

# News from the CBA, Local Bars, and More

BY SHELBY KNAFEL

*Bar News is a monthly compilation of news from the CBA, including sections and committees, administration, and local and specialty bar associations. It also includes notices of activities—past, present, and future—from local and national law-related organizations and groups.*

## CTLA and CDLA Celebrate Legal Professionalism Month

In honor of Legal Professionalism Month, the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association and the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association hosted a special ethics CLE and reception on October 23 at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. More than 100 plaintiff and defense attorneys attended the event, which featured the presentation of the 2019 Professionalism Awards to CTLA member Steve Wahlberg and CDLA member Scott Nixon. Wahlberg and Nixon also gave a presentation on professionalism and the impact of CBA Ethics Opinion 137. The event was chaired by Heather Salg of CDLA and Nelson Boyle of CTLA.



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- 1 CTLA's Professionalism Award recipient Scott Nixon presents on Ethics Opinion 137.
- 2 Steve Wahlberg accepts the CDLA Professionalism Award.
- 3 CTLA President Michael Nimmo gives opening remarks.

## Michael Beaver Receives ABA Leadership Award



Beaver.

On October 11, the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) honored Colorado attorney Michael S. Beaver with its James K. Carroll

Leadership Award, which

recognizes an attorney or judge who has demonstrated leadership qualities in service to the section. Beaver received the award on October 19 during the section's fall leadership meeting in Hawaii.

Beaver is a partner with Holland & Hart LLP, where he leads a team of lawyers who litigate employee benefit issues and have helped shaped the law through dozens of trial court and appellate decisions. He has previously served on the ABA TIPS Council and was General Committee Board chair, and currently serves as co-chair of the TIPS Book Publishing Board.

Photo courtesy of the ABA.

## CONTRIBUTE

Bar News is always looking for pictures and descriptions of legal events happening throughout Colorado. Snapshots taken with a phone camera work great! To contribute pictures, simply email them to Shelby Knafel at [sknafel@cobar.org](mailto:sknafel@cobar.org), and be sure to select the largest file size when prompted.

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## 2019-20 CBA Presidential Trail

Kathleen Hearn Croshal's Presidential Trail is off to a great start. During October, she visited four local bar associations: Southwestern Colorado, Four Corners, 13th Judicial District, and Arapahoe County. The CBA thanks these local bars for their hospitality.



- 1** Kathleen Hearn Croshal with Chip Glaze, deputy director of the Colorado Lawyer Assistance Program.
- 2** All smiles with Meg Foley, president of the Southwestern Colorado Bar Association.
- 3** Après lunch photo with EPCBA Executive Director Kristi Dorr Gilkes and EPCBA President Jeffrey Weeks.
- 4** Kathleen addresses EPCBA members at the Antlers Hotel.
- 5** Thomas J. Tomazin, recipient of the ACBA's Lifetime Achievement Award and ACBA President Porya Mansorian.



## Trial Attorneys Donate \$25,000 to Recovery Efforts in the Bahamas

Colorado Trial Lawyers Care donated \$25,000 to the Grand Bahama Disaster Relief Foundation to support those whose lives and property were devastated by Hurricane Dorian in August. Colorado Trial Lawyers Care is the charitable arm of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, which works to protect the rights of Coloradans by advocating for fair laws and the right to a trial by jury.

## The Denver Bar Association Bench-Bar CLE

The DBA hosted a “So You Want to be a Judge” CLE to give attendees the opportunity to interact with judges and gain insight into the judicial application and interviewing process. Speakers discussed the qualifications and experience needed to be a successful applicant, the “Xs and Os” of the process itself, and what life is like as a judge. A one-hour networking reception followed the breakout sessions.



Representatives from the Denver District Court, Colorado Court of Appeals, and Colorado Supreme Court Nominating Committee address questions from participants.

## Colorado Bar Foundation Fellows Dinner

On October 4, the Colorado Bar Foundation held its annual Bar Fellows Dinner at the History Colorado Center. The event recognized CBA Award of Merit recipient Mark Fogg and Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Christina Brown. The Foundation thanks all of the evening’s attendees and extends a special thank you to Spinphony, which provided entertainment throughout the evening.



- 1 Bar Fellows President Jack Donley greets the guests and introduces the awardees.
- 2 Christina Brown accepts the Gary L. McPherson Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

## Steven Vasconcellos is State Court Administrator



Vasconcellos

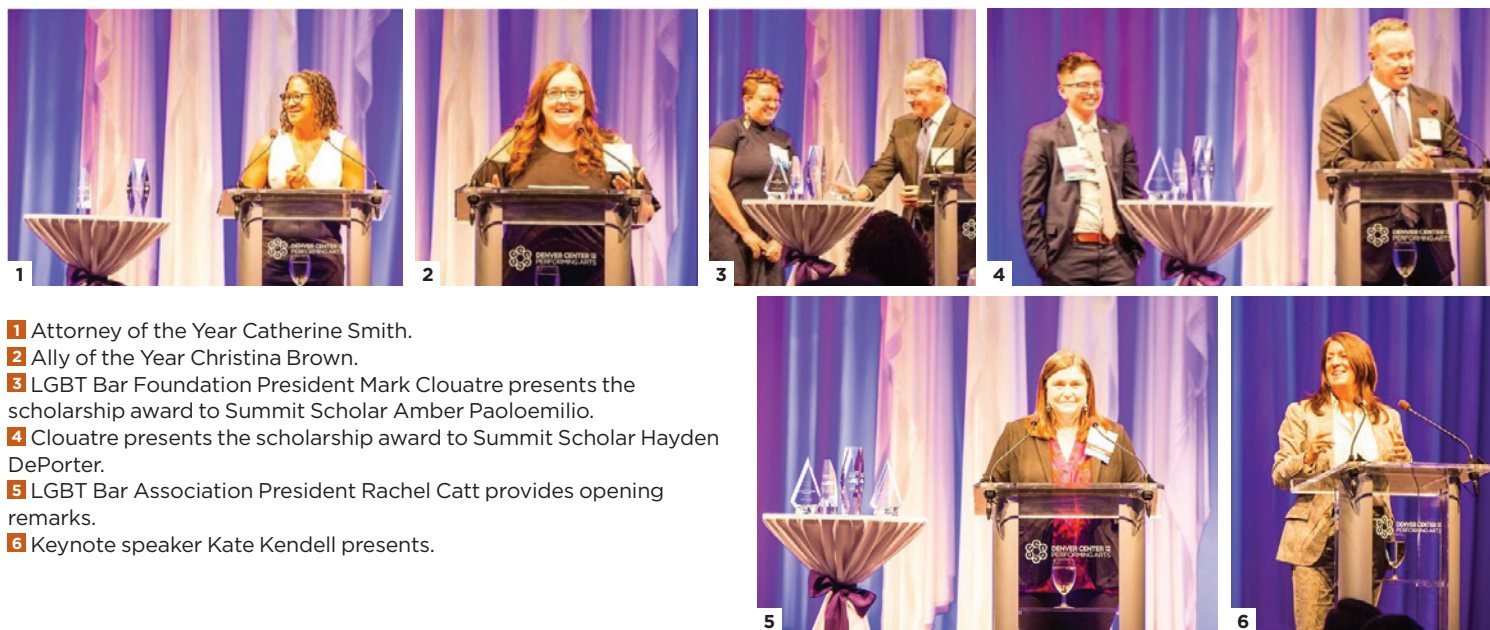
The Colorado Supreme Court appointed Steven Vasconcellos as state court administrator on October 25. The state court administrator works closely with the Supreme Court, its chief justice, and court executives to set the strategic administrative direction for the Judicial Department. Vasconcellos, who had served as interim state court administrator since July 2019, began his career with the Colorado courts in 1995. He served in numerous positions ranging from court clerk in Colorado Springs to director of the Court Services Division of the State Court Administrator’s Office. He was serving as the SCAO chief operations officer when he was appointed interim state court administrator in July.

Photo courtesy of the Colorado Judicial Department.

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## The LGBT Bar Association Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner

On September 27, the Colorado LGBT Bar Association and Foundation held their Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner at the Denver Center for Performing Arts Seawell Ballroom. This year's keynote speaker was Kate Kendell, former executive director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights and current interim legal director and senior advisor at the Southern Poverty Law Center. The event honored this year's LGBT Attorney of the Year, Catherine Smith, who is professor and associate dean of institutional diversity and inclusiveness at DU law school, as well as Ally of the Year, Christina Brown, an immigration attorney and founder of the Colorado Asylum Center. Also honored were the 2019 Summit Scholars—outstanding LGBT+ law students from each law school—3L Amber Paoloemilio from CU and 2L Hayden DePorter from DU. The LGBT Bar thanks sponsors, donors, and supporters for making these scholarships possible.



- 1 Attorney of the Year Catherine Smith.
- 2 Ally of the Year Christina Brown.
- 3 LGBT Bar Foundation President Mark Cloutre presents the scholarship award to Summit Scholar Amber Paoloemilio.
- 4 Cloutre presents the scholarship award to Summit Scholar Hayden DePorter.
- 5 LGBT Bar Association President Rachel Catt provides opening remarks.
- 6 Keynote speaker Kate Kendell presents.

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## CBA YLD Serves Up Coffee with a Side of Networking

In the spirit of Professionalism Month, the CBA Young Lawyers Division sponsored a statewide micro-networking Coffee Connect. Lawyers from around Colorado met at local coffee shops to make new connections, build established relationships, celebrate the profession, and share a cup of coffee. The CBA YLD was excited to be joined by State Representative Pete Lee at the Colorado Springs coffee shop. The CBA YLD thanks its partners in the Larimer County, Pueblo County, El Paso County, and Arapahoe County Bar Associations and their respective young lawyers divisions.



- 1 Coffee Connect was a success in the DTC.
- 2 Attorneys met at The Exchange coffee bar in Colorado Springs.



## The Docket Arts and Literature Party Paints the Town

October 24 was an evening of poetry, sculpture, and celebration as the winners of the 2019 Docket Arts and Literature Contest gathered at Millers & Rossi in RiNo. DBA President Kevin McReynolds joined the party to thank all of the members for their submissions. Contest winners are featured in the October/November Docket, viewable online at <https://www.denbar.org/Members/The-Docket>.



- 1 DBA President Kevin McReynolds and event host Elizabeth Tharakan.
- 2 Guests enjoy appetizers and libations during the celebration.
- 3 The annual contest comprised seven categories: poetry, nonfiction, fiction, sculpture, photography, oil/mixed media, and drawing.
- 4 Photography winner Richard Lionberger.

## Young Lawyers in Action



Cannon.



Hulme.

Sam Cannon and Kate Hulme tried a personal injury case to a jury over six days at the end of August. The client had suffered brain and back injuries in a car crash. With support from their paralegal, Lisa Keller, Sam and Kate presented testimony from 16 witnesses among which were nine experts, including doctors, neuroradiologists, economists, and therapists. After deliberating for approximately three hours, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Sam and Kate's client for \$600,000.

Sam and Kate both graduated law school and passed the bar in 2013. They practice personal injury law at Cannon Law in Fort Collins. They handled the case from intake to trial and beyond.

## Contribute

Send your stories of young lawyers taking meaningful action in court to [danae@woodylawllc.com](mailto:danae@woodylawllc.com) or [mbroderick@grsm.com](mailto:mbroderick@grsm.com). Provide the name of the young attorney; a high-resolution photo of the young attorney; the name of the supervising attorney and/or law firm supporting the young attorney; and a 50- to 100-word summary of the action taken in court. Please keep the descriptions general and do not identify the client.