

Minutes of the Availability of Legal Services
December 15, 2004

Present: Harold Baer, Gina Weitzenkorn, Kathleen Schoen, Michelle Miller, Dan Taubman, Bill Benjamin

Reunion

The date may need to be changed. There is a conflict with the First Judicial District bar Association's Dinner for retiring and incoming judges. Sally Maresh and Gina will work with DU to finalize the date. Gina has started looking through the list of invitees so as to finalize it.

Awards

The committee discussed the award criteria that Harold wrote for the Meadoff and Donahue award. The Committee came to a final decision on the criteria and this is how it will appear on the nomination form:

The Meadoff Award honors attorneys or non-attorneys (including, but not limited to past and present employees of legal services) who made significant contributions to the representation or advancement of representation of Colorado citizens.

The award will be presented to someone who has excelled in one or more of the following areas:

- Made significant contributions to the representation or advancement of representation of Colorado citizens who qualify for Legal aid. This may include work to change rules, legislation, court reform, etc.
- Provided outstanding representation to clients whose income qualified or would have qualified them to receive legal assistance through Legal Aid. Representation could have been done through or independent of formal Legal Aid programs.
- Continued serving unmet legal needs of clients after leaving Legal Aid employment.

This is a new award named for Marilyn Meadoff because of her years of dedication and service to Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver. It will be awarded at the 2005 Legal Aid Reunion.

The Donahue Award honors attorneys or non-attorneys (including, but not limited to past and present employees of legal services) who made significant contributions to the development of innovative programs or approaches to serving the unmet legal needs of Colorado citizens.

The recipient of this award will have excelled in one or more of the following areas:

- Developed or made significant contributions to the development of innovative programs or approaches to serving the unmet legal needs of Colorado citizens.
- Continued to work to promote programs to help meet the legal needs of the poor after leaving Legal Aid employment.
- Worked to increase participation in pro bono service for the poor from lawyers who were not currently providing such services.
- Worked to increase access to pro bono legal services for the poor. Including achieving the passage of new legislation or government funding or successful litigation.
- Worked to develop new programs or services which enhanced the lives of those served.

This is a new award named for Jack Donahue because of his years of dedication and service as Director of Pikes Peak Legal Services. It will be awarded at the 2005 Legal Aid Reunion.

The Meadoff, Donahue, Schaetzel, Hoagland, and Pro Bono Coordinator of the year awards will be presented at the Legal Aid Reunion.

Nomination forms will be sent to the following entities: Local Bar Presidents, Pro Bono Coordinators, Access to Justice Commission, Chief Judges of the judicial districts, Minority and Specialty Bars. The forms will also be in the Docket and the Colorado Lawyer.

Access to Justice

Kath gave an update about what the commission discussed during their fall retreat. For more details go to: <http://www.cobar.org/group/display.cfm?GenID=5563>

Protective Orders

Gina, Kath, Sally Maresh, and Amy Miller (Project Safeguard) met to discuss coordinating the recruitment of attorneys to represent protected parties in protective order court. The first issue they discussed was changes in the protection order statute that the courts are still trying to develop a protocol to handle. Until the issues are resolved, lawyers are reluctant to take cases. One possible solution is for lawyers to help with more pro se clinics. Gina said she will continue to update the committee as new information comes forward.

Videos

Kath reported that she is working with DU Law School to hire a work study student to work on the creation of a video tape on history of legal services in Colorado. She should know more by January.

Gina updated the committee on the production of videos by other organizations. The CWBA is updating the divorce video. Judge Claudia Jordan, Denver County Court, expressed an interest in developing permanent protection order video for Protective Orders Court.

Pro Se Project

Kath is working with DU Law School to hire a work study student to help with the information gathering aspect of the project.

The next meeting is January 19, 2005 at noon at the CBA in the Terrace Conference Room.