



Rule of Law Task Force

Strategic Plan

Vision Statement

For more than a century, the Colorado Bar Association has been dedicated to advancing the rule of law, supporting an independent judiciary, and ensuring access to justice for all. These principles are the foundation of our legal system and the strength of our democracy.

At a time of heightened public discourse around the courts and the legal profession, we find it essential to return to the values that unite us:

- **Respect for the Rule of Law** – A fair and impartial legal system depends on our shared commitment to the consistent and equal application of the law.
- **Judicial Independence** – Judges must be able to make decisions guided by the law, free from undue influence or personal attacks.
- **The Right to Counsel** – Lawyers serve a vital role in representing clients without fear of retaliation, ensuring everyone has a voice in our legal system.
- **Separation of Powers** – A healthy democracy relies on the balance between co-equal branches of government, each fulfilling its distinct role.

In moments like these, we find strength in coming together. We welcome all members of the legal community—and those who rely on it—to stand with us in reaffirming the essential values that support our courts, our colleagues, and the communities we serve.

Together, we can help ensure that the rule of law remains strong, that our judiciary continues to function independently, and that the legal profession can fulfill its highest duty: to serve justice.

Volunteer Term Structure

Fiscal Year Commitment: July 1 - June 30

- All task force positions operate on CBA's fiscal year calendar

- Annual appointment/reappointment process occurs in May-June
- Mid-year replacements serve remainder of current fiscal year

Core Objectives

1. Education & Public Awareness

- **Objective:** Educate the public and legal community about rule of law principles
- **Key Activities:**
 - Develop educational materials on constitutional principles (*subject to Executive Council approval*).
 - Host public courses and identify collaboration opportunities with Our Courts and similar organizations.
 - Create digital content for social media and website (*content subject to CBA Dir. Of Communications & Marketing approval and when necessary Executive Council approval*).
 - Engage with media to position CBA as leaders in the Rule of Law conversation (*subject to CBA Dir. Of Communications & Marketing approval and Executive Council approval*).

2. Advocacy & Policy Monitoring

- **Objective:** Monitor and respond to threats to judicial independence and legal system integrity
- **Key Activities:**
 - Track Federal legislation and executive orders, affecting court systems and legal practice.
 - Craft position statements on non-partisan legal issues (*all statements subject to Executive Council approval*) and work with CBA Communications & Marketing team to distribute the statements.
 - Collaborate with other bar associations on shared concerns (*joint statements subject to Executive Council approval*)
 - Identify opportunities to sign on to Amicus Briefs and other Rule of Law official statements/positions.

3. Professional Standards & Ethics

- **Objective:** Reinforce ethical standards and professional responsibility within the legal community
- **Key Activities:**
 - Develop guidance on lawyer obligations during constitutional crises (*guidance subject to Executive Council approval*)
 - Address threats to judicial processes (*formal responses subject to Executive Council approval*)

Organizational Structure

Task Force Leadership (Annual Terms: July-June)

- **Chair – Geoff Anderson:** Senior attorney with constitutional law experience or affinity
- **Vice-Chair – Claire Rumler:** Representative from different practice area/region
- **Secretary – Amy Brimah:** Responsible for documentation and communications

Working Committees (Annual Terms: July-June)

1. **Outreach Committee (Chair Eric Leiberman, Vice-Chair Liz Marcus)** – Education, Public Speaking, Media engagement, etc.
2. **Court-monitoring and Ethics Committee** – Monitor for Amicus Briefs, threats to the judicial systems, etc.
3. **Communications Committee** – Webpage, liaison with Tali for member announcements across CBA channels
4. **Member Engagement Committee**

Targeted Outreach for TF members

- Representatives from specialty bar associations
- Academic legal scholars
- Retired judges
- Young lawyers' division representative

Goals & Timeline

Short-term Goals (3-6 months)

- Finalize Rule of Law Task Force Strategic Plan
- Identify current rule of law priorities
- CLE programs?
- Outreach goals?
- Create resource hub on CBA website

Medium-term Goals (6-12 months) – Some ideas below

- Publish annual "State of Rule of Law in Colorado" report in collaboration with CBA's Communication and Marketing team. (*report subject to Executive Council approval*)
- Develop partnerships with civic organizations (*partnership agreements subject to Executive Council approval*)
- Others?

Long-term Goals (1-2 years) – Some ideas below

- Establish ongoing public education initiatives (*initiatives subject to Executive Council approval*)
- Annual review and revision of courses and materials designed by task force
- Build national awareness of and partnerships for Colorado's rule of law efforts

Executive Council Approval Process

Required Approvals

All of the following deliverables and products require Executive Council approval before publication or implementation:

- Position statements and public declarations
- Legislative testimony or formal legislative positions
- Policy recommendations
- Educational materials for public distribution

- Joint statements with other organizations
- Crisis response communications
- Annual reports and formal publications
- Partnership agreements with external organizations
- Task force charter and operating procedures
- Media appearances and/or collaborations

Approval Timeline

- **Routine Items:** 48 hours for CBA Director of Comms, 2-week review period for Executive Council
- **Urgent Matters:** Emergency approval process available
- **Annual Planning:** Submitted for approval during May Executive Council meeting

Success Metrics – Ideas

Quantitative Measures

- **Member Engagement:**
 - Task force meeting attendance rates (target: 80%+)
 - CLE program participation (target: 500+ annually)
 - Website resource downloads (target: 5000+ monthly)
- **Public Outreach:**
 - Media mentions and coverage quality
 - Social media engagement rates
 - Public event attendance numbers
- **Professional Impact:**
 - Number of position statements issued (*post-Executive Council approval*)
 - Legislative testimony provided (*post-Executive Council approval*)
 - Professional development programs delivered

Qualitative Measures

- **Member Feedback:** Annual survey on task force effectiveness

- **Stakeholder Relations:** Feedback from judicial, legislative, and civic partners
- **Professional Recognition:** Awards, citations, or recognition from legal organizations
- **Impact Assessment:** Annual review of policy influence and public education effectiveness

Operating Principles

Non-Partisan Framework

- Focus on constitutional principles rather than political positions
- Avoid endorsement of candidates or partisan political activities
- Base all positions on established legal precedent and constitutional law (*all formal positions subject to Executive Council approval*)

Transparency & Accountability

- Publish meeting minutes and decision-making processes
- Regular reporting to CBA EC and membership
- Annual public report on activities and outcomes (*report subject to Executive Council approval*)
- Clear conflict of interest policies – use CBA policies

Collaboration & Inclusivity

- Engage all CBA member segments across Colorado
- Partner with local bar associations statewide (*formal partnerships subject to Executive Council approval*)
- Include diverse voices in leadership and committees
- Respect regional differences and local concerns

Resource Requirements

Staffing Support

- Staff Liaison – Due to the nature of this task force and heavy communications lift, Tali Thomason, Director of Communications and Marketing, will serve as liaison for the task force.
- Administrative support for events and communications

Budget Considerations

- Event and program costs will need EC approval as the Task Force does not have a budget line in the 25-26 budget.

Member Volunteer Commitment (July-June Terms)

- Task force members: 10-15 hours monthly
- Committee chairs: 15-20 hours monthly

The fiscal year structure aligns with CBA's existing volunteer programs and ensures consistent annual planning cycles. The Executive Council approval requirements maintain organizational accountability while protecting CBA's reputation and ensuring all public-facing materials reflect the association's values and standards.