



FALL 2004

CBA FAMILY LAW SECTION NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

BONNIE SCHRINER

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of your hard working Family Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association. Four years ago, becoming the Chair seemed far off...oh the folly. It takes those first 3 years on the officer track to learn the workings of the Section, its decision making, its many and varied functions, and the impact this Section has on family law. For three years, my goal was just don't screw up. This year, the goal is just don't screw up, stay in the background (these letters don't help that), and try to leave at least one thing better off than before.

As family lawyers, we emphasize lessening the negative impact of divorce on families, and most particularly on our client. As warriors, we want to win. As problem solvers, we want everyone walking out relatively whole, safe, and not impoverished.

We prefer a divorce process that is efficient and straightforward. Who runs this divorce process? In large measure, we do. We have the ability to make divorce procedurally as painful as an expensive root canal, or we can muscle up to make the process efficient and straightforward, despite client animosity. It takes working with our colleague and agreeing that the process will be principled throughout. I challenge each of us to start each case by calling counsel as soon as possible to agree that no matter how adversarial it gets, we will not personalize it and we will treat each other respectfully and honestly, both in front of our client and when dealing directly with each other. Telling our client that we're going to do this, and actually saying the words to counsel, can create a new dynamic, and might even keep the case from exploding down the road.

Do you remember our Attorney's Oath of Admission? "... I will employ only such means as are consistent with truth and honor; I will treat all persons whom I encounter through my practice of law with fairness, courtesy, respect and honesty"

End of sermonette.

Our "year" started with the August 6-8 Family Law Institute in Steamboat Springs, featuring the Lightning Round CLE complete with gong, new speakers and topics at the ADR track, a Collaborative Law track with a strong interdisciplinary teaching team from Texas, a start-to-finish valuation matter and high-conflict divorce issues in the litigation track, a strong mental health track, and a judges' track. The attendance was at record pace. Thanks to all who attended and made it happen. If you have ideas for next year, let us know.

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Newsletter

Editors: Ellen Weston Squires
and Jordan Fox

The editors will happily accept submission of articles for publication, letters to the Editors, or other items of interest. The editors retain the right to edit any and all submissions. Please e-mail articles to ellen@SquiresFamilyLaw.com, or jpetersen@codla.org

The Newsletter deadlines for submission are:
November 15, 2004
February 15, 2005
May 15, 2005

FAMILY LAW SECTION OFFICERS

Chair: Bonnie Schriener
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719-471-1663 or johnson@kdjpc.com

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303-278-3078 barristerbeck@steinerbeck.com

Immediate Past Chair: Steve Lass
303-296-9412 or slass@khgk.com

COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION FAMILY LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2004-2005

Terms ending 7/1/05:

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Martin Brown
Megan Combs
Steven B. Epstein
Robert T. Hinds III
Michael L. Luchetta
Robert L. Malman
Marie Avery Moses
Richard J. Rotole
Jacqueline St. Joan

Terms ending 7/1/06:

Deborah Anderson
Gretchen Aultman
Jordan Fox
Katie Hays
Beth Henson
David Littman
Joan McWilliams
Robert Smith
Brenda Storey
Richard Zuber

Thank you to all who ran for office. For those who were elected and those who were not, your strong participation in this Section is essential. If you would like to become more active in this Section's work, please contact one of the officers or an Executive Council member. We have a job with your name on it.

Minutes of Executive Council Meetings are available, once approved by council, online at cobar.org. Simply click on the Family Law Section button.

Letter from the Chair Continued

We've had Brown Bag Lunches with the Douglas County District Court bench and the Arapahoe County District Court bench, and will meet with other benches throughout the year. We're growing our teleconference attendance at luncheons for outside-Metro-Denver attorneys, who can now attend for \$10. Please help us reach out to the bench and senior judges to use our teleconference luncheons for their education as well. We're looking at again including a judges' track for next year's Family Law Institute, which will probably be held closer to the Front Range, and the list goes on...

Rule 16.2 went before the Supreme Court for hearing on September 17th. FLS took a position recommending modifications to certain parts of the proposed rule which were not changed following the last comment period. Rule 16.2 has passed and will soon be in effect. We have a chance to try to work with the courts and hone a process that is most responsive for our clients. I hope we can use this opportunity to work with it and on it, through the FLS and the Courts. It is a route to get to the destination of excellence in handling client matters. If we can improve the route, we'll do that.

Our Legislative Committee is poised for its important work in the coming season. Our rural pro-bono Flying Squad is actively seeking lawyers to help for half-day sessions in Ft. Morgan and Sterling. The Colorado Lawyer Committee is looking for authors for great articles. The Bench Book and the Experts Directory are being updated. Our other committees are working hard on your behalf and we'll report on them in later editions. Thanks to all who are helping.

This YOUR Section. So please, if you have suggestions, send them along to the Executive Council and come to our meetings. Thank you.

Bonnie

COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW: A NON-ADVERSARIAL DIVORCE ALTERNATIVE IN COLORADO

*BY MARY COUNCIL, MEMBER "COLORADO
COLLABORATIVE LAW PROFESSIONALS"*

Imagine a divorce or other family law proceeding where the parties and their attorneys all sign a written pledge to be problem-solvers and not adversaries-specifically, NOT to resolve the dispute in court, but rather to negotiate an acceptable solution that works for both parties and their children. Sound too good to be true? What I have described is a type of alternative dispute resolution method called "collaborative family law." This innovative alternative to court is firmly established in many areas of the United States and Canada, and is now a few years old in Colorado.

The goal of collaborative family law is to aid the parties in transitioning to a new family configuration with minimal emotional, personal and financial trauma. We employ the help and support of a team-two attorneys, mental health professionals as "coaches" and/or child specialist, and a financial professional to work with both parties as they make decisions about their financial futures as single people.

Agreements are explored by the parties during four-way meetings among the parties and counsel, supported by the preparatory teamwork of all the professionals working on the team. Everyone shares the goal of finding creative solutions that work toward the long-term benefit of the parties and their children. No ultimatums are exchanged-like, "We'll see you in court then," or "We'll see what the judge says." No threats of court either, just a commitment to work toward resolution.

Removal of the threat of court creates an atmosphere wherein both parties can feel more relaxed and able to explore solutions. While the majority of litigated family law disputes do settle, settlement usually comes late in the process after much time, money and emotional energy has already been spent. And those settlements tend to be a matter of tired compromise rather than creative resolution. In collaborative family law, the resolutions reached have been fully explored by the parties and their attorneys, considered in light of their benefit and impact on each party and the children.

Continued on page 4

*COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW
CONTINUED*

Collaborative family law is not mediation. Each collaborative party has an attorney to legally advise and support him or her in the process. Problems of unequal power or information between the parties can be balanced, and the lack of negotiating skill or disabling emotional distress on the part of one party can be ameliorated with the help of the team. The parties and their collaborative team creatively problem-solve for the benefit of the family.

Should either party decide to leave the collaborative law process, then both attorneys are disqualified from continued representation and both parties would need to retain new litigation attorneys to represent them in court. Also, coaches and the financial professional are barred from subsequently appearing in court on behalf of either party.

Currently, there are practicing collaborative family lawyers in northern Colorado, Denver and Colorado Springs. The statewide organization, Colorado Collaborative Law Professionals, exists to further this non-adversarial alternative and to support professionals in the practice of collaborative family law. For further information and a list of practicing collaborative professionals, and practice groups in your area, see the CCLP website, www.cclawp.org, or contact Mary Council, (970) 674-5031, www.councillaw.com.

**FAMILY LAW NEWS ITEMS FROM
EL PASO COUNTY**

COMPILED BY LISA M. DAILEY, ESQ.

Upcoming Seminars

The El Paso County 2004 Family Law conference will be held on November 19th from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the City Hall Council Chambers, 107 N. Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903. CLE credits, including ethics, will be offered. Details to be announced.

Courthouse Meetings

The next courthouse meeting is October 5th in Judge Pelican's courtroom, Division 6 on the 4th floor. Judges Martinez and Simmons will facilitate a discussion regarding compliments, concerns and any issues regarding Magistrates. Call Deanne Cain for additional information, (719) 634-1283.

El Paso County Family Law Section Luncheon

The section luncheon is on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at Giuseppe's, 10 South Sierra Madre. A case law update and general discussion are planned.

RSVP Lisa Dailey if you plan to attend, (719) 473-0884 or lisamdailey@pcisys.net.

**UPDATE RE: ELECTRONIC
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

For this and the following issue of the FLS Newsletter, you should receive a copy by mail as well as a copy electronically. Thereafter, we anticipate a wholly electronic distribution. Please contact Jordan Fox or Ellen Weston Squires if you have strong feelings about this issue. Your feedback is important to us!

RULE 16.2 HAS PASSED

The new Rule 16.2 will be immediately posted on our website. Our Response is also on the website.

Go to www.cobar.org, click on the Sections and Committees link, then the Family Law link.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & FLS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY DICK ROTOLE, CO-CHAIR

Summary of House Bill 04-1052

House Bill 04-1052 amended the name change statute at C.R.S. §13-15-101. The applicable provision of the name change statute amendment which affects family law, C.R.S. §13-15-101 (2)(c), simply states that a court shall not grant a petition for a name change if the court finds the petitioner is under the age of nineteen years and is the subject of an action concerning child support, allocation of parental responsibilities, or parenting time, unless the court considering the petition for a name change has jurisdiction over the action concerning child support, allocation of parental responsibilities, or parenting time. In other words, a county court or district court without jurisdiction cannot grant a name change in an independent name change proceeding under this statute with these facts. The name change action will need to be certified into the

appropriate DR case, or an original petition for name change will need to be filed in the district court DR case. The motive behind this is to give the parent who is not bringing the name change proceeding actual notice of a name change proceeding involving their child, with an opportunity to object. It was signed into law by the Governor March 17, 2004, with an effective date of September 1, 2004.

The FLS Legislative Committee

The FLS Legislative Committee has eight members. The current members are:

Gretchen Aultman
Mike DiManna
Beth Henson
David Johnson
Steve Lass
Steve McBride
Marie Moses, Co-Chair
Dick Rotole, Co-Chair

Essentially, the Legislative Committee's role is to: review proposed legislation affecting family law; advise and make recommendations to the FLS Executive Council regarding legislation; when authorized, to represent the FLS Executive Council and the FLS Membership before the state legislature regarding pending legislation; testify as needed before the state legislature regarding the approved FLS position either supporting or in opposition to particular legislation; meet and work with third parties and state legislators on proposals and language for legislation; advise and inform members of the FLS regarding significant pending and new legislation affecting the practice of family law; and to promote the mission of the FLS. The Committee works through and with CBA lobbyist Michael Valdez.

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004

PREPARED BY FRAN FONTANA, GRANTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Family Law Section received grant requests from: CLE for the August 2004 Family Law Institute; Colorado IDC for the Spring 2004 Conference; and the Young Lawyers Committee of FLS to help sponsor a Colorado Missing Children's Task Force benefit. All three requests were granted, with Colorado CLE receiving a \$5,000 grant, Colorado IDC receiving \$1,500, and the Young Lawyers Committee of FLS receiving \$500.

The Grants Committee Chair is Fran Fontana. Grant requests can be submitted to her at Fontana & Associates, P.C., 5941 S. Middlefield Rd., Suite 201, Littleton, Colorado, 80123. Please e-mail Fran to request a grant application form: ffantana@fontanafamilylaw.com

"ANNUAL ADVANCED FAMILY LAW INSTITUTE"

PRESENTED BY
THE COLORADO CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

DECEMBER 3, 2004
DENVER DOUBLETREE HOTEL.

TO REGISTER BY TELEPHONE,
CONTACT CLE COLORADO AT
(303) 860-0608.

REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE
MAILED OUT SOON.

Troubled by Rude & Unprofessional Attorneys?

*The Denver Bar Association Metro
Conciliation Panel will list, monthly, one
or two family law lawyers as contacts to
help you deal with rude or unprofessional
attorneys. These lawyers are willing to
take calls on a confidential basis for
guidance, tips and strategies for
dealing with opposing counsel.*

*The list of conciliation panel attorneys is in
the Denver Bar Association's monthly
publication, The Docket.*

*Thanks to Judge Tina Habas, John Baker,
and Diane Hartman for helping to make
this happen.*

NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW UNDER THE RECENT CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE

BY KATHRYN M. BECK, ESQ.

The FLS Executive Council Officers have been advised by the Bench that there appears to be some misunderstanding among practitioners concerning the proper use of the Notice of Withdrawal as Attorney of Record, pursuant to Chief Justice Directive 03-02. The Directive authorizes a new procedure for withdrawing in domestic relations cases which are "concluded."

The goal behind the new procedure is to reduce the flow of paperwork to the courthouses. The Directive sets forth a simplified procedure for a Notice of Withdrawal, which should only be filed when a case has concluded. The key word here is "concluded." The Directive provides that ". . .counsel in all civil cases, including domestic cases which are concluded (meaning all related Orders have been submitted and entered by the Court), shall file withdrawals pursuant to a notice form." Thereafter, the Clerk is authorized to enter the withdrawal subject to a fifteen day objection. If an objection is filed, the matter shall be assigned to the appropriate judicial officer for consideration.

If the case has not concluded and the attorney wishes to withdraw, the attorney MUST seek permission of the Court to withdraw, pursuant to C.R.C.P. 121 Section 1-1. Under this section of the Rules, permission to withdraw rests within the sound discretion of the Court and shall not be granted until the attorney seeking to withdraw has made reasonable efforts to give actual notice to the client.

Lesson: Do NOT use the new notice of withdrawal procedure unless your case is concluded, or else the Court will be looking for you on the day of trial!

To access Chief Justice Directive 03-02 on-line, type:
<http://www.courts.state.co.us/supct/directives/03-02.pdf>

BACKGROUND CHECKS THE "CoCOURTS" WAY

BY ROBERT M. SMITH, Esq.

Family law attorneys, whether representing clients, providing ADR or serving as a Special Advocate, often need to find current information about individuals, including what court cases they have been involved with, whether they have committed a criminal act, if they have been drinking/drugging while driving, or whether they have an impossibly clean record. Ideally, one could get this information quickly and relatively accurately, if only there were access to the same ICON (Integrated Colorado Online Network) system that judicial officers and court employees use.

Well, there is -- sort of. The website www.CoCourts.com has a license to access and present ICON information for paying customers at \$6 per search. There are some limitations and some access hints to be aware of, but the information presented is exactly the same as the court staff sees. Unfortunately, some cases are automatically blocked and will not show on any CoCourts listing: juvenile matters; D&N cases; and all proceedings that have been sealed.

What does show up, however, is probably sufficient information for most cursory purposes--no detailed minute orders, but usually the outcome of all charges and the listing of all scheduled status conferences and hearings. As an added, free bonus, a simple click of the mouse brings up all of the Denver County Court listings for the selected name--a true bonus, since Denver County Court is not on the statewide ICON system.

Let's say you want to find out about Willard P. Hornswaggle. After having established yourself as an ongoing CoCourts user and buying some credits for your searches, you enter Willard's last name, and enough of his first name to meet the search criteria (currently a minimum of two characters). If you enter in "Willard," you might miss all of the great things he's done as "Willie." So, you choose to enter in "Wil," and then hit the search button. Whether or not you get any hits, you will have the opportunity to modify your search, so you might want to try other variations on his--or another family member's--first name for no extra charge.

Be prepared for the realization that court clerks do not always have time to be the most accurate typists in the world, especially in this period of financial crisis; and, you may have to do another \$6 search for "Hornswoggle," or some other variation. In another case, "Olson," "Olsen" and "Oleson" might be separate searches to ensure that you have all the right offenses showing. And while it is important to check birthdates, those too, have not always been completely accurate, though often amazingly close. Note, be very detail-oriented. For a Special Advocate investigation, I once was checking a mother's name and was a bit surprised that the soft-spoken, demure woman had more felonies listed than Biker Week at Sturgis. Turns out that Mother has an evil "twin" in another judicial district who has the same name, and whose birthday is the same day and month, but two years earlier than Mother's.

There are other websites for checking criminal cases in more detail; but, for an overall view of your client's sometimes-surprising history, give www.CoCourts.com a try. For six bucks you may even find that Willard has a warrant out for that 24-point traffic offense he never got around to handling, and you can gently remind him what happens if he's picked up while transporting little Willard, Jr.

How to Easily Install a Google Toolbar

- ◆ Visit <http://toolbar.google.com>
- ◆ Click "Download Google Toolbar"
- ◆ When prompted, choose "run" or "open" rather than "save"
- ◆ Follow the simple on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

If you have any favorite website, either useful or entertaining, pass it on to me at rmsfamilylaw@igc.org and I'll look at including it in the next column, with credits.

<p>FAMILY LAW SECTION BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 29, 2004</p>
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	June	YTD	Variance
Beginning balance		\$24,618.88	\$24,618.88
Revenue			
Sales Income		960.81	960.81
Dues Income Section	360.00	26,435.00	26,435.00
Meal Income	-40.00	26,325.00	26,325.00
Misc Income	938.63	4,631.22	4,631.22
Total Revenue	1,258.63	58,352.03	58,352.03
Expenses			
Other Expense		70.00	70.00
AWARDS	300.00	300.00	300.00
Office Amenities	172.50	620.49	620.49
Postage	52.02	1,733.12	1,733.12
Photo Copies	84.40	496.48	496.48
Messenger/Delivery Service	4.99.00	23.89	23.89
Mail Processing		280.00	280.00
Telephone	82.12	512.51	512.51
Meals (Not travel related)	111.39	17,375.08	17,375.08
Printing		1,403.19	1,403.19
Administration Fee	113.13	1,357.56	1,357.56
Grants/Contributions		3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Expenses	920.55	27,172.32	27,172.32
Newsletter Expenses			
Postage		282.28	282.28
Professional Services	125.00	200.00	200.00
Printing		979.56	979.56
Total Expenses Newsletter	125.00	1,461.84	1,461.84
Beginning Balance		24,618.88	24,618.88
Total Revenue All Sources	1,258.63	58,352.03	58,352.03
Total Expenses All Sources	1,045.55	28,634.16	28,634.16
Ending Balance	213.08	54,336.75	54,336.75

Submitted By Kathryn Beck, Treasurer

FLS BROWN BAG LUNCHEON & MEETING WITH ARAPAHOE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT DOMESTIC BENCH AUGUST 13, 2004

FLS officers met with the Arapahoe County District Court Domestic Bench for a brown bag luncheon on August 13, 2004, to discuss bench/bar issues. That meeting was immediately followed by a Domestic Bench Bar Meeting. As part of those meetings, the Section representatives asked the judicial officers what they wanted the members of the Family Law Section to know, and this is what the bench said:

- They are looking for Special Advocates who will take cases on a sliding fee basis.
- For a case that is assigned to Magistrate Yoder and Judge Russell, a temporary orders hearing is set on Magistrate Yoder's docket if it is set for two hours; if the case involves issues that require more than a two-hour hearing, with Judge Russell's approval, a hearing for more than two hours can be set in his division.
- For a case that is assigned to Magistrate Cole and Judge Rice, temporary orders hearings are set in front of Magistrate Cole for two hours.
- While the rule indicates that e-filed pleadings do not have to be filed with signatures if it is indicated that the original signatures are on file with the attorney, the Court prefers that the signatures are visible on the filed document. This is accomplished by scanning and e-filing the signed document. This helps prove actual notice of an Order or Stipulation at some point in the future, e.g., for contempt or enforcement proceedings.
- Use of Senior Judges is now being handled within each judicial district. In Arapahoe County there are currently five Senior Judges in the pool: Judges Levi; Smith; Macrum; Turelli; and Langstaff.
- When attorneys enter into a case that is scheduled for a status conference with Terry Nieberg, the Court facilitator, they need to notify the Court so that the conference can be re-set on the Magistrate's calendar.
- Both Magistrates Cole and Yoder conduct status conferences three days per week.
- Magistrate Lung handles all Child Support Enforcement cases.
- The Special Master Program has been very helpful in reducing the caseload.
- Judge Rice is working on electronic minute orders by taking notes on an electronic notepad. If you want an e-mailed copy of the minute order, it should be requested at the end of the status conference and it will be sent.
- If you have an emergency situation requiring the Court's attention, call the division to get on the docket as soon as possible.
- The Court can connect up to seven people at a time for a phone status conference.
- The changes to the Protection Order statute took away the flexibility of the Courts under 14-10-108, with regard to holding hearings and how soon they can be scheduled.
- All of the Judicial Officers handle the first appearance on a contempt as an advisement hearing, but Magistrate Yoder will go straight to hearing at the first appearance if all parties agree to do so.
- The Court cannot award attorney fees on punitive contempts.
- Generally speaking, there should be two separate pleadings - a motion and an affidavit in support thereof, especially in contempt proceedings.
- An affidavit must be signed by a person with knowledge.
- Financial Affidavits and Child Support Worksheets that are included in exhibit notebooks do not become part of the permanent court record (exhibits are returned when proceedings conclude). In order for those documents to be part of the permanent court record, they must be filed with the Court, not offered as exhibits.

Prepared by Fran Fontana

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE FAMILY LAW BROWN BAG LUNCHEON WITH DOUGLAS COUNTY JUDGES AUGUST 2, 2004

Section Officers Bonnie Schriener, Fran Fontana, Dave Johnson, Kathryn Beck and Steve Lass and county members met with the district court judicial officers in Douglas County on August 2, 2004, for a brown bag lunch.

The Judges reported that beginning in September there will be free mediation offered one Thursday a month for parties going through divorce cases in Douglas County. The mediation is being provided free of charge by a pro bono counselor and attorney.

Judge Arkin she reported that one Magistrate will be doing all the status conferences in Elbert and that Magistrate Gresh will be doing the temporary orders hearings and emergency hearings. Judge Arkin is in Douglas County and has assistance from the four District Court Judges from Arapahoe County.

Magistrates do all pre- and post-decree hearings; and, District Court Judges do final orders and Magistrate appeals.

Judge Arkin's settings are now into March and temporary orders setting are now into October. Overall the judges felt that the docket is doing much better despite the continued budget problems. There were over 1,400 filings in the year 2003 and the Douglas/Elbert County filings average 127 per month in 2004.

Judge Leopold reported that he is continuing to meet with Steve

Harhai about improving the domestic relations docket. One of the problems is that the demographics in Douglas County are such that there very few pro se cases and many of the cases involve substantial marital assets and complex issues. Judge Leopold also pointed out that the Legislature still has to address the potential \$250,000,000 deficit in fiscal year 2005. He is concerned that if the deficit is not addressed, furloughs will again be necessary.

Everyone is encouraged to have family law attorneys and their clients contact the Legislators and encourage them to properly fund the judicial department. Legislators are more inclined to listen to constituents and voters than they are to listen to attorneys.

Dave gave a brief update on Rule 16.2. There will be a hearing on September 17, 2004 in the Supreme Court concerning the Rule.

Judge Arkin thanked the Family Law Section for their continued support of judicial education and their financial contributions for judicial education.

Judge Arkin also indicated that they are developing a mediator list for Elbert County and she encouraged the Family Law Section to publicize this to the Bar and the mental health community.

Court staffing is still a problem. The bench requested that all counsel be patient when setting

cases, and told us E-mail is probably a better way to communicate with their Clerks than voice mail.

Magistrate Lung noted that if parties are willing to bifurcate child support issues from other issues, they can probably get a much quicker setting in his division than in the other divisions. It should be noted that he only handles IV-D child support cases.

Finally, Judge Leopold noted that the Colorado Judicial Institute Dinner in November earmarks its proceeds for judicial education and he suggested that the Family Law Section publicize this dinner to the Family Law Bar. The dinner is on November 8, 2004 and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver, 1750 Welton. For more information visit: www.blacktie-colorado.com/boxoffice

The officers thanked the judges for their time and noted that the Family Law Section intends to continue its support of good relations between the Bench and Bar and its support of judicial education.

Prepared by Dave M. Johnson

PRO BONO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: FLYING SQUADS

"Flying Squads", a former project of Lend-A-Lawyer, is now a subcommittee of the Family Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association. This is a low-cost/no-cost project to assist pro-se domestic litigants and local courts. Flying Squad organizes, coordinates and provides volunteer lawyers, mediators and paralegals to mediate, negotiate, educate and assist pro-se litigants on pro se docket days.

This program works with the assistance and direction of local judges or courts. A local judge or court sets all pro-se domestic cases on the same day. That day, a team of volunteer lawyers, mediators and paralegals attend the docket and receives referrals from the judge. The referrals are to mediate some or all issues, help the parties prepare required paperwork (such as financial affidavits and child support worksheets), help them understand the legal process and document their agreements on state-approved forms. Volunteers do not provide legal advice, only legal information. This program is a benefit to courts and pro se parties as well as an opportunity for lawyers to meet pro bono goals. All work is done that day in the courthouse hallways.

This program is being implemented in Alamosa using volunteers from the locality and from larger, more populated areas. Litigants, judges and volunteers all agree that the program provides sorely needed assistance to overburdened courts and beleaguered *pro se* litigants. The Flying Squad is committed to developing, promoting and implementing complementary services to the courts and Bar to help meet the needs of *pro se*/under-represented persons in Colorado.

To volunteer for a date or for more information on Flying Squads, contact Gina Weitzenkorn at (303) 292-1441 or Lesleigh Monahan, (303) 936-3300.

The date for the *pro se* docket in Alamosa for 2004 is **November 19, 2004** --Alamosa County

Please note that we are also in need of volunteers for the Fort Morgan/Sterling Flying Squad on the following dates: **November 10, 2004** -- Morgan County -- Judge Singer
December 9, 2004--Morgan County--Judge Singer

If you would like to volunteer for a date, please complete the information below and return the form to Melissa Nicoletti or Gina Weitzenkorn.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Fax/Email: _____

Date you are available: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING TOPICAL LUNCHEONS

***OCTOBER 15, 2004**

*CRIMINAL ISSUES ARISING IN
DIVORCE CASES*

***JANUARY 21, 2005**

ANNUAL CASE LAW UPDATE

***APRIL 15, 2005**

*ANNUAL ATTORNEY
MEDIATOR DIALOGUE*

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

ANNUAL JUDGES LUNCHEON

***FEBRUARY 18, 2005**

TBA

MAY 20, 2005

*ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE*

***MARCH 18, 2005**

TBA

TOPICAL LUNCHEONS ARE HELD AT THE SHERATON FOUR POINTS CHERRY CREEK HOTEL. NOTICES ARE SENT OUT VIA E-MAIL. CONTACT MELISSA NICOLETTI AT 303.824.5321 OR MELISSAN@COBAR.ORG IF YOU WANT TO CHECK EMAIL ADDRESS INFORMATION.

* EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON.

PLEASE SET YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND OUR LUNCHEONS. TELECONFERENCING IS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OUTSIDE OF THE DENVER METROPOLITAN AREA. -- OCTOBER TELECONFERENCE IS FREE!

PLEASE CONTACT TERRY BERNUTH (TBERNUTH@AOL.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Colorado Bar Association
1900 Grant Street #950
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