July 2024

Boulder COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

CAROLYN STEFFL

BCBA @ Colorado Rockies Page 2

When I first joined the Board of the Boulder County Bar Association, my kids thought that I had finally achieved the elusive work-life balance. "Mom's at a meeting of the Bar Club again." It came out over dinner that they thought I was promoting Boulder taverns, and I got to explain the *other* meaning of bar. (Well, it was less embarrassing than the dinner when our then three-year-old asked us what the F word means.)

Now, four years later, I'm beginning a term as the President of the venerable Boulder County Bar Association, and I'm proud to represent and serve Boulder's attorneys. For those who don't know me, let me tell you a little about myself.

For over twenty years, I have been practicing local government law, all throughout the state. Three years ago, I joined the firm Dietze and Davis, where I collaborate with wonderful partners and staff. I love my job! Every day is a new challenge – you name it and it has crossed my desk - employment disputes, zoning and subdivision, elections, police law, water law, utility franchises, municipal financing, construction contracts, et al. Forget being pigeon-holed in one sub-specialty. And the clients...so great. Local governmental officials and volunteers generally go into the field because they want to improve their

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

communities and do the right thing. I work with them to build their neighborhoods and towns and to reach agreements with adjoining communities to combine resources and achieve more together.

Currently, I serve as Town Attorney for the Town of Timnath (via contract). It's such a blast representing a community have has grown four-fold in the last ten years and is building its municipal government. They just built a state-of-the-art police station and hired enough officers for 24-7 police coverage (rather than contracting with the sheriff for over-nights). They hired their first Park and Rec Director and are building up that department. New engineers and planners are working on thoughtful growth and development and navigating changes in the community. My approach is to help the Town solve problems, and we do that together every day.

I also represent five small water providers in Boulder County – sandwiched between municipalities, these are communities serving a few dozen homes via wells with teeny legal budgets and volunteer boards that just want to help their communities. Then, there are the large metro districts down in Pueblo County, with citizen Boards that provide many of the services usually provided by towns – streets, rec, water, sewer, fire. Plus, I serve as general counsel to water districts throughout the state, with citizen Boards working to navigate endless changes in water quality regs and provide clean, affordable, renewable water to



their residents (and deal with the wastewater on the back end.) As I drive to and fro, my car just might be playing an escapist audiobook (don't ask how many times I have listened to Twilight).

At home, I am the proud mother of 14-year-old Ryan and 17-year-old Emma, who now understand what I do for BCBA, and married to Andrew - astronomer / home chef extraordinaire. I'm a voracious reader, lovers of doodles, and adventurous spirit who has trouble sitting still. Over the next 12 months, I look forward to sharing my story with you and hearing your tales. Thank you for the honor of serving as your Boulder County Bar President.

The BCBA is planning a trip down to Denver to see the Colorado Rockies take on the San Francisco Giants for a 1:10 pm game on Sunday, July 21. Tickets are $45 each and all seats are in the shade.

Please click here to register

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 17
Drafting and Using Arbitration Clauses: Tips from a Litigator and Arbitrator
Presented by Paul Schwartz
1 General CLE Credit
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to register
Please click here to sponsor

Thursday, July 25
BCBA All-Bar Happy Hour
5:00 - 7:00 PM @ BCBA Office (3269 28th St.)
Free for BCBA Members
Please click here to RSVP
Please click here to sponsor

Sunday, July 21
BCBA at the Colorado Rockies v. San Francisco Giants
1:10 - 4:00 PM @ Coors Field (2001 Blake St, Denver)
$45 for BCBA Members
Please click here to register



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

Sunday, July 31
Real Estate Membership Section Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Office (3269 28th Street)
$20 for BCBA Section Members
Please click here to register
Please click here to sponsor

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

FOUNDATION AT A CROSSROADS

Greetings! As the incoming President of the Boulder County Bar Foundation (BCBF), I'd like your feedback.

When I began my Boulder County legal career way back in 1994, membership in the BCBF was a real feather in the cap. You had to be 40 or older, and commit to $100/year for ten years, at which point you were a "Lifetime Fellow," or something to that effect. At an annual dinner at the classy Harvest House Hotel ballroom, new fellows hobnobbed with judges and Boulder luminaries like Jean Dubofsky, Chris Brauchli, Helen Stone, and Tom Lamm, to name a few. In addition to these social benefits, the contributions from fellows allowed the BCBF to make much-needed grants to legal non-profits throughout Boulder County. BCBF has been awarding grants to support legal services and our community's access to justice since 1983.

As I look out my office window across 28th Street at the wrecking balls knocking down the Harvest House (now called the Millenium), I ponder how fast time has gone, and the future of the BCBF. Over the past 30 years, interest and participation in the BCBF's fellowship model has dropped to the point that the board of the Bar even considered wrapping up BCBF a few years ago.

Now, we are at a crossroads, and we would like



your feedback on the future direction. Please take a few minutes to answer the online survey: **click here to view**.

And always feel free to email or call me with your thoughts and ideas about the BCBF – it exists for the Bar members to direct! Thank you.

Best,

Kurt C. Hofgard, JD, CLU, ChFC, AEP

Kurt C. Hofgard is an estate planning attorney with the Boulder firm of Hofgard & Associates, P.C., and he can be reached at hofgardlaw@gmail.com or 303-449-0055.




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LANGUAGE ACCESS & LANGUAGE JUSTICE

CLAUDIA LOPEZ

"Access to justice … means language access. People should not be excluded from the promises of our laws because of the language they speak."

Office for Access to Justice Director Rachel Rossi
Keynote Remarks, Stanford Law Review 2023 Symposium on Access to Justice



Language and communication are at the center of affective and effective interactions in our ever more interconnected and diverse world. Language access and language justice are the concepts at the forefront of social justice movements seeking to address linguistic disparities and guarantee unbiassed communication for everyone. Whereas language access aims to provide language services to remove barriers, language justice aims even higher, acknowledging how human rights and language rights are inextricable connected, while empowering diverse communities through linguistic inclusion.

Language access is a legal framework that seeks to promote effective communication for individuals who are considered to have Limited English Proficiency (LEPs) and Deaf and Hard of Hearing (*Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*). This framework may incorporate various tools and strategies, such as bilingual staff, interpreting, translation, signage, outreach, and evaluation. As a practice, it seeks to fulfill legal obligations, implement meaningful language access policies and procedures to ensure equal access to information, programs and services.

On the other hand, **language justice** represents the evolution of language access, and it is defined as the right every person has to speak, understand, and be understood in the language in which they prefer and in which they feel more articulate and powerful. As a principle, language justice places human dignity at the forefront, acknowledging language as a fundamental human right. It recognizes language as a tool of



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Boulder County Senior Law Day is **in person** again this year and will feature our popular **Ask-A-Lawyer** event, where attendees can sign up for a free consultation with an attorney on a walk-in basis.

We need volunteer attorneys who specialize in Benefits, Estate Planning, Family Law, Real Estate, Consumer Law, and Landlord-Tenant, who can take on a minimum 1½-hour shift (9:00-10:30, or 10:30-noon) on September 21st.

Email Brett Landis of CO Legal Services, Boulder if you're interested, and **mark your calendars**!

BECOME A SENIOR LAW DAY SPONSOR!

Visit our website or email to sponsor today!

LANGUAGE ACCESS CONTINUED

oppression and affirms language as a means for exercising autonomy and promoting social and racial justice. By encouraging linguistic inclusion, language justice encompasses the value of diverse languages and cultures and defies linguistic hierarchies and structures of power. It denotes the systematic fair treatment of people of all language communities and respect for the fundamental language rights of everyone where no one language dominates.

How Language Access and Language Justice apply to the Legal System?

Effective communication is vital within the legal system to guarantee that justice is accessible to all individuals, regardless of linguistic background. Nevertheless, language barriers often pose substantial challenges impeding comprehension, while impacting various aspects of the judicial process and hindering the fair administration of justice**.**Amongst defendants, witnesses, and litigants, limited English proficiency can conduce to misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and biased treatment under the law.Linguistic diversity poses challenges that must be addressed to guarantee equitable access to justice, everywhere from court proceedings to legal consultations.

Attorneys could facilitate language access, while encouraging language justice, by learning about the linguistic diversity of their clients, and further supporting effective communication utilizing language services (i.e. interpreters and translators). Advocating for the clients' language rights as they access the justice system honors language as a fundamental human right.

Language access and language justice are fundamental to a fair and equitable legal system. By acknowledging and addressing the challenges of language barriers legal institutions and practices can uphold the principles of justice ensuring that all individuals have equal access to legal remedies and protections while receiving fair treatment under the law.

Claudia López is a Conference & Legal Spanish Interpreter active in Boulder County, and volunteers as an interpreter for the free legal clinics. Contact her at claudialopezglobal.com



BCBA JUNE PHOTOS



BCBA 2024 Annual Meeting

Sponsored by Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, Dietze & Davis, P.C., Peek Goldstone LLC, and The W Law



BCBA 2024 Annual Meeting



BCBA 2024 Annual Meeting

BCBA JUNE PHOTOS



2024 Sonny Flowers Award of Merit recipient David Driscoll



2024 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient Erin Pierce



Jeff Rose and David Driscoll at the BCBA Annual Meeting award ceremony



BCBA Board President Carolyn Steffl and Immediate Past President Emily Ellison at the passing of the gavel

BCBA JUNE PHOTOS



Introducing new board members Erin Pierce, Allen Jones, Brittany Frisbie, and Ghandia Johnson



Allen Jones' parrot visits Bagels with the Bar



BCBA Lunch & Learn: The Importance of Emotional Intelligence



Paralegal Section Lunch

LAWYER ANNOUNCEMENT

DIETZE AND DAVIS, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Dietze and Davis, P.C.
is pleased to announce that

S. Daniel Rubin &
Lauren N. Davis

have joined the firm as Associate Attorneys

Their practice areas include Civil Litigation, Real Estate, Local Government Law and Energy/Public Utilities Law

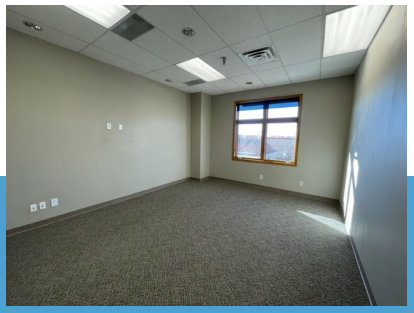
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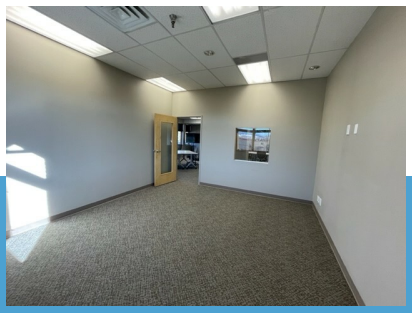
2060 Broadway, Suite 400
Boulder, CO 80302
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ldavis@dietzedavis.com

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE AT THE BCBA

We recently created two permanent offices that are now available for rent in our existing location. Both are executive size with Flatiron views and can easily fit one or 2 people. They can be furnished or unfurnished if you prefer to bring your own items. These office are available for $900 per month for members, $1000 per month for nonmembers. This also includes 5 hours of conference room time, internet, utilities and mail service.







CLASSIFIED ADS

Part-time Legal Secretary Position. Part-time in-office legal secretary with great typing skills approx. 24 hours/wk, M-Th 10-4, flexible. Projects involve transcribing audio dictation or integrating dictation into existing forms. Must be detail oriented, proofread documents, and navigate forms in WordPerfect and Word. Two-attorney office in Lafayette specializing in estate planning, probate, real estate, and business transactions. Cheery work environment, good parking, easy access to Boulder and Denver-metro area. Contact*gail@oshlaw.com*.

Legal Fellow Position. Bridge to Justice (B2J) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit law firm established in 2013. As an impact-oriented social enterprise, our mission is to bridge the gap between legal needs and legal access with affordable, high quality legal services. We provide free and discounted legal services to low- and moderate-income Coloradans in the following areas: Family law; civil protection orders; Emergency Risk Protection Orders ("ERPOs"); eviction defense; and healthcare and food assistance legal advocacy. Please click here for more information.

Real Estate and Business Transaction Attorney. Lyons Gaddis has an opportunity for a Colorado attorney to join its busy and expanding real estate and business transaction group. Ideal candidates will have at least 2 years of experience in real estate, corporate, and/or general transactional work representing landowners, developers, individuals, and/or businesses. Candidates must also be motivated to provide exceptional client service, have sound professional judgement, and value personal and professional growth opportunities in a collaborative environment. Salary Range: Compensation is merit-based, as required by the Colorado Equal Pay Act. Our good faith salary range for this position is $105- $185K dependent on experience. The position includes the opportunity to earn an incentive bonus based on productivity, which could range from $0 to $25K or more. Benefits: Competitive salary, firm-paid medical benefits, vision, 401K match up to 12.5%, vacation, sick, and holiday pay are included. Please submit your resume and cover letter to careers@lyonsgaddis.com.

Paralegal – Real Estate and Business Transactions Position. Lyons Gaddis is seeking a real estate and business transactional Paralegal to join our team in our Longmont, CO office. The ideal candidate will assist lawyers with project management, client communication, document drafting, research, and overall legal support. It requires a confident and professional individual with good organizational skills and writing ability, preferably with prior experience in the real estate industry. Lyons Gaddis offers an excellent benefits package and an opportunity to work in a challenging and collaborative environment. This position will begin on-site and may evolve into a two-day remote and three days in the office role. Please click here for more information.

PROFESSIONALISM ON CALL

July 1	Meghan Pound	303.443.8010
July 8	Tom Rodriguez	720.931.3231
July 15	Karl Kumli	303.447.1375
July 22	Trip DeMuth	303.447.7775
July 29	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 4 cases were referred in the month of June. Thank you to the following attorneys:

Jennifer Terry
Jodie Gilbert

PRO SE VOLUNTEERS

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

Shana Beggan

Ricki Palmisano

WILLS CLINICS

There were multiple Wills Clinics held in the month of June thanks to the help of the following attorneys:

Jodie Gilbert (x2)

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

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