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45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

CWBA
COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 20, 2022

Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award

PRESENTATION AND DINNER



HONORING
Denver County Court Judge
Theresa A. Spahn

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CELEBRATING WOMEN LEADERS

Congratulations to
Judge Theresa Spahn,
recipient of the 2022
Mary Lathrop Trailblazer
Award

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AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

Gina L. Glockner, CWBA President
Intermountain Healthcare

MARY LATHROP AWARD SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Paige Johnson
Lewis Roca

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Andrea Bronson
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Christine Washburn
Law Office of Christine A. Washburn LLC

SPEAKERS

Joy Athanasiou
Joy Strategies, LLC

Janet Drake
Colorado Attorney General's Office and CWBA Past President

Beth Doherty Quinn
Baird Quinn LLC

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Andrea Bronson and Paige Johnson

ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD

The Hon. Theresa A. Spahn

CLOSING REMARKS

Congratulations!

To Judge Theresa Spahn for being awarded the 2022 Mary Lathrop Award

Judge Spahn has been more than an amazing attorney, magistrate, judge and CWBA president.

Judge Spahn established the Colorado Office of Child Representative and served as Presiding Judge of the Denver County Court.

Judge Spahn has been a mentor to countless women in the legal community and beyond.

She is also a loyal and caring friend and an amazing cook and hostess.

Gina Weitzenkorn, Linda Weinerman, Rick Wedgle, Sarah Ehrlich Swan, Susan Street, Michelle Stermer, Helen Shreves, Beth Doherty Quinn, Joan McWilliams, Kyle Martelon, Kerri Lombardi, Michelle Hannigan, Janet Drake, Becky Wiggins, Joy Athanasiou, and Jennifer Kain-Rios.

YOU ARE THE BEST!!!!

MARY LATHROP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1991 *Elizabeth Adams Conour, Elizabeth L. Guyton Girch, Estelle Hadley, and Helen T. Street*
- 1992 *Mary Brickner, Margaret B. Ellison, and Brooke Wunnicke*
- 1993 *Jean Dubofsky, Marilyn Traub Meadoff, and The Honorable Jacqueline St. Joan*
- 1994 *Natalie S. Ellwood*
- 1995 *Norma Comstock, Karen Steinhauser and The Honorable Zita L. Weinshienk*
- 1996 *Sheila Hyatt, Barbara Salomon, and Mimi Wesson*
- 1997 *Cathlin Donnell and Mary Hoagland*
- 1998 *Susan Barnes and The Honorable Claudia Jordan*
- 1999 *Gale Norton and Gail Schoettler*
- 2000 *Christine Arguello and Dottie Wham*
- 2001 *The Honorable Rebecca Love Kourlis*
- 2002 *The Honorable Mary Mullarkey*
- 2003 *The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Mary E. Ricketson*
- 2004 *Marla Williams*
- 2005 *The Honorable Nancy E. Rice*
- 2006 *Fay M. Matsukage*
- 2007 *Pamela Robillard Mackey*
- 2008 *Lynda A. McNeive*
- 2009 *Elizabeth A. Starrs*
- 2010 *Deborah R. Adams*
- 2011 *The Honorable Mary A. Celeste*
- 2012 *The Honorable Janice B. Davidson and Lynn Feiger*
- 2013 *Lorraine Parker and Doris Truhlar*
- 2014 *The Honorable Patricia Coan (Ret.)*
- 2015 *The Honorable Sandra I. Rothenberg (Ret.)*
- 2016 *Helen C. Shreves*
- 2017 *Rebecca Alexander*
- 2018 *Beth H. McCann*
- 2019 *Alli Gerkman*
- 2020 *Velveta Golightly-Howell*
- 2021 *Judge Karen Ashby*

2022 MARY LATHROP AWARD RECIPIENT



2022 HONOREE
Judge Theresa A. Spahn

Each year, the CWBA gives its highest honor, the **Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award**, to an honoree who embodies the spirit of the award to its fullest. The award goes to those women who have been trailblazers in the law, have served the mission of advancing women in the law, and have made notable differences in our legal community.

It is with great pleasure that we present **Judge Theresa Spahn** with the 2022 Mary Lathrop Award as she embodies and exemplifies each of the traits that this award honors.

A Denver native, Judge Spahn persevered to become the first member of her family to go to college, then to law school. Judge Spahn's early legal experiences include working with a domestic relations law firm before moving on to the Adams County District Attorney's Office in 1989. In 1992, she became a district attorney with Mesa County, where she focused on crimes against children and led the Sexual Abuse Task Force. Starting in 1994, Judge Spahn spent seven years as a magistrate in the 17th Judicial District, presiding over juvenile, domestic, and criminal cases. That is where she discovered her passion for the role of a judge because judges make decisions that impact lives.

In 2001, after recognizing a need to ensure that children have strong legal representation, Judge Spahn overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to help found the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR), lobbying the legislature to fund and create the OCR and serving as its first Executive Director. In doing so, she helped Colorado become a national pioneer for forward-thinking child advocacy, and changed the landscape of child welfare law in Colorado. Her tireless efforts to provide our state's children

with strong legal advocacy make a lasting impact on each child served, resulting in a positive, long-term ripple effect on our entire community. Her work at the OCR created a legacy that others continue to aspire to decades later.

In 2009, Judge Spahn became the Director for the O'Connor Judicial Selection Initiative with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. There, she created a national policy reform initiative to advance a judicial system that promotes fair and impartial courts for all citizens. Judge Spahn briefly went back into private practice before returning to the bench in 2014. Judge Theresa Spahn was appointed to the Denver County Court bench in 2014 and served as its Presiding Judge from January 2017 through December 2021. As Presiding Judge, she pursued innovative techniques to improve access to justice in Denver County Court. She continues to root out and resolve issues negatively impacting access to justice, and ardently guards Denver County Court's impartiality and integrity, regardless of the personal impact on her. In a recent example, Judge Spahn's actions to protect the smooth functioning of the Denver County Court resulted in a public call for violence against her and other judges. She persevered with grace to continue to lead the way to break new ground to ensure that the Denver County Court continues to be the respected and diverse bench it is. As one judge put it, "Judge Spahn is fierce, and completely unafraid" of doing the right thing for the Denver community, regardless of the potential consequences to her politically and personally.

Denver County Court leads the state as the only county with a female majority on the bench. Judge Spahn has led this diverse bench by modeling how women can be strong and effective leaders while also being true to themselves as women, mothers, and individuals. She helps advance women to the bench by guiding them to take steps to elevate their candidacy, and inspires them to do the same for others, thereby promoting the cycle of women's advancement in the legal field.

Judge Spahn credits her career success to her supporters – the people who encouraged her to take risks by seeking out new and challenging opportunities. Judge Spahn has paid that forward, providing a support system for many women. She ardently believes

that professional growth in the legal field is a team effort, and that when women support each other, we can go far. Judge Spahn is tireless in her efforts to help advance women's careers. She helps women lift themselves up, and inspires them to do the same for others. Without prompting, she reaches out to people who are already settled in positions to see if they are happy with their work, to encourage them never to settle, and to support them in their career paths. She advocates on behalf of women considering a job change to anyone in a position to help (be it a hiring authority or someone in the field who can offer advice). Judge Spahn pushes women not to settle for simply being comfortable in their work. Instead, she presses them to dream bigger and push themselves to make a larger positive impact on the community. Her trailblazing work throughout her career has created a lasting and positive impact on women and our state. Judge Spahn rejoices in women's successes and supports them through difficult times. When a woman is being honored, she's there to applaud, and when they are suffering, she is there to help.

In addition to her impressive and trailblazing career, Judge Spahn has been a longstanding contributor to the CWBA and

the Colorado legal community. Since initiating her membership with the CWBA in 2001, Judge Spahn has been very involved in the organization including serving on the Board of Directors. She led the CWBA as the President from 2007-08. In 2018, the CWBA recognized Judge Spahn for all of her outstanding work with the Judicial Award. She appreciates how her work with the CWBA has enriched her life and career, and she continues to enthusiastically advocate for others to join and get involved with the CWBA. Judge Spahn continues to give back every single day as a Judge, and she volunteers to teach for the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training program (known as COBALT). She encourages women and others in the legal community to get involved in that program, which has had a significant positive impact on graduates' career trajectories.

In all respects and in the spirit of Mary Lathrop, Judge Theresa Spahn is a trailblazer and leader in child advocacy, access to justice, and the advancement of women in the law. The CWBA is delighted and privileged to honor Judge Theresa Spahn with the 2022 CWBA Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award.

The Legacy of Mary Lathrop

Mary Lathrop passed the Colorado Bar in 1896 with a score that would stand as a record until 1941. She was the first woman: (i) open a law firm in Colorado, (ii) practice before the U.S. District Court in Colorado, (iii) argue before the Colorado Supreme Court, and (iv) join the Denver and Colorado Bar Associations. The Colorado Women's Bar Association first presented the Mary Lathrop Award in 1991 and has made an annual presentation each year since, in order to preserve and foster the memory of this woman who has left a legacy for us all.



The 2023 Mary Lathrop Award Nomination Process opens in August, with nominations due in late September 2022. Visit the website at www.cwba.org/Mary-Lathrop-Award for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

*2023 Mary Lathrop
Trailblazer Award Reception*

May 19, 2023

FRIENDS OF
Judge Spahn



Congratulations!

We are incredibly proud of you
and your achievements!

Judge Priscilla Loew

Judge Isabel Pallares

Vicky Johnson

Ashley Ratliff



**Congratulations
Judge Spahn!**



Much Love & Respect always, Your DCC Family



Shaping the future

Lathrop GPM and the firm's Women's Initiatives Network (WIN) proudly support the Colorado Women's Bar Association and its annual convention. The firm is committed to the promotion of women as leaders in the law.

Working together, we build exciting futures.



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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made based solely upon advertisements. Neither the highest state courts nor state bar associations review, recognize, or approve certifying organizations, certifications of specialties or specialist designations in the practice of law. The certificate, award or recognition is not a requirement to practice law. Lathrop GPM LLP, 1515 Wynkoop Street, Suite 600, Denver, CO 80202. For more information, contact Patrick McRorie at 720.931.3200.

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Join us to celebrate "Women Who 'Manage' to
Raise The Bar: Honoring Managing Partners."

Visit CWBAFoundation.org for more details.





Lewis Brisbois is a proud sponsor of the 45th Annual Colorado Women's Bar Association Annual Convention. We congratulate Judge Theresa Spahn on her deserved recognition, and support the organization's long-standing dedication to promoting gender equality in the legal profession.

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Congratulations to
2022 Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award Honoree

The Hon. Theresa Spahn

Denver County Court Judge

We are honored to celebrate all of CWBA's

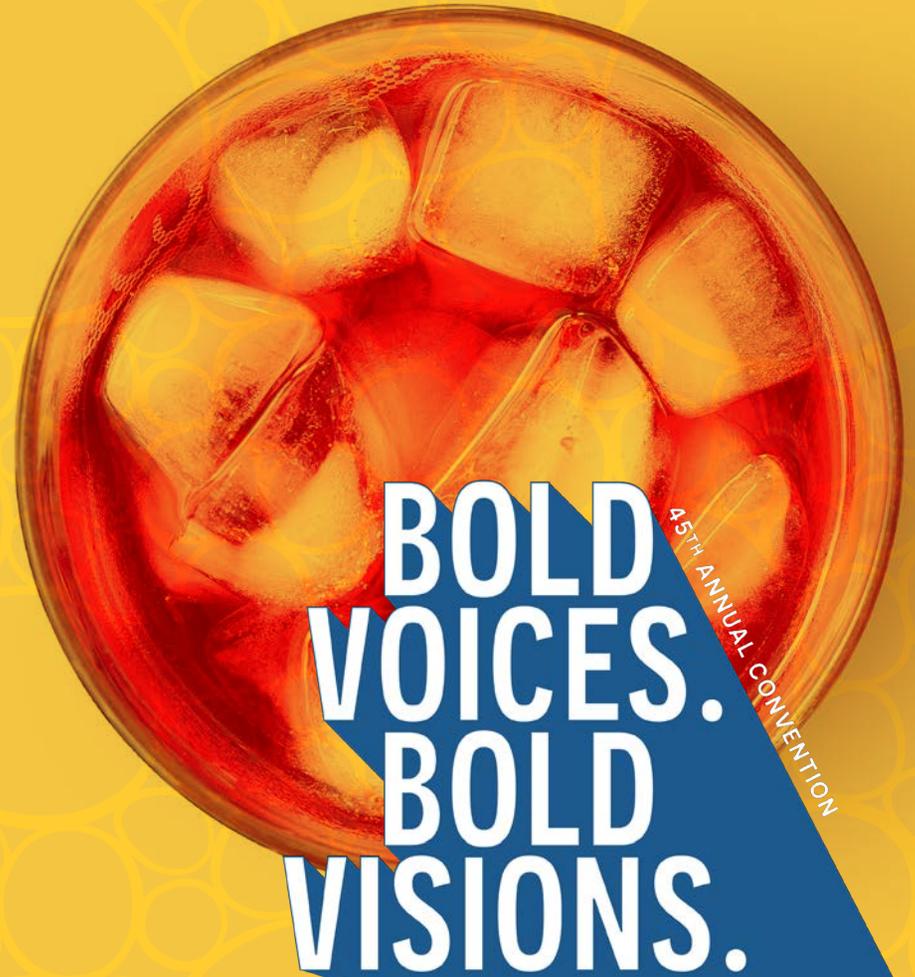
BOLD VISIONARIES



signature cocktail

Objection:Relevance

cranberry and vodka with a dash of compassion,
a twist of something witty, stirred to embolden voices.



The Professional Advancement Committee

The CWBA's Professional Advancement Committee focuses on advancing women through recognition and mentorship. We all know numerous qualified women who deserve recognition. We encourage you all to pass along the names of these deserving women to the Professional Advancement Committee.

A FEW AWARDS WE NOMINATE MEMBERS FOR INCLUDE:

The CWBA's Mary Lathrop Award
The Davis Award
Denver Business Journal 40 Under 40
5280's Top Lawyers
CBA and DBA Awards
Colorado Judicial Institute Judicial Excellence Awards
DU Law Stars
CU Law School Alumni Awards

And more!

*Please email CWBA Executive Director
Kim Sporrer execdir@cwba.org
with names of deserving women.*