BCBA ANNUAL MEETING

The BCBA will be holding the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 3 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm via Zoom. Current president Jeff Rose and incoming president Brett Landis will be giving a presentation on the accomplishments of the bar over the past year, and a look to Brett Landis' presidential year. This will be followed by the introduction and approval of our new slate for the Board of Directors. Jeff will pass the gavel to Brett Landis, and we will appreciate outgoing board member Patricia Riley. We will also recognize our co-chairs. We will approve new board members Jack Peters, Rachel Mentz, and Alison Gordon.

This year, we are pleased to announce the Sonny Flowers Award to honor his legacy of mentorship and stewardship in the BCBA community. The inaugural recipient will be Beth Klein. We will also award the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to Jordan Edmondson.

To create a celebratory atmosphere, we are working with Cured to provide a curated snack experience, along with a sparkling drink option, that will be available for pick-up prior to the annual meeting. If you are interested in picking up this food option, please register at that level via the registration link. We look forward to seeing you all virtually. Click here to register.

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2021 SLATE OF BCBA BOARD NOMINEES

2021-2022: Secretary/Treasurer, moving to Board President in 2023-2024

Emily Ellison is a Longmont attorney who specializes in family law. Emily focuses her career on assisting people involved in tough legal situations. Her goal is to use her legal career to create a positive impact on society. She does this by listening to her clients’ needs, understanding how to guide their case to meet those needs, and fighting to obtain results. A dedicated and curious law student, Emily graduated in the top 25% of her class from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Emily’s academic success in law school landed her a dual judicial externship with Colorado Supreme Court Justice Brian D. Boatright and Jefferson County District Court Judge Christopher C. Zenisek. In addition to an active law practice, Emily is active in the local legal community. She is a current board member of the Boulder County Bar Association. She also serves on the board of a local non-profit organization providing safe services for families.

2021-2024: 3 year Board of Directors position

Alison Gordon is an Associate Attorney in her second year of practice at the Polansky Law Firm. She practices criminal defense, with a particular focus on juvenile defense and cases that involve mental health issues. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado Law School, where she obtained a Certificate in Juvenile and Family Law. She is licensed to practice in the State of Colorado, as well as the United States District Courts in Colorado and Wyoming. She is also a member of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Association and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In addition to practicing at the trial level, Alison specializes in post-conviction and appellate litigation for clients who have previously been convicted.

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2021-2024: 3 year Board of Directors position

Rachel Mentz is the owner of Mentz Law, P.C., a law firm based in Boulder that helps businesses and individuals resolve commercial disputes in and out of court. Prior to starting Mentz Law, P.C., she practiced complex, commercial litigation in a large, national law firm.

Rachel has experience litigating a wide variety of business disputes, including, breach of contract, theft of trade secrets, breach of non-compete and confidentiality agreements, employment, tortious interference with contract, clawback actions, breach of fiduciary duties, and fraud.

A native of Michigan, Rachel also lived in France, Spain, Louisiana, and New Hampshire before making Boulder her home in 2007. She is the mom of two school-aged children and an avid trail runner and organic gardener.

2021-2022: 1 year Board of Directors position

Jack Peters is a member of Caplan & Earnest’s Education Law section, where he represents school districts in a variety of contested issues, including special education disputes, civil rights complaints, and truancy and expulsion hearings. He worked as a middle school teacher in Colorado prior to earning his law degree.

Jack also has significant experience litigating civil and criminal cases in Colorado. Jack spent six years as a Deputy District Attorney for the 20th Judicial District of Colorado (Boulder County). Jack then spent several years in private practice in the Denver office of a regional law firm that has offices in six states.

Mr. Peters earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from Vermont Law School, where he was the senior articles editor for the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago. Mr. Peters was a member of the Board of Directors of the Boulder County Bar Association and is a member of the Boulder, Denver, and Colorado bar associations and the Faculty of Federal Advocates.

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It has been a tremendous honor to serve as President of the Boulder County Bar Association for the past year. The bar has been through a great number of changes during my time on the Board. I'm proud of how our Association has responded to the challenges we've faced, and I'm excited for where our organization is headed.

When I joined the Bar board in 2016, we were led by our long-time Executive Director, Christine Hylbert. We had a small office and conference room on Pearl Street, and discussions about online programming were in their infancy. Christine retired in 2017, and the Board appointed Laura Ruth as her successor. Like many of our members, we moved from our Pearl Street office to a more adaptable, larger location away at 28th and Iris, complete with coworking space and conference rooms available to our membership. Just as we were getting comfortable in the new space, COVID-19 hit, forcing our offices closed and interactions distanced.

I'm beyond impressed by what our executive team (Laura Ruth and Kyle Mares) did to keep our organization present and relevant during these challenges. When COVID restrictions hit in March, 2020, Laura and Kyle hosted daily, online, COVID-specific CLE's. The online presentations were excellent, with great speakers, seamless streaming online, and some of the best attendance we've ever seen. In the 15 months that followed, all of our programming shifted online, from our routine board meetings to our widely attended Justice For All Ball. Now that we're coming back to in-person events, we're transitioning yet again to hybrid programming that will be available in-person, live online, and on-demand afterwards.

We're now set to make the most of our physical space alongside the convenience online programming. I couldn't be more impressed with Laura and Kyle's vision, skill, flexibility, and execution. We're lucky to have them.

As well as we've done in delivering our core programming during the pandemic, I see great institutional changes for our profession going forward. Our profession will continue to be confronted with the realities of systematic racism, inequality under the law, and gun violence. It’s naive to think any one of us, or even our membership as a whole, can put a dent in these challenges. I can only hope that we can continue to try to move the needle, even if just a little, to instill change for the better.

Thank you to Laura and Kyle, President Elect Brett Landis, Secretary-Treasurer Carrie Frank, and the many exceptional board members with whom I’ve served. Thank you to you, our membership, for the honor of serving as the BCBA President. I look forward to seeing you all – in person – next time we’re together at the Bar.
BOULDER'S CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNIT

The overarching goal of the Boulder District Attorney's Office is to seek justice in every case. In pursuit of that goal, the Boulder District Attorney's Office established the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) in 2018 to investigate wrongful conviction claims. Upon request, the CIU will review each claim in order to identify and rectify cases in which an individual was wrongfully convicted.

The mission of the CIU is to review legitimate claims of actual innocence. The CIU is composed of members representing the University of Colorado Law School, Alternative Defense Counsel, and the Boulder District Attorney's Office. This collaborative approach seeks to ensure a fair review of all claims by a group of attorneys and investigators with differing perspectives from within the criminal justice system. The CIU process is completely independent of an previously filed or ongoing post-conviction litigation or appellate filings, and seeks to further the interest of justice by ensuring that every claim of actual innocence is being diligently reviewed and investigated.

Requirements for Consideration by CIU

- The conviction must have been in Boulder County,
- The petitioner must be a living person,
- There must be a claim of actual innocence.
- Credible evidence of innocence must exist, and,
- The claim must not be frivolous.

For more information on the Conviction Integrity Unit, the main contact number is 303.441.3700. The application form can be found here. More information about the Conviction Integrity Unit can be found here.

Bridge to Justice, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit legal services organization committed to providing equal access to justice, has received a grant from the City of Boulder to advise and represent City of Boulder residents facing eviction.

The grant arose from the city's No Evictions Without Representation ballot item. This item, approved by voters in November 2020, provides legal representation to people facing eviction. The grant will enable Bridge to Justice attorneys to attend eviction return hearings in Boulder and advise tenants regarding defenses and negotiation strategies. Tenants are advised to contact Bridge to Justice prior to the eviction return hearing to allow for possible representation and negotiation.

City of Boulder residents facing eviction should call Bridge to Justice at (303) 443-1038, x104 or the City of Boulder at (303) 441-3414.
HBC is pleased to welcome of counsel to the Firm:

Norma Plache

Norma joins HBC with over 10 years of experience working with high net worth individuals, entrepreneurs and families in the areas of sophisticated estate, wealth transfer, and income tax and philanthropic planning. She complements her estate and tax planning practice with premarital and marital agreements, formation of business entities, and formation of non-profit entities. Norma is active in several local estate planning councils and bar associations, most recently serving on the board for the Rocky Mountain Estate Planning Council.

WELCOME NEW BCBA MEMBERS

Torrey M Kittle
Tracy L Brooks
Christopher J Kian
Timothy L Johnson
Cameron Abatti
Stewart Ramsey
Sebastian Garcia
Rydge Ruth
Daniel Bromberg
Bryce J Martinez
PROFESSIONALISM ON CALL

June 1       Peggy Goodbody       303.440.5736
June 7       Anton Dworak         303.776.9900
June 14      Steve Clymer        303.530.2137
June 21      Mike Rafik          303.444.9292
June 28      Gwyn Whalen        303.444.8010

The Professionalism Committee assists lawyers, clients, and other members of the community with questions or complaints about behavior by lawyers that fails to meet generally accepted standards of professionalism and courtesy, or that is contrary to the BCBA Principles of Professionalism.

The Professionalism Committee does not address allegations of criminal or ethical violations by lawyers, as regulated by the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, and any such violations should be addressed to the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel.

BOULDER COUNTY FREE LEGAL CLINIC

The Boulder County Free Legal Clinics have been replaced with our Virtual Legal Clinic until further notice.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The BCBA Virtual Legal Clinic remains ongoing and has served over 350 people to date. Thank you to the attorneys who serve as volunteers:

Dan Droegel  Amy Stengel  Beth Kelley
Jennifer Huston  Laura Herndon  Dipak Patel
Sherri Murgallis  Maki Iatridis  Lindsey Killion
Craig Small  K.C. Cunilio  Karen Burns
Scott Hammerslough  Fern O’Brien  Susan Spaulding
Starla Doyal  George Farmer  Chris Lane
Jeff Skovron  TJ Willard  Connie Eyester
Lila Sol  David Harrison  Beth Montague
Georgiana Scott  Ann England  Kurt Hofgard

PRO BONO REFERRALS

One case was referred in April. Thank you to the following attorneys:

Graham Fuller

PRO SE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to Ellen Ross, Tucker Katz, Jennifer Houston, and Kathleen Franco for assisting at found April Pro Se Clinics.

BCLS PRO SE CLINIC NEEDS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS!

Our Clinic operates once a week for 2 hours (Thursdays from 3:30-5:30), but your volunteer commitment can be just one 2-hour session each month or even every two or three months.

Every week that you sign up for, you will be scheduled with 2 callers who you will meet with via Zoom. Each caller gets one hour (or less) of your time. The day of the appointment, I will send over a Zoom link and the most recent/relevant case notes for the callers, as well as any additional supplemental or useful documents/information. The callers will have questions about their family law case, either divorce, custody, or a mix of both. Callers will have been prepped on how to access the necessary JDFs online and have been given the general gist of how to fill them out, so they will come to the Clinic for advice with any lingering or specific questions.

Additionally, we occasionally we have callers who cannot meet during regular Clinic times, we try to offer what we have been calling “Special Clinics” where we find a different time that works for the caller, and I’m always looking for attorneys with flexible schedules to help me fill those needs as well. Like the regular Clinic, the Special Clinic calls will last one hour or less. If you are open to something like this, it is a bit more sporadic and usually with shorter notice, but still very valuable to our agency.

Obviously Covid has changed the way we work, but it would be lovely to be able to find ways to work together remotely like this, so if your firm can lend a hand, please reach out to me via email by clicking the link here.

- Kellie Cuevas, Pro Bono Coordinator
**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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**Long-standing Boulder County law firm seeks an associate attorney for its litigation practice.** The ideal candidate will have clerked for a trial court judge on both civil and domestic dockets, engaged in clinical practice in law school, or both. Candidates should have an interest in both civil and domestic practice. The position is ideally suited for an attorney with 1-7 years of experience looking to practice in Boulder County for the long-haul. Please submit a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to careers@lyonsgaddis.com.

**Boutique PI firm seeks associate.** Established, boutique personal injury law firm in Boulder seeks a full time associate attorney with a minimum of 3 years of personal injury experience to join our team. Successful candidates should have excellent written and oral communication skills, be highly organized and motivated, possess excellent analytical and research skills, and have litigation and/or trial experience. Candidates should be able to handle a personal injury matter from intake to conclusion. Excellent benefits, including health insurance and 401K offered. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Please submit cover letter and a resume to jtenge@tengelaw.com.

**Seeking paralegal / legal assistant.** Packard and Dierking, LLC is currently seeking an experienced paralegal / legal assistant to assist attorneys in real estate and corporate transactions and estate planning. Great small law firm environment in Boulder. Competitive salary that is commensurate with duties and experience. Please click here to view the full job listing. Interested applicants should contact pdjob@hotmail.com.

**Seeking legal secretary/paralegal.** Part-time 20 hrs/wk. $20-$27/hr. Good typing skills a must including typing from dictation as well as ability to take instruction and work independently. Practice areas are estate planning, business (including entity formation, purchases and sales), real estate, and probate. Some experience a plus. Salary growth based on experience and ability. Contact gail@oshlaw.com with resume.

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Randy Barnhart  Laurence Free  Aaron Goldhamer  Christina Habas  Melissa Hailey  Michael Keating  Deirdre Ostrowski

Ross Pulkrabek  Lidiana Rios  Melissa Sullivan  Bradley Unkelless  Robert Wagner  Daniel Wartell  Zachary Warzel

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**PERSONAL INJURY. WORKERS’ COMPENSATION. BUSINESS LITIGATION. INSURANCE DISPUTES.**

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