

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.



CBA President's Visit to the ACBA

On October 25, CBA President John Vaught attended the Arapahoe County Bar Association's Professionalism Dinner as part of his presidential tour around the state. ACBA President Echo Ryan gave opening remarks, and John Vaught spoke of future goals for the bar. In addition, Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Daniel Taubman and attorney David Stark gave a presentation on ABA Model Rule 6.1 (Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service), and Judge Angela Arkin presented on ethical and professional representation.

- 1** CBA President John Vaught addresses attendees.
- 2** Over 40 guests attended the ACBA dinner.
- 3** Judge Daniel Taubman, David Stark, and Judge Angela Arkin.



2018 Attorney General Candidate's Debate

The candidates for Colorado Attorney General debated a variety of hot topics and current Colorado affairs in the Turnhalle Room in the Tivoli Student Union on October 23. Republican George Brauchler, Libertarian Bill Robinson, and Democrat Phil Weiser all spoke and discussed their political views in hopes of garnering support and votes from their constituents.

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, and be sure to select the largest file size when prompted.

Colorado LGBT Bar Association's Annual Awards Dinner

The Colorado LGBT Bar Association hosted its Annual Awards Dinner on October 26 at the Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. The event celebrated and honored individuals whose work has helped advance the rights and representation of LGBT+ Coloradans.

Each year, the LGBT Bar Association honors one of its own attorneys for extraordinary work in the profession. James Coyle, former Attorney Regulation Counsel, was this year's Attorney of the Year.

The Ally of the Year Award was presented to the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* legal team, including Paula Greisen of King & Greisen and Sara Neel and Mark Silverstein from the ACLU of Colorado. Colorado's own Charlie Craig and David Mullins, litigants in the *Masterpiece* case, introduced their team as the award recipients.

The inaugural "Chief Justice Nancy E. Rice Trailblazing the Bench" Award was presented to retired Chief Justice Rice for her lifetime of service increasing visibility of LGBT Coloradans and overall diversity in

the legal profession, particularly on the bench. Chief Justice Rice delivered a touching speech about her own experience as a young LGBT person.

In addition, the Colorado LGBT Bar Foundation awarded Summit Scholarships to local law students Kevin Miller and Dana Steiner of the University of Colorado and Benjamin Jimenez of the University of Denver. The Summit Scholarship fosters inclusiveness in the legal profession by providing financial assistance to deserving Colorado LGBTQ-identified law students who have shown strong academic promise and community engagement.

- 1 LGBT Bar President John McHugh addresses the crowd.
- 2 James Coyle accepts his Attorney of the Year Award.
- 3 Paula Greisen, Sara Neel, and Mark Silverstein accept the Ally of the Year award on behalf of the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* legal team.
- 4 Chief Justice Rice receives the Trailblazing the Bench Award.
- 5 2018 board members and honorees.





Photos courtesy Paul Hartmann (Hartmannphoto, LLC).

CWBA Reception Honoring the “DU 8”

On October 16, members of the Denver legal community gathered to honor the “DU 8”: Lucy Marsh, Nancy Ehrenreich, Kris McDaniel-Miccio, Catherine Smith, K.K. DuVivier, Joyce Sterling, Celia Taylor, and Sheila Hyatt (deceased). The celebration, co-sponsored by the Colorado Women’s Bar Association, the CWBA Foundation, and 106 other organizations and individuals, recognized the courage and persistence of the University of Denver law professors who were involved in the recent gender pay equity litigation.

In 2013, Professor Lucy Marsh filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) alleging that the DU Sturm College of Law was paying her and other women professors less than their male colleagues. After a two-year investigation, the EEOC found that DU had violated the federal Equal Pay Act by paying women law professors less than their male counterparts. The EEOC investigation found a gender pay gap among the school’s legal faculty dating back to at least 1973. It concluded that DU knew about the gap by 2012, but did not take action to correct it.

In September 2016, the EEOC sued DU for underpaying at least eight of the women on its faculty. In May 2018, DU agreed to a \$2.66 million settlement for Marsh and six other professors. The award covers back pay for the professors and private attorney fees. The agreement also requires increased salaries for the professors, among other stipulations.

- 1** Lucy Marsh, Nancy Ehrenreich, Celia Taylor, K.K. DuVivier, Rabbi Emily Hyatt, Catherine Smith, and Joyce Sterling.
- 2** Justice Melissa Hart and Connie Talmage.
- 3** Nathan Woodliff-Stanley, Ved Nanda, and Jon Asher.
- 4** Dan Hyatt, Rabbi Emily Hyatt, and Hon. Bob Hyatt.



First Annual Colorado Litigators’ Summit

Colorado Bar Association CLE and the CBA Litigation Section held the First Annual Litigators’ Summit in Denver this October. The event was a resounding success, with nearly 200 litigators attending to hear a panel of plaintiff and defense trial lawyers on topics including: maintaining civility in even the most heated situations, trial examinations, and updates in trial technology. Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Coats was the featured presenter and discussed his priorities as the new chief justice.

The day ended with a panel presentation titled “Persuasion Without Rhetoric.” Panelists were three distinguished Colorado jurists: Chief Judge Marcia Krieger, U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado; former Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy Rice; and Colorado Supreme Court Justice Richard Gabriel.

- 1** Featured presenter Chief Justice Nathan Coats.
- 2** Chief Judge Marcia Krieger, former Chief Justice Nancy Rice, and Justice Richard Gabriel.



Ralph Torres Honored at the 2018 Employment Law Conference

Colorado Bar Association CLE and the CBA Employment Law Section held a special “Fire-side Chat with Attorney Ralph Torres” at the September 2018 Employment Law Conference in Vail. In the employment law community, Ralph Torres is held in great respect by both the plaintiff and defense bars, and was a perfect choice to talk about his career and experience as an employment law attorney for the past 35 years. His key message focused on professionalism and practicing law in an ethical way while truly serving clients.

1 Wes McConnell, Ralph Torres, Lynn Torres, and Deborah Elmore at the 2018 Employment Law Conference in Vail.



Beers and Ballots

On October 15, Our Courts Colorado program speaker and Colorado Court of Appeals Judge Karen Ashby addressed the DU Graduate School of Social Work at its annual “Beers and Ballots” event at the Great Divide Brewing Company. Judge Ashby talked to potential voters prior to the midterm election about why Colorado judges are on the ballot and how to find information about judges online and in the bluebook. She also discussed how Colorado’s Judicial Merit Selection works. More than 200 people attended this dynamic, bi-partisan event.



2018 Sam Cary Scholarship Endowment Fund Gala

On October 6, the Sam Cary Scholarship Endowment Fund held its 32nd Annual Scholarship Awards Gala—titled “GRATITUDE!”—at the Denver Renaissance Stapleton Hotel. Judges Billy Stiggers and Cheryl Rowles-Stokes awarded law school students Danielle Johnson (CU), Derson Figuereo (DU), Madeline Middlebrooks (DU), Miles Williams (CU), and Christina Murray (DU) scholarships totaling \$10,000, and celebrated those who have supported the Endowment Fund faithfully over the years.

Additionally, the Sam Cary Bar Association bestowed the following awards upon its colleagues in the legal community:

- Vanessa Devereaux—Billy Lewis Young Lawyer Award;
- Stephanie O’Malley—Courage Under Fire Award;
- Qusair Mohamedbhai—Warrior for Justice Award; and
- Judge Claudia Jordan (ret.)—King Trimble Lifetime Achievement Award.

Guests were treated to special appearances by Miss Colorado 2018 Ellery Jones and Velois Cary Raush, granddaughter of Samuel E. Cary, and entertained by the Denver School of the Arts Senior Jazz Quartet, the Intergenerational Women’s African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and award-winning jazz singer Rajdulari.

1 Scholarship recipients Miles Williams, Derson Figuereo, Madeline Middlebrooks, Christina Murray, and Danielle Johnson, with Judge Billy Stiggers.

2 Master of Ceremony Alvin LaCabe and Billy Lewis Young Lawyer Award recipient Vanessa Devereaux.

3 Judge Dianne Briscoe and Courage Under Fire Award recipient Stephanie O’Malley.

4 Warrior for Justice Award recipient Qusair Mohamedbhai.

5 Ms. Colorado Ellery Jones and King Trimble Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Judge Claudia Jordan (ret.).

6 Velois Cary Raush and SCBA founder Judge Gary Jackson.



Thomas Neville, Deborah Taussig, Sommer Luther, Michael Nimmo, Mike Keating, and Jason Jordan.

CTLA Elects New Officers

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association has elected Sommer Luther to the position of president. She leads a team of other newly elected officers, including Michael Nimmo, president-elect; Deborah Taussig, vice president; Jason Jordan, secretary; and Thomas Neville, treasurer. Luther, an active CTLA member for the past 14 years, specializes in personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. She has presented at many CLE seminars and received CTLA’s New Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 2011.