

Boulder County Bar Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

ABIGAIL SMITH

Capitulate. Capitulate and it will all stop. The months and years of abuse. The legal fight. The mountain of bills, impossible to pay. The harassment. The fear. The anxiety. The stress. The strain. Capitulate and it all stops. You, a stay at home parent. Your spouse, with a six figure salary, so used to being in control. If you just stop fighting, if you give in, maybe it will all just stop. After all, you can no longer afford your attorney. No other attorney would extend you credit. Not with this especially difficult divorce. Not with the history of domestic violence and the protective order. Not with a combative soon-to-be-ex spouse. More than half a million dollars in legal fees, and where has it gotten you? Maybe now is the time to capitulate. Do everything your spouse wants you to do.

"Those are the kinds of cases that matter a lot to me," Bruce Wiener says. "In that particular case," he continues "the client had an attorney who she could no longer afford. She had nowhere else to turn." Cases like this, where a client is initially represented by an attorney, but can no longer afford their services, or where the client couldn't afford an attorney in the first place, expose the gap in legal services. And nowhere is the gap between clients who need services and attorneys who can provide services more apparent than in the market for family law services. Bruce founded Bridge to Justice about three and a half years ago to address this gap. And by any measure, Bridge to Justice is succeeding. Of the 250-275 clients served in a year, nearly 90% relate to family

**Happy
Holidays
from the
BCBA!**

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law, and approximately half involve domestic violence. These are hard cases, and they reinforce the need for the services Bridge to Justice provides.

These statistics are sobering, and the first words out of my mouth are: "How do you deal with the emotional strain?" Bruce reminds me of the importance of having a team. That team includes two full time attorneys and a roster of consulting attorneys. The consulting attorneys in particular are a tremendous resource. "I don't feel like I'm doing this by myself, and feeling like we're making a difference matters a lot to me," Bruce explains.

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attorneys. The consulting attorneys in particular are a tremendous resource. "I don't feel like I'm doing this by myself, and feeling like we're making a difference matters a lot to me," Bruce explains.


Of course, not all of their cases are quite so heart-wrenching. In addition to family law, Bridge to Justice handles landlord/tenant, small claims, county court, and social security/disability cases, as well as wills and powers of attorney. A typical day involves a mix between meeting with new clients and working on existing cases. On average, one to two new clients come in for an initial consultation each day. These clients qualify for a fixed reduced rate based on income and assets. Bridge to Justice serves a different population than legal aid, but a significant portion of their clientele would qualify for legal aid based solely on income.


The balance of Bruce's time in the office is spent working on active cases and supervising the other attorneys, in addition to appearing in court. I assume that such an ambitious schedule requires long hours in the office, but Bruce surprises me by saying that he's in the office from 8:30-5 every day. "I try to leave at a normal hour because I want to be doing this for a while. I don't want to burn out," he explains, "And it's really important to me to have some semblance of balance. It's not the kind of job where you can turn it off. But I do think that one of the advantages of this job is that I can control my schedule to some extent." Of course, it's not always possible to maintain this schedule. "When it comes to trial," he tells me, "you have to be prepared to work longer hours."

Bruce is also responsible for grant writing, reporting, and interviews also come in waves. Typically, he works on grant applications out of the office on weekends and at night. When I ask whether grant writing takes a different set of skills, Bruce

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE CONTINUED

acknowledges that it does. But he also notes some overlap with the practice of law. Organization, attention to detail, and of course, knowing your audience. Grants make Bridge to Justice possible, including those from the Boulder County Bar Foundation, and they also show community support for the endeavor.

This is a lot of work. Bruce says, "A lot of people advised me not to start this organization because there was no blueprint for it. We are cutting edge in many ways; there are not a lot of organizations doing what we're doing. You can't be afraid to fail. And if you feel strongly about something, pursue it. You need to have passion for what you're doing. I really enjoy what I do; running a business and helping people." He notes additional benefits to his model, such as the ability to make a living, and the pleasure in growing an organization. And his model is gaining recognition. In June 2016, 5280 Magazine featured Bridge to Justice as a solution in an article entitled "A Crisis in Colorado's Civil Courts."

When I ask Bruce about his vision for the future, he responds that for the next 12-18 months, he wants to stay as they are, "a really talented team of attorneys." He will continue to balance the need to address the gap in services in the community against remaining sustainable and able to recruit and retain qualified attorneys. But eventually he does want to expand, hire a full-time paralegal, maybe a part-time grant writer or development person. The long-term goal is an ambitious one: to franchise the model around the state, possibly around the country, because the need for the service is everywhere. Rural areas, urban areas, particularly those with a high cost of living. Boulder is a good example, and thus a fertile testing ground, with a high rate of poverty and a huge gap in services.



Coming back to the present, I wonder, what's the best part of your job? Bruce thinks for a moment, and then says, "What gives me probably the most joy in what I do is we're not going to win every case. And sometimes in what we do a win is hard to define anyway. These cases are very difficult, and we never make guarantees, but even in the cases where we don't achieve what the client wants, we still receive positive feedback. The client will say, 'At least I understand why the judge did what he did. I understand what my legal rights are. Thank you so much for your help navigating the legal system.' And I feel like that's what we're supposed to be doing. Educating clients. And it brings me a lot of joy to say that."

Bruce Wiener can be reached at Bridge to Justice, 595 Canyon Blvd., Boulder, CO 80302. 303.443.1038 www.boulderbridgetojustice.org

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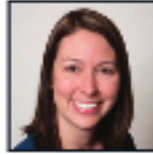
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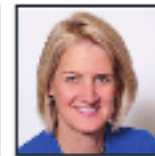
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SPAN's Night for Partners in Justice December 7th at 6 p.m. at WonderPress, 946 Pearl St. in Boulder.

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence invites the legal community to join us for an event to raise awareness of SPAN's mission to end oppression and support victims of domestic violence in Boulder County. SPAN connects victims of domestic violence with family law, immigration, criminal defense, employment, housing and other kinds of attorneys willing to take pro-bono clients or offer discounted rates, in addition to counseling and other support services. SPAN would like to thank its attorney partners, and potential future partners with an evening of fun. Drinks and food provided, donations welcome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 1

ALS, SOLO/SMALL FIRM & REAL ESTATE

Making the Season of Giving Last

**Presenters: Brett Landis, Craig Small,
Jonathan Culwell & Erin Eastvedt**

Noon @ Justice Center Training Room West

\$25 CLE (.3 ethics), \$15 New/Young Lawyer

Register and pay online here

Thursday, December 1

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Developments in Federal Land Law

Presenter: Charles Wilkinson

5 pm @ Conor O'Neill's

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer

Register and pay online here

Tuesday, December 6

SOLO/SMALL FIRM

Legal Malpractice Coverage

**Presenter: Dave Little, Chris Little, &
Heather Kelly**

Noon @ Dickens Tavern, Longmont

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer, \$13 Lunch

Register and pay online here

Tuesday, December 6

PARALEGAL

Federal Rules of Evidence

Presenter: Cliff Stricklin

Noon @ Bryan Cave

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer, \$12 Lunch

Register and pay online here

Thursday, December 8

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

How Valuable is Your Patent, Really?

Presenter: Yoriko Morita

Noon @ Lathrop and Gage

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer

Register and pay online here

Friday, December 9

AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL SERVICES

Monthly Roundtable

2:30 pm @ BCLS (Please note the later time)

Tuesday, December 13

TRIAL PRACTICE SERIES

Presenter: Pat Furman

Noon @ BCBA Conference Room

\$15 CLE, Free if you volunteer for mock trials

Email laura@boulder-bar.org to register

Wednesday, December 14

BUSINESS

What You Need to Know About Crowdfunding

Presenter: Nate Miller

Noon @ BCBA Conference Room

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer

Register and pay online here

Wednesday, December 14

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

**How to Identify and Protect Your Intellectual
Assets**

Presenter: Josh Randall

4:00 pm @ Holland & Hart

\$25 CLE, \$15 New/Young Lawyer

Register and pay online here

Thursday, December 15

BANKRUPTCY

Monthly Lunch and Roundtable

Noon @ Kathmandu

BOULDER IDC – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Understanding Play Therapy: A Neurobiological Perspective

Presenter: Lisa Dion, LPC, RPT-S

11:30 @ Dairy Arts Center, \$27 IDC Members, \$32 Non-Members, \$35 Walk in

2 General CLE and .3 Ethics To RSVP, go to boulderidc.org

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PROFESSIONALISM ON CALL

December 5	Tom Rodriguez	303.604.6030
December 12	Mark Langston	303.440.9684
December 19	Tripp DeMuth	303.447.7775
December 26	Peggy Goodbody	303.440.5736

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 dates have been set for the 2016 - 2017 Free Legal Clinics at the Sacred Heart of Jesus church (2312 14th Street) from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Christine at christine@boulder-bar.org if you can help.

December 15, 2016

June 15, 2017

March 16, 2017

PRO BONO CORNER

Interested in a Pro Bono case? Please call Erika at 303-449-2197. CLE credits available for pro bono service.

PRO BONO REFERRALS

Seven cases were referred during the month of October. Thank you to the following attorneys:

Graham Fuller
Thomas Kranz
Sarah McEahern
Michael Miner
Timothy Reynolds
Todd Stahly
Sumer Thomas

PRO SE VOLUNTEERS

Josh Anderson
Sheila Carrigan
Shawn Ettingoff
Kathleen Franco
Tucker Katz
Joan Norman
Craig Small

BCAP VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the following pro bono attorneys who accepted referrals for the Boulder County AIDS Project in October:

Brad Hall

VOLUNTEER NOW FOR MOCK TRIALS

This year the Mock Trials will be held at the Boulder County Justice Center on February 9, 10 and 11. Please volunteer to be a scoring judge. This is a great program, and it cannot happen without all of you generous volunteers. We have the following times available:

- February 9 at 4:30 pm
- February 10 at 4:30 pm
- February 11 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Email laura@boulder-bar.org to sign up

LAWYER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations Sonny Flowers!

Sonny is the 2016 recipient of the George Norlin Award.

First presented in 1930, the George Norlin Award honors alumni of the University of Colorado Boulder for distinguished achievement in their chosen fields of endeavor and a devotion to the betterment of society and their community.

Sonny is a Past President of the BCBA and currently serves on the Boulder County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees.



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COURT ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Please join us as we celebrate the
retirement of
Judge John F. Stavelly*



*Friday, January 6, 2017
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Boulder County Justice Center
1777 6th St. Boulder, CO 80302
Jury Assembly Room*



Please join us!

*Boulder County Court Judge
Jonathon P. Martin
Swearing-in Ceremony*

When: January 13, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

*Where: Boulder County Justice Center
1777 6th Street
Boulder, CO 80302
Courtroom F, First Floor*



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YOUR NEW BCBA CONFERENCE ROOM

AVAILABLE TO BOOK

The BCBA is always looking for ways to serve our membership. One big project that has been in the works for some time is obtaining a designated CLE space and conference room for our members.

We are excited to introduce our new space. It is the perfect location for

meetings and depositions. There are seats around the table for 12 with additional seating for up to 16. A screen and projector are available for use.

As an incentive to generate interest in the room, we are waiving all rental fees until the month of

January. We would like to have as many members as possible take advantage of this great benefit.

Please contact Laura Ruth to reserve your space - laura@boulder-bar.org or call 303-440-4758.

NOTICE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

We've updated the format and style of our newsletter. Our new program gives more online functionality, such as being able to register for programs directly from the page. It is also easier to read and skim through pages.

One feature we love is the ability to download the newsletter as a PDF. Just click the icon in the lower left hand corner. This should solve any readability problems if your computer is looking fuzzy. Please send your comments to laura@boulder-bar.org.

THE BCBA NEWSLETTER IS A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION BY THE BOULDER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. ARTICLES BY GUEST LAWYERS MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE BOULDER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION OR THE AUTHORS.

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