February 2024

Boulder COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

2024 BOULDER COUNTY MOCK TRIALS

URGENT! Your help needed! We just received our final team count and we need additional volunteers!

BCBA Calendar of Events Page 2

The 2024 Boulder County Mock Trials will be held at the Justice Center on February 9 and 10, and we are looking to fill our Scoring and Presiding Judge slots. Remember you don't have to be a lawyer to volunteer. If you're already coming, please consider recruiting a friend or partner.

- **Friday, February 9, Session 1 (1:00 - 3:30 pm)**– need 1 scoring judge
- **Friday, February 9, Session 2 (3:30 - 6:00 pm)**– need 1 scoring judge
- **Saturday, February 10, Session 1 (8:30 - 10:30 am)**– need 8 scoring judges
- **Saturday, February 10 Session 2 (10:30 am - 1:00 pm)**– need 1 presiding judge and 4 scoring judges

The volunteer sign-up link here also includes a link to the case and all of the rules. Please contact us if you have any further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

IN THIS ISSUE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2
PRESIDENTS PAGE 3-4
RMIAN ARTICLE 6-7
LAWYER ANNOUNCEMENTS 8
NEW BCBA MEMBERS 8
BCBA JANUARY IN PHOTOS 9-10
CLASSIFIED ADS 11
PROFESSIONALISM & PRO BONO 12



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 9
& Saturday, February 10
Boulder County High School Mock Trials
Volunteers needed!
Please click here to register

Tuesday, February 13
A Focus on RMIAN
Special thanks to event sponsor Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP
Presented by Mekela Goehring
1 EDI Credit applied for
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to register

Tuesday, February 20
Boulder County Parks & Open Space Natural Resource Issues
Presented by Conrad Lattes
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to register
Please click here to sponsor

Wednesday, February 21
Bagels with the Bar: Longmont!
8:30 - 10:00 AM @ Lyons Gaddis (515 Kimbark St Suite 200)
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to RSVP

Thursday, February 22
BCBA Pickleball
Special thanks to event sponsor Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP
4:30 - 5:00 PM @ Boulder Pickleball (3550 Frontier Ave Unit C)
$10 for BCBA Members
Please click for wait list



Every Wednesday
Bagels with the Bar
8:30 - 10:00 AM @ BCBA Office (3269 28th St.)
Free for BCBA Members

Tuesday, February 27
Tax & Estate Legislative Update
Presented by Tyler Mounsey
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to register
Please click here to sponsor

Thursday, February 29
On Boulder County Land Use Law & Subdivision Regulations
Presented by Tyler Mounsey
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to register
Please click here to sponsor


TRUSTED ADVISORS
POWERFUL ADVOCATES
STRATEGIC PARTNERS
BHGR
BERG HILL
GREENLEAF RUSCITTI LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW | BOULDER, COLORADO | WWW.BHGRLAW.COM | 303.402.1600

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

EMILY ELLISON & ELLEN ROSS

February is Black History Month. The recent BCBA screening of This Is Not Who We Are sparked a conversation about race with my friend and BCBA member, Ellen Ross. Ellen kindly sat down with me to discuss the topic further, including some of Ellen's personal experiences with race and ideas on how we talk about race—personally, professionally, and as a bar association.

If you have attended a BCBA event in the last year, the chances are high that you have met Ellen Ross. She is one of the most engaged and active supporters of the BCBA. Ellen started her own Family Law Practice in Longmont in 2008. Although Ellen and I had been friends since meeting at the Judge's Dinner in 2019, played softball together for the last three years, and we even started holding regular meetings for family law attorneys in Longmont, race was not something we had talked about in depth.

Growing up in St. Louis, racism impacted Ellen from a young age, including an incident in first grade where a classmate used a racial slur to describe her and the teacher supported the use of the word. Ellen eventually moved away from St. Louis and landed in the Longmont-area with her three children. After moving to Longmont, at first, Ellen did not have the opportunity or the need to talk about race. Although her children were often the only people of color in their classes, they experienced little, if any, racism. Only recently has Ellen started being more vocal when it comes to race and implicit bias.

Ellen candidly shared personal accounts of dealing with implicit bias in the practice of law. One incident occurred in another judicial district when Ellen arrived at a hearing early and was seated at the table in the courtroom waiting for her client, opposing counsel, and the other party to arrive.



Ellen Ross



Emily Ellison

The presiding judge asked Ellen if she was one of the parties to the case. Dressed in a navy suit and seated where the attorney typically sits during the hearing and representing the husband, Ellen was surprised and disappointed by the judge's assumption. Unfortunately, this was not the first time Ellen experienced implicit bias in the courtroom. On another occasion, when Ellen stood up at the start of a hearing to enter her appearance as counsel, the judge gave her a shocked look that even her client commented on the reaction. In a

PRESIDENT'S PAGE CONTINUED

professional setting, Ellen shared that two fellow colleagues referred to a black college student as being articulate. She pointed out to one that statement shows implicit bias. The colleague was not defensive or argumentative, rather she accepted Ellen's perspective and indicated she understood.

When I asked Ellen if she is comfortable talking about race, she said yes, she is comfortable talking about race and has recently started voicing her feelings on race more publicly. I learned from Ellen, and personally agree from my experience in having this conversation, that it's white people who are uncomfortable talking about race. Ellen shared that in the black community, people talk and think about race every day. It is not a positive or a negative, but a fact of life. This was eye-opening for me.

In order to broach this subject, Ellen believes that first white people let go of their guilt and bad feelings around their implicit bias and realize that we all—black, white, all races—have implicit biases. If there is guilt or negative feeling about discussing race, then the conversation will not happen. We must face the discomfort of talking about race in order to be aware of our biases and systemic racism. It may feel uncomfortable, but those feelings pale in comparison to the lived experiences of people of color in the US. Ellen believes that a CLE on implicit bias would help others learn more about how to recognize implicit bias in ourselves, others, and the systems in which we live and work.

This is an important issue to be conscious of all the time, not just during Black History Month. Stay tuned for programming that continues this important conversation on race and how we can all be more aware of our implicit biases.

Thank you to Ellen Ross for her willingness to share her time, personal experiences, and ideas on how we talk about race.



CELEBRATING SNOW AND FREEDOM IN CO

MEKELA GOEHRING

This winter a family of three from Colombia had the unexpected pleasure of celebrating snow for the first time. These two parents and their young child fled Colombia after fleeing the FARC, a known terrorist organization. In addition to completing a harrowing journey to get to Colorado, they also had to navigate a relatively new and unknown program once they arrived in Colorado called Family Expedited Removal Management ("FERM"). This program forces asylum-seekers to present their cases to government officials with only days to prepare. If they can't, they are deported within 30 days of their arrival. FERM is the most recent due process challenge to asylum-seekers, but it continues a long tradition of unequal access to justice for those in immigration proceedings.

The recent experience of this family shows the impossibility facing many if they do not have access to counsel. This family was scheduled for their interview with an asylum officer just one week after arriving in Denver, while trying to find shelter, taking care of their young child, being on an ankle monitor, and not yet having permission to work. Perhaps not surprisingly under the circumstances, the asylum officer found no basis for asylum, despite their strong political opinion claim. As a result of this denial, they were scheduled for a hearing at the Denver Immigration Court within 48 hours. Without counsel, this hearing likely would have resulted in an immediate order of removal (deportation) for all three of them.

Fortunately, one of RMIAN's attorneys stepped in despite this crushing time frame to represent the family. Their RMIAN attorney submitted a ten-page brief to the immigration judge, along with over 100 pages of supporting evidence. The day of the hearing, their RMIAN attorney argued that the



asylum officer's negative finding should be vacated based on the law, their testimony, and the evidence presented. And guess what? The immigration judge agreed and found the family had a basis for their claim. The family was referred for a future hearing at the immigration court on the merits of their asylum case. Without this representation, it is almost certain that this family would have faced forced removal to Colombia and the danger they fled.

While this family's story is one of hope, the reality for most people in immigration proceedings is the opposite. Despite the extreme stakes, there is still no right to court-appointed counsel for individuals in immigration proceedings. As a result, even young children often are forced to represent themselves in complex and adversarial proceedings, going up against an attorney from Immigration and Customs Enforcement who is arguing for their deportation. Against these odds, very few individuals win their cases, no matter how strong the facts and legal arguments may be. Studies show that individuals with attorneys are ten times more likely to win their immigration cases than those without counsel.

CELEBRATING SNOW CONTINUED

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) was founded over two decades ago with the belief that every person going through immigration proceedings should have access to counsel. RMIAN's staff attorneys represent over 800 children, families, and individuals every year. In addition. RMIAN exponentially increases its impact by working with hundreds of volunteer attorneys throughout Colorado every year to provide pro bono representation to RMIAN's clients. RMIAN's volunteer attorneys represent children and families, as well as individuals detained at the civil immigration detention center in Aurora.Even so, over 70% of individuals in immigration proceedings in Colorado are unrepresented. Please consider representing a pro bono client in their immigration case through RMIAN. RMIAN will provide training, mentorship, templates, and professional liability insurance. Opportunities and information are available here. This pro bono work provides life-changing opportunities for both clients and lawyers alike.

RMIAN knows that justice and due process for those in immigration proceedings cannot be upheld only through nonprofit legal services organizations and volunteer attorneys. Rather, there must be a fundamental change to create the universal right to representation for everyone in immigration proceedings. For that reason, RMIAN worked with coalition partners to pass the Colorado Immigration Legal Defense Fund, one of the first state laws in the country to provide funding for universal representation. However, for it to have its intended impact, additional funding must be secured. Relatedly, RMIAN is a proud partner of the Fairness to Freedom campaign, a national movement to pass federal legislation ensuring counsel for everyone in immigration proceedings.We are working toward the day when all families, even those without the resources to hire a private attorney, are guaranteed legal representation in what may be the most important legal proceedings of their lives.

Mekela will be presenting A Focus on RMIAN on Tuesday, February 13 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm in the BCBA Zoom meeting room. We have applied for 1 EDI credit for this program.

Mekela Goehring is the Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network. She began working at RMIAN in 2003 as the organization's first detention staff attorney.

MEDIATION

Domestic Landlord/Tenant Personal Injury Business Employment

Morgan O'Brien, MBA
mobrien@fobrienlaw.com
(303) 725-9549

Fern O'Brien, JD
fobrien@fobrienlaw.com
(303) 579-3559

O'BRIEN LAW | LLC

LAWYER ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME NEW BCBA MEMBERS

Tracy Nolan
Craig Welling
Patricia Alquiza
Santana Andazola
Nicole Brigstock
Emilee Calvin
Thomas Carroll
Katrina Chavez
Kyra Dobson
Lauren Dunn
Martin Jensen
Jonathan Khoriaty
Victoria Matson
Miles McLendon
Sierra Meggitt
Julia O'Rourke
Andrew Osgood
Zane Reynolds
David Rus
Lex Schwartzman
Korben Smart
Lillian Sullivan
Clara Yardley
Lauren Concepcion

BCBA JANUARY PHOTOS



CBA Presidential Visit to the BCBA

Sponsored by Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP



BCBA JANUARY PHOTOS



CBA Presidential Visit to the BCBA



CBA Presidential Visit to the BCBA



BCBA Bowling Night

Sponsored by Martin Law Office LLC

CLASSIFIED ADS

Family Law Attorney Position. Peek Goldstone, LLC is looking for a seasoned Family Law Attorney to join our team. If you're ready to make a positive impact for clients going through some of the toughest times of their lives, we want to hear from you.*Please click here for more information about this opportunity*.

Full-Time Legal Assistant Position. Elevate Your Career: Legal Assistant Opportunity in a Dynamic Litigation Team at Lyons Gaddis Join Our Thriving Litigation Group. Lyons Gaddis is excited to offer a unique opportunity for a passionate and detail-oriented Legal Assistant to become an integral part of our dynamic Litigation team. This is more than just a job – it's a chance to immerse yourself in diverse and stimulating legal cases, collaborate with a team of professionals who value camaraderie and expertise and grow in a role where no two days are the same.*Please click here for more information about this opportunity*.

Full-Time Paralegal Position. Great Paralegal Sought: Lyons Gaddis is seeking a full-time Paralegal for its Litigation group. Work on a variety of exciting cases and projects in a collaborative team-based work environment with professional and congenial colleagues. A great benefits package with a generous 401(k) match. The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in the legal profession, exceptional attention to detail, an outstanding work ethic, and a unremitting desire to learn new things every day. *Please click here for more information about this opportunity*.

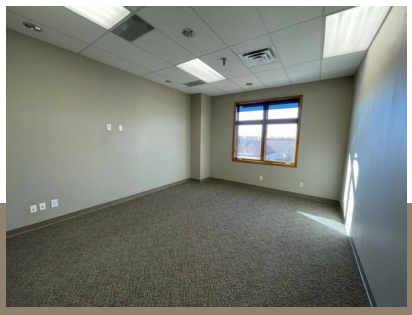
Offices for lease. West End individual offices for lease. Ideal for solo practitioners. Quaint Victorian office building with parking, in walking distance to Boulder County Courthouse, Pearl Street, Creek path. Click here for more information. Call Maureen for more info: 303-449-2131 x 123.

Intelligent Office – 4450 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 100, Boulder, CO 80303 | Live Local Phone Answering | Private Offices | On-Demand Meeting Space. Intelligent Office is where savvy attorneys meet clients, get their mail, and even have their phones answered. With top-notch staff, free parking, and a variety of turnkey meeting rooms, you are set up for success. Everything we do is customized for you – from how you want your phones answered to how you'd like your clients greeted, we are truly your team. We can even notarize and witness document signings. At Intelligent Office, you only pay for what you need. Call us at 303-447-9000 or email Dottie at Dottie.Stowe@intelligentoffice.com to learn more.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE AT THE BCBA

This is a great opportunity for any firms or groups looking to create a Boulder office! The property includes 4 executive offices, a reception area, large coworking space for staff, and a patio with awesome views of the Flatirons. The space comes will all existing furniture and is available for only $6k per month through the end of the sublease term (April 2026) which is renewable with the property owner. https://marketboulder.com/property-item/3269-28th-street-boulder-office/







PROFESSIONALISM ON CALL

February 5	Tom Rodriguez	720.931.3231
February 12	Karl Kumli	303.447.1375
February 19	Trip DeMuth	303.447.7775
February 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 Boulder County Free Legal Clinics have been replaced with our Virtual Legal Clinic until further notice. We are always seeking new volunteers to assist the public: please email Kyle if you are interested in participating.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The BCBA Virtual Legal Clinic remains ongoing and has served over 30 people to date. Thank you to the attorneys who serve as volunteers:

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

PRO BONO REFERRALS

More than 10 cases were referred in the month of January. Thank you to the following attorneys:

Jennifer Terry
Jodie Gilbert
Yun Wang
Mireya Rios
Laura Kinde

PRO SE VOLUNTEERS

There were multiple Pro Se Clinics held in the month of January thanks to the help of the following attorneys:

Kathleen Franco

Ariel Williams

Shana Beggan

Pat Riley

Todd Stahly

Jared Rotzo

Jennifer Huston

Chris Jeffers

Jennifer Terry

Josh Anderson

PRO BONO CORNER

Interested in a Pro Bono case? Please call Alisiana Medina at 970-499-1003. CLE credits available for pro bono service.

Boulder COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING
laura@boulder-bar.org

OR THE BAR'S WEBSITE

www.boulder-bar.org

