKEDIN:

1,487 members

BARRISTERS BENEFIT BALL:

540 attendees

Since its inception **28** years ago, the Ball
has raised **\$2.615 million** for MVL.



DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL AWARDS PARTY:

175 attendees

{Let's Get to Work: Our Community Impact}



PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION CLINICS, including the Bankruptcy, Small Claims, Collection, Divorce and Family Law legal Clinics, had **1,200** attendees and **706** volunteers this year.

**COLORADO LAWYERS
for COLORADO VETERANS**



3 established clinics
across Colorado

Volunteers: 412

Veterans served: 500

**Pro bono cases assigned
to attorneys: 85**

LAWLINE 9:

325 volunteers make

roughly **175** calls every Wednesday

Topics covered throughout the year:

Accidents/Injuries, Probate, Bankruptcy,
Consumer/Contract, Criminal, Employment,
Family, General, Immigration, Litigation
and Social Security/Disability



PROMOTING JUSTICE

The **Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP)** is one of the **DBA Access to Justice Committee's** most recent partners and focuses on legal issues affecting the homeless. CPLP hosts a legal clinic at the Stout Street Medical Center on the third Wednesday of every month in partnership with the **Colorado Coalition for the Homeless**. CPLP provides resources to enable volunteers to provide, at their discretion, a range of services to attendees, including referrals and, if appropriate, limited representation.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of **Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL)**. In recognition thereof, MVL honored two of the program's original founders, as well as five of its outstanding sustained volunteers. MVL also used the occasion to challenge attorneys to reach 50 hours of pro bono service with a "50 hours for 50 years" campaign. MVL also updated its logo and marketing efforts. At the start of 2016, longtime MVL Executive Director Dianne Van Voorhees stepped down to pursue other career ventures. Philip Liettaer became MVL's new director and reinvigorated the organization's mission of bridging the gap in access to justice by coordinating the provision of pro bono civil legal services within the Denver metro area. MVL accepted more than 1,000 cases last year, with approximately 294 attorneys taking a full-on case pro bono and 248 attorneys, paralegals and students assisting clients through MVL's various clinics. MVL's Rovira Scholar Fellow, Joey Scott, created an award-winning clinic where attorneys volunteer to assist clients with creating financial powers of attorney, medical powers of attorney and living wills. In August 2015, MVL also launched a new case man-

agement system called Legal Server. This configurable web-based platform will help MVL better manage its caseload, improve the experience of its volunteers and make referrals from Colorado Legal Services as seamless as possible. This improvement will help MVL modernize and improve its ability to provide quality help to a large number of people in need.

Every Wednesday, **Lawline 9** volunteers answered hundreds of calls from 9NEWS's 250,000 viewers. Lawline 9's success has been entirely due to the DBA attorneys who have volunteered there.

The 28th **Barristers Benefit Ball** celebrated the Superheroes of MVL on April 30. Guests enjoyed the hip atmosphere of EXDO Event Center in RiNo while enjoying culinary bliss and dancing to hot tunes with **The Super Docket** as the motivational backdrop. The Ball attracted more than 500 attendees, most of whom were dressed as superheroes or supervillains, and generated approximately \$50,000 for **MVL**. Since the Ball's inception, more than \$2.6 million has been raised.

ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM

DBA Membership recorded the total number of members to be 8,372 on July 1, 2016. The DBA has partnered with a new member benefit provider, **Credible**, which has enabled many members and their families to refinance their student loan debt quickly and easily, saving them thousands of dollars over the lifetime of the loans.

DBA President Janet Drake's **Make a Difference** campaign



Superhero dancing in action at the Barristers Benefit Ball.



Klaralee Charlton helping with DBA YLD Law Suit Days.



CAN Toothbrush Drive Benefits KIND. Pictured: Julie Collett and Tren Ongert.

built upon Past President John Vaught's 15x15 membership recruitment initiative, which was launched in 2014. In November, the bar association invited members to a networking event at the EDGE at the Four Seasons Hotel Denver. The event attracted more than 150 current and prospective DBA members. The steady inflow of enthusiastic participants attested to the fact that Denver-area lawyers seek to be part of something bigger. Vaught has continued his efforts to harness the power and potential of the **Bar Ambassadors Program**. The program has asked many Denver-area firms to designate a staff attorney to be in charge of circulating information about bar association programs and events.

The **DBA Young Lawyers Division** held a workshop, titled "Marketing and Business Development for Young Lawyers," led by national legal marketing expert Mark Beese. The successful workshop focused on creating a personal business development plan, expanding a network, conducting business development meetings, updating bios and using LinkedIn for business development. A short networking session with refreshments preceded the presentation. DBA YLD's networking events, like **Barristers After Hours** and **Practice Area Preview**, have continued to grow; a vast portion of them attract more than 100 attendees. The success of these events is largely indebted to DBA YLD's partnerships with CBA YLD, CBA Sections and local law schools.

STRATUM, a members-only co-working space at the Denver and Colorado Bar Associations, witnessed a significant

increase in usage during its second year. STRATUM offers members a stronger sense of community and collegiality while providing them with the business amenities that they need in order to enhance their 21st-century practices. Specific amenities include: power for devices, meeting space, Wi-Fi access, printing, scanning, copying and faxing.

The DBA also administers the **Waterman Fund**, which provides financial assistance to qualifying Colorado attorneys who are "aged, infirm or otherwise incapacitated." The Waterman Fund, which was established in 1954 by Anna Rankin Waterman, makes these benefits available to incapacitated attorneys in good standing who have practiced in Colorado for a minimum of ten years. During the 2015-16 fiscal year, the vol-

unteer administrators approved more than \$200,000 in grants for attorneys in need.

The **DBA Seniors Committee** hosted three popular events: the **2015 Seniors Committee Roast of Bennett Aisenberg** on October 6; the **Holiday Party** on December 11; and the **2016 Seniors Committee Spring Banquet** on June 8, which honored 32 DBA members who have been licensed for over 50 years. DBA President-Elect Nancy Cohen and DBA Past-President Mary Jo Gross were among the presenters. This year, a number of young lawyers also interviewed and introduced the honorees. The **2015 Seniors Golf Tournament** at Homestead Golf Course in Lakewood was another hit.

The **Community Action Network (CAN)** hosted four events to benefit those in need. The legal community donated a



Loren Brown and Janet Drake speaking at the Seniors Holiday Party.



Colorado Supreme Court holds the Pro Bono Recognition Ceremony.

total of \$47,750 in food and funds during the **Roll Out the Barrels Food Drive** in April. Approximately 300 **Denver Public Schools** students received backpacks brimming with supplies needed for the 2015 school year. Another popular CAN event, **Strikes for Tykes**, raised \$3,565.41 for the Children's Outreach Project in October. In March, the legal community also donated several boxes of dental items during the **Toothbrushes for Tots** drive.

In June 2015, the **Legal Community Credit Union** moved its corporate office to 5935 S. Zang Street, Unit 4, Littleton, CO. They have grown significantly since relocating. This past year, they also launched the Colorado Bar Association Affinity Credit Card, which benefits the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado. For

more information, visit cbacreditcard.com. At the end of 2015, the Legal Community Credit Union Board elected to embark on a rebranding initiative that involved changing the name to **Options Credit Union** (optionscreditunion.com). The name more accurately reflects what they do as a financial institution and offer members. Their commitment to bar association members and legal support staff remains unchanged.

The DBA Lawyers and Schools Committee continued to assist with field trips to the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center and the Denver City and County Building. During the week of September 17, DBA volunteer attorneys celebrated Constitution Day by leading programs and activities in 28 third and eighth-

grade classrooms across Denver. The committee is also affiliated with Reading Partners, which has been part of Colorado's education landscape since 2012. **Reading Partners** kicked off the year with two training sessions. In January, the committee hosted the 2nd annual **MLK Book Drive**, which yielded more than 40 boxes of donated books. Many of the books supported the one-on-one tutoring that the students receive in the Reading Partners program by helping them build their libraries at home. Books of higher reading levels were distributed to school libraries and adult literacy organizations across the city.

Colorado Bar Association CLE (CBA-CLE) is the nonprofit educational arm of the Denver Bar Association. Seminars and conferences enable Denver-area attorneys to learn, network, and develop their careers. CBA-CLE's mission is to be the go-to resource for quality CLE programs, legal publications and other legal tools. There are hundreds of CLE seminars to choose from each year, ranging from one-hour law practice management programs to multiple-day practice-area institutes and conferences. Denver attorneys are also encouraged to drop by our offices to view the extensive catalog of substantive legal publications, which are made possible only through the time and dedication of volunteer authors and editors.

The **DBA Mentoring Program**, which is run in association with the **Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP)**, achieved



Standing room only at the DBA Annual Awards Party and 125th Anniversary Celebration.

more than 77 matches during the 2015 mentoring season. The program has offered many successful events, including one on communications.

The **DBA Bench-Bar Committee** continues to develop strategic events that allow judges and lawyers to get together informally and to discuss areas of concern and mutual interest. Three particularly successful events were held at the DBA offices in December, February and May. They encouraged judges and attorneys to move freely between rooms so as to maximize the exchange of viewpoints and ideas. The December program, **Do's and Don'ts of Practicing in Denver District Court**, attracted approximately 60 attendees, including 20 judges. The February program, **Judicial Reception: Celebrating the 50-year Anniversary of the Judicial Merit System**, attracted 250 attendees, including 80 judges. The May program, **Court of Appeals 101**, attracted 70 attendees, including 20 judges. All three of the programs received very positive feedback from their participants.

The **DBA Golf Tournament** saw some major changes this year. The Golf Committee partnered with the DBA YLD and held the tournament at a public course rather than a private one. The tournament took place on Friday, June 24, at Denver's City Park Golf Course. More than 110 golfers participated in the afternoon tournament and reception.

The **DBA Awards Committee** honored the following recipients of its annual awards: William E. Walters III (Award of Merit); Hon. Shelley I. Gilman (Judicial Excellence); Gerald Pratt (Volunteer of the Year); Maureen R. Watson (Young Lawyer of the Year); and MVL's Power of Attorney Clinic (Outstanding Program of the Year). The **Annual Awards Party** took place on June 29 at the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center. The event also celebrated the **DBA's 125th anniversary** and the passing of the DBA's massive gavel from Janet Drake to incoming president Nancy Cohen. The ceremony in the Supreme Court Courtroom was followed by a reception in the atrium, where more than 120 attendees enjoyed appetizers and drinks, including an exclusive lavender-infused lemonade cocktail, while mingling with their colleagues.



Top: DBA YLDers embark on a group hike in Boulder.
Middle: Kevin Windrum, Robert Sullivan, Scott Drusch and Andrew Hansen at DBA YLD Barristers After Hours.
Bottom: New lawyers stand to take the Oath of Admission.

Financials

Assets	2016*	2015
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,822,114	1,798,706
Due from Colorado Bar Association	228,436	187,671
Accounts Receivable Denver Bar Found.	0	0
Accounts Receivable (Other)	18,943	32,309
Prepaid Expenses	35,713	23,982
Property Net of Depreciation	31,750	45,263
Funds Held for Retirement Benefits	0	0
Deposits	4,544	4,544
Total Assets	2,141,499	2,092,475

Liabilities and Membership Equity	2016*	2015
Accounts Payable Other	0	0
Due to Colorado Bar Association	0	0
Due to Denver Bar Foundation	0	0
Accrued Compensation	25,174	28,802
Accrued Retirement Benefits	0	0
Deferred Revenue (Dues and Other)	463,952	403,495
Accrued Sales Taxes and Property Taxes	18	58
Accrued Income Taxes	-3,159	2,249
Total Liabilities	485,986	434,604

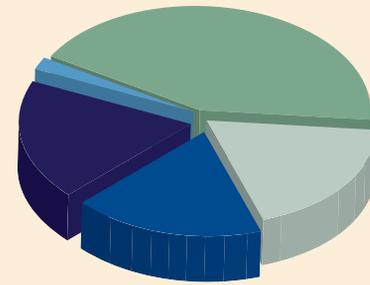
Membership Equity	2016*	2015
Unrestricted	1,620,612	1,625,661
Restricted for Special Projects	34,901	32,210
Total Equity	1,655,513	1,657,871
Total Liabilities and Membership Equity	2,141,499	2,092,475

Revenues	2016*	2015
Dues	1,004,791	919,287
Member Programs	226,059	288,235
Metro Volunteer Lawyers	136,592	164,207
Misc. Income	49,407	72,468
Total Revenues	1,416,848.56	1,444,197.47

Expenses	2016*	2015
Programs, Committees & Departments	612,318	596,027
Metro Volunteer Lawyers	265,285	278,917
G&A Human Resources	249,894	293,144
Building, Equipment & Operations	265,526	259,084
Governance and Meetings	28,875	13,841
Total	1,421,897	1,441,013
Surplus/Deficit	-5,049	3,184

*2016 figures are unaudited.

Expenses



Revenues

