

Welcome Home, Young Lawyers

BY DANAÉ WOODY, JOI KUSH, AND MALLORY HASBROOK

Introduction



One of my major objectives this term is “utilizing new and young lawyers,” which is the “U” goal of the CBA’s REFOCUS 2020 Strategic Plan.¹ My hope

is that the legal profession remains healthy and viable for many years to come, and this can only happen if new lawyers are successfully integrated into the profession, are encouraged to strive for excellence, and understand their vital role as Protectors of the Rule of Law. Because no group is more equipped to help us meet these objectives than the CBA Young Lawyers Division, I’ve turned over this month’s column to YLD Executive Council members Danaé Woody (chair), Joi Kush (immediate past chair), and Mallory Hasbrook. They discuss the YLD’s important work and its numerous opportunities for involvement.

To all the young and new lawyers, I urge you to participate in the YLD—any CBA member who is under 38 or has been in practice for less than five years is automatically enrolled. To the not-so-young and not-so-new lawyers, I urge you to get involved with the young and new lawyers—to mentor them, to nurture them, and to get to know them. One of the fun aspects of being around young lawyers is their tremendous energy and enthusiasm. It is contagious!

—President Kathleen Hearn Croshal



As attorneys, we promise to use our knowledge of the law for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system. As we immerse ourselves in our law practices and grinding schedules, it is common to lose track of our commitment. But the CBA YLD remains committed to this pledge.

Every one of our Executive Council (EC) members brings a fresh perspective, a powerful voice, and a valuable skill, and all are committed to fostering and supporting this vibrant community of young lawyers in Colorado. We are made up of 16 unique attorneys and two law student liaisons.² Our meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., and we hold two to three events each month designed to enhance member experiences and satisfaction in the profession, and to give back to the community. We host CLEs, hiking and rafting excursions and other wellness activities, public and community service projects, professional

development, pro bono opportunities in group and individual settings, networking workshops and gatherings, and specific programming targeted at increasing diversity and inclusion in the legal workplace. And somehow, we find a way to balance our careers, health, families, and commitment to the legal profession.

Our EC is focused on maximizing the impact its members can have on the legal profession and community at-large. By providing leadership and professional development opportunities, the YLD works to bridge the gap between the bar and the community. We aim to showcase our members who are already out in the community doing amazing things and to connect our members with further opportunities to have an impact. We consistently involve young lawyers as faculty at legal seminars and as authors, and we sit on committees and executive councils of various CBA sections.

The YLD’s efforts to ensure that each member throughout the state benefits from our pro-

OATH OF ADMISSION

The Oath of Admission taken by new attorneys summarizes what our profession requires of us:

- I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Colorado;
- I will maintain the respect due to courts and judicial officers;
- I will employ 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;
- I will use my knowledge of the law for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system;
- I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed;
- I will at all times faithfully and diligently adhere to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct.

gramming, and events are ongoing. Currently, attorneys in Grand Junction, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs sit on our EC, and the YLD continues to work with local bar associations to ensure that non-Denver area members see the benefit of their CBA membership.


This year, the YLD is forging partnerships with legal clinics around the state to provide its members with opportunities to hone their skills while giving back. We hope to see many of our members participate in some of our “YLD Takeover Day/Night” events, where we plan to flood certain clinics with much-needed volunteer legal help from our talented membership. We also support the Federal Pro Se Clinic and aim to provide a steady stream of volunteer attorneys, an effort that benefits the public and is a fantastic learning opportunity for young attorneys interested in federal practice.

Further, the YLD seeks to provide its members with strategies to obtain leadership positions in the bar and community. The YLD builds relationships with successful leaders in the Colorado legal community, which benefits members looking for mentorship from various backgrounds. The YLD chair has a seat on the CBA Executive Committee and reports to both organizations on opportunities for young lawyers around the bar and ideas for collaboration.

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Currently, the CBA/DBA Council on Professionalism is seeking input and involvement from young lawyers committed to advancing professionalism and civility in the profession. One of our EC members attends these Council meetings regularly; we encourage any interested member to attend with us! Additionally, one of our EC members sits on the board of CBA CLE, whose role has helped increase young lawyer exposure and is already changing the way we all teach—and learn.

Some of our EC members also participate in leadership roles within the American Bar Association. These YLD representatives ensure that the interests of Colorado lawyers are protected at a national level. They advocate on behalf of and with regard to issues of interest to young lawyers at the ABA's Annual and Midyear Assemblies, and they actively participate in ABA committees, sections, and caucuses.

There are many amazing opportunities to become involved with the YLD, and we want to support each and every YLD member in meaningful and unique ways. We are not one-size-fits-all, and we are constantly growing and changing so we can best serve you! We welcome all of Colorado's young lawyers at open sessions of our EC meetings, and we want to hear from our members. We have invited guest speakers to present on topics of interest to young lawyers at several EC meetings, and we welcome participation from all. The YLD is a home for young lawyers, and we have a place for everyone! 



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focuses exclusively on family law—danae@woodylawllc.com. **Joi Kush** is a partner at Johnson Kush, P.C. in Colorado Springs, where she handles a variety of cases, including complex custody disputes, high-net worth marital estates, and post-decree issues—joi@johnsonkush.com. **Mallory Hasbrook** is an associate at Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. Her practice focuses on oil and gas title matters, and probate and estate planning—malloryhasbrook@gmail.com.

NOTES

1. www.cobar.org/About-the-CBA/Governance.
2. Council members are: Danae Woody (chair), Spencer Rubin (chair-elect), Joi Kush (immediate past chair), Tanya Sevy (secretary), James Fogg (treasurer), Maral Arjomandi (communications officer), Kevin Cheney, Mallory Hasbrook, Jeffrey Hegewald, Nick Lutz, Ben Norton, Lauren O'Dell, Ryann Peyton, Alan Schindler, Dan St. John, and Kaela Zihlman. Student liaisons are Jack Hodge (Colorado Law) and Bailey Ross (Denver Law).