

CWBA Membership Committee At Work

by Catherine Shea and Alison Zinn, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

This year's Membership Committee is focused not just on obtaining new members, but also on retaining current members by listening and adapting to your changing needs. We want to make sure there's something in the CWBA for everyone!

The first event this year is the Membership Social, to be held on Monday, July 30, 2012 at Second Home in the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Cherry Creek, 150 Clayton Lane, Denver. Between 5:30 and 8:00, members (as well as potential members, spouses, and friends) will be treated to a drink, light appetizers, and social/networking time with both old and new friends for only \$19. That evening the Committee will also auction three big-ticket items for the benefit of the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado's "Colorado Wildfire Relief Fund," which provides assistance to those affected by the recent wildfires in the state, including victims, firefighters, and other first responders. Please join us and bring a few friends along.

In the fall, the Committee will host its annual Membership Reception during which members can mingle and learn about opportunities for participation in the CWBA. We also plan to take our membership

pitch on the road to local firms, government offices, and more remote locations throughout the state.

Another one of our goals is to bring back CWBA members from all generations by hosting "reunions" for law school graduates of various decades. We hope to renew and refresh interest in the CWBA for both current and former members by hosting events such as roundtable discussions across the generations and by sponsoring an event for our working-mother members.

Also in the works are new membership benefits, so you can get the most out of your involvement in the CWBA. One example is the revamped CWBA website, through which members will be able to join and renew online, as well as register for various events during the year.

The Committee looks forward to planning its upcoming year. If you have questions or would like to join this Committee, please contact co-chairs Catherine Shea at catherine.shea@gmail.com or Alison E. Zinn at azinn@wadeash.com. ♦

In this issue...

CWBA Membership Committee At Work	1
President's Letter: Professionalism and Helping Others - It's Our Oath	2-3
CWBA Legal Services Committee - A Renewed Commitment	3
35th Annual CWBA Convention:	
<i>"When Push Comes to Shove: Grace Under Pressure"</i> in Review	4-5
Public Policy: Highlights of the 2012 Legislative Session	6-7
CWBA Technology News	7
MAMAs Denver	7
"Cooking & Cocktails" - The CWBA holds a Lobbyist Fundraiser	8

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President's Letter: by Patricia M. Jarzobski Professionalism and Helping Others - It's Our Oath

Do you remember this:

"I will treat all persons whom I encounter through my practice of law with fairness, courtesy, respect and honesty; I will use my knowledge of the law for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system; I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed"

It is the Colorado oath of admission for attorneys.

Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Bender and Past CBA President David Masters have declared October 2012 Legal Professionalism Month in Colorado.

Why?

"[T]he civil justice system is at a crossroads and that, as a result, we all have new opportunities and old responsibilities. Four years ago, concerns about skyrocketing costs, unprofessional gamesmanship, and long delays in civil litigation were the stuff of grousing and shoulder shrugs. We all had a level of fatalism or cynicism about our inability to change any of those factors. Now, that is not true. There is a window of opportunity that has opened—a convergence of various forces resulting in a willingness of decision-makers to consider change."

Rebecca Love Kourlis, *Keynote Address: Civil Justice at a Crossroads*, Vol. XI: 3 *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal* (2010).



Patricia M. Jarzobski,
CWBA President

In 2011, Chief Justice Bender brought together the bar, the judiciary, and the law schools and established the Chief Justice's Commission on the Legal Profession.

The CWBA is a member of the Chief Justice's Commission.

Chief Justice Bender asked the bar associations to help take the lead in better addressing the needs of the legal profession and our community as a whole by:

- ▶ Promoting professionalism;
- ▶ Improving public attitudes toward the profession through a renewed dedication to *pro bono* service; and
- ▶ Increasing the training of and support for law students and new lawyers.

When the Chief Justice asks, we say yes!

There is a funding crisis in our community in providing legal services to low-income families. This crisis primarily affects women. The CWBA is authoring a special issue of *The Colorado Lawyer* in October 2012, which includes an article describing how women are disproportionately affected by cuts in

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President's Letter

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legal aid funding and highlighting options to address these funding shortages.

The CWBA's legal services committee is re-dedicated to providing actual legal services to those in need. The CWBA is partnering with the Colorado Lawyer's Committee's Legal Nights at Centro San Juan Diego to provide legal information and referrals for individuals and families who cannot afford legal services.

The CWBA's membership committee is hosting the summer membership social that will include a silent auction to raise funds for Colorado wildfire victims on July 30, 2012 at Second Home.

Some bar leaders describe the need for mentoring lawyers today as an emergency. The CWBA will continue to build supportive relationships between the different generations of lawyers and to provide a positive place where women can learn leadership skills. This fall, the CWBA's professional advancement committee will resume its successful program on self-promotion skills for attorneys.

During October's Legal Professionalism month, the CWBA is collaborating with the other specialty bar associations to hold a low-cost program called "Diversity in Colorado: Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We Need to Go."

The CWBA invites you to join us as we promote professionalism, as we re-commit to our pro bono responsibility, and as we serve our communities.

We need your help . . . it makes a difference! ♦

CWBA Membership Social and fundraiser for Colorado wildfire victims

Monday, July 30, 2012
Second Home Kitchen & Bar
150 Clayton Lane, Denver
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Contact the CWBA to register:
(303) 831-1040 or execdir@cwba.org

CWBA Legal Services Committee - A Renewed Commitment

By Shelly Dill Combs, Legal Services Committee Co-Chair

Colorado has been experiencing a legal aid crisis. Many Colorado families, including women and children, do not have access to legal services. Specialty bar associations have been asked to do more. Therefore, the CWBA Legal Services Committee is excited to announce a renewed commitment to providing legal services. Join the CWBA in renewing your commitment to provide this critically important service to the people of our community!

As part of our renewed effort, we have formed a partnership with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Denver Bar Association to provide legal services at El Centro de San Juan Diego at 2830 Lawrence Street, Denver. Mark your calendar and join us from 5:30-7:30 pm on September 5, November 7, February 6, and June 5. Pizza is served prior to volunteering to allow attorneys to come directly from the office.

No previous experience providing legal services is necessary - just you! First time volunteers are partnered with more experienced attorneys. A manual with referral information is provided to each volunteer. We are also in need of Spanish translators. Watch for upcoming e-mails with information on how to sign-up. We hope you will join us to help needy individuals in our community navigate the legal system.

We look forward to partnering with you in legal and community service opportunities, and we will share a variety of opportunities throughout the year. We will continue to host two volunteer evenings for Law Line 9, in December 2012 and in May 2013. We will host our annual Baby Shower in April 2013. We look forward to continuing to support our partner non-profits, CWEE, Wee Cycle, and the Gathering Place.

To be included in Legal Services Committee activities and discussions, mark the Legal Services box on your Membership form. Or e-mail Shelly Dill Combs at shelly.dill-combs@judicial.state.co.us or Ryann Fogel at RFogel@mfhlegal.com. ♦

35th Annual CWBA Convention: “When Push Comes to Shove: Grace Under Pressure”

by Rachel E. Ellis, 2011-2012 Convention Committee Co-Chair

The 35th Annual CWBA Convention, “When Push Comes to Shove: Grace Under Pressure,” took place June 8-10, 2012 at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa. Attendees were treated to perfect weather and a weekend of education, entertainment, and celebrations.

On Friday afternoon, the outgoing and incoming CWBA Board members enjoyed a Leadership Summit highlighted by the presence of many past CWBA presidents, and members of the CWBA Foundation Board. The Board members heard from these influential, inspirational leaders while they began the exciting task of planning for the upcoming year.

Nationally recognized jury consultant and NITA trainer Mary Ryan presented focus group research compiled over more than 20 years to help trial lawyers present and try cases more effectively. The lessons presented were referenced throughout the weekend, and we were privileged to learn from Mary’s time and expertise.

Honorable Janice B. Davidson of the Colorado Court of Appeals and Lynn Feiger, of Lohf Shaiman Jacobs Hyman & Feiger PC, were honored as this year’s Mary Lathrop Award recipients. The Friday evening ceremony included tributes to these incredible women from their family members, former colleagues, and esteemed guests.

Will Power and Grace, the very popular workout blending yoga and Pilates, was well-attended early Saturday morning and kicked off a full day of CLEs. The CLE panels included discussions on mock trials, keeping workplaces drama-free, mediation, women who run their own law firms, ethics and technology, and strategies for effectively handling media pressure.

Colorado Supreme Court Justices Nancy Rice and Monica Marquez presented a lively open forum for questions and answers at Saturday’s keynote luncheon. Attendees remained in their seats well after the close of the luncheon to hear how the prominent justices grace-

fully and graciously manage the pressures of their positions.

Nationally-renowned leaders in the fight against human trafficking shared their experiences prosecuting, investigating, and advocating for civil remedies and an end to this modern-day slavery. The audience was challenged to join in their efforts to increase awareness of the crimes being committed both locally and worldwide.

At Saturday evening’s business meeting, we honored Kara Veitch for her service as CWBA President, and passed the gavel to Patricia Jarzowski, whose preview of her goals for the coming year was well-received. A rock-and-roll-themed team challenge judged by Justice Rice closed out the evening with laughter and prizes.

After a sunrise hike, the Sunday morning Judges Panel featured specialty court judges from around the state who are pioneering drug courts, veterans courts, and other trail-blazing efforts to improve the justice system in Colorado.

The 35th Annual Convention celebrated how far we have come as an organization and honored many of the women who have made it possible. We were thrilled to have the generous sponsorship of many local firms and businesses and the time and energy devoted by our fantastic speakers. Mark your calendars for next year’s Convention and plan to join us as we continue this tradition! ♦

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CWBA Convention Keynote Speakers (L-R)
Justice Monica Marquez and
Justice Nancy Rice

35th Annual CWBA Convention - "Thank You"

(Continued from previous page)

Speakers

The CWBA extends our most sincere "Thank You" to the CWBA's 35th Annual Convention Speakers and Sponsors. ♦

Speakers

Dr. AnnJanette Alejano-Steele

Judge Roxanne Bailin

Ilene Lin Bloom

Eric Brown

Chris Craigmile

Kate Nace Day, JD

Lisa DeCaro

Amy C. DeVan

Janet Stansberry Drake

Tami Goodlette

Judge Tina Habas

Leslie Lawson

Andrea Lewis

Pamela Robillard Mackey

Justice Monica M. Marquez

Mindy Masias

Amy Miletich

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Nancy Hopf,

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Silver & DeBoskey

Kara Veitch (CWBA

President 2011-2012)

Wild Eggs

Williams & Rhodes LLP

Public Policy: Highlights of the 2012 Legislative Session

by Aponte & Busam Public Affairs

The 2012 session was productive with over 630 bills, resolutions and memorials introduced and debated. While many failed to move out of the opposite chamber due to political divides, many pieces of solid bi-partisan legislation did pass and will become law. As with previous years, the state budget commanded much attention throughout the session. However, economic forecasts proved to be more optimistic than originally expected and the FY 12/13 budget fared better than previous years.

2012 Legislation of Interest

HB 12-1139: Pretrial Detention of Children Tried as Adults (Rep. Levy/Senator Guzman)

HB 12-1139 changes the presumption in current law that juveniles who are charged as adults (a process known as direct filing) be detained pending a trial in an adult jail facility. Under the bill, such juvenile defendants are required to be held in a juvenile facility unless a judge determines, after a hearing, that the appropriate place of confinement is an adult jail. The bill gained widespread bi-partisan support and easily passed through both houses, unlike its companion bill HB 12-1271. *CWBA supported the bill by lending the organization's name to the fact sheet and communicating with both sponsors CWBA's level of support.*

HB 12-1151: Human Trafficking and Prostitution (Rep. McCann/Senator S. King)

HB 12-1151 strengthens the state's laws surrounding human trafficking, specifically regarding individuals convicted of trafficking in adults, trafficking in children, or coercion of involuntary servitude. *CWBA's public policy committee was asked to review and support this measure via one of its members. Learning that the bill had broad and deep support, CWBA directed its lobby team to monitor the bill through the process.*

HB 12-1256: Formula for Maintenance of Marriage Dissolution (Rep. McCann/Senator Mitchell)

HB 12-1256 creates a presumption that maintenance will be awarded to one of the parties in a dissolution of marriage action filed on or after July 1, 2012, and provides a formula for the presumptive award in cases where the parties meet certain income and duration of marriage criteria. *CWBA members discussed the proposal at length as members had differing viewpoints on the construction of the formula. At the request of the sponsor, Rep. McCann, the bill was postponed indefinitely and an interim work group was formed to discuss the issue for potential 2013 legislation. CWBA will be represented by Theresa Spahn and Lucy Denson on the*

work group, which is slated to begin work in mid-summer. This work group will be joined by designees from the CBA, AAML, Rep. McCann, CPA- member and the bill's proponents (Gina Weitzenkorn, Denise Mills, Helen Shreves and Mercedes Aponte).

HB 12-1271: Juvenile Direct File Limitations (Reps. McCann and Nikkel/Senators Giron and Neville)

HB 12-1271 raises the minimum age for direct filing to 16. Additionally, it limits the offenses for which a juvenile can be direct filed to class 1 or 2 felonies, violent sex offenses, and crimes of violence committed by prior violent juvenile offenders. Perhaps the most contentious element of the bill and most vigorously opposed by the District Attorneys, is the creation of a pre-trial "reverse transfer" hearing presided over by a judge. The bill faced stiff opposition from the DA's and Attorney General, and received considerable attention from the media. Ultimately the bill passed with bi-partisan support and the Governor signed the bill into law, despite intense lobbying to veto. *CWBA supported the bill throughout the process and provided lobbying assistance in both the House and Senate. In addition, the CWBA submitted a letter of support to Governor Hickenlooper urging his signature on this bill.*

SB 12-15: Optional Category of Tuition (Senators Giron and Johnston/Rep. Duran)

SB 12-15 authorizes the creation of an optional category of tuition at public institutions of higher education for Colorado's undocumented students. The new tuition category, called standard rate tuition, is applicable to undocumented students who have been enrolled in a Colorado high school for at least three years, have graduated or obtained a GED, and who are currently pursuing citizenship. Partisan politics played into the vote in the House Finance Committee, and the bill failed to move forward. *CWBA supported the bill throughout the process and provided lobbying assistance in both the House and Senate.*

SM 12-003: Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011 (Senator Neville/ None)

SM 12-003 called upon Congress to enact the "Respect for Rights of Conscience Act of 2011" and encourage President Obama to provide a religious conscience exemption to the requirements to cover certain health care services that conflict with religious beliefs. The memorial, merely a symbolic proposal with no force of law, was fiercely opposed by

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Public Policy: Highlights of the 2012 Legislative Session

(Continued from previous page)

the Senate Democrats who passed it out of the Senate Health Committee in order to have a recorded debate on the floor. Conversely, the Senate Republicans also felt strongly about the memorial and locked down for a three-hour plus debate. The CWBA Board voted to oppose the memorial at the request of partner organizations, and lent its name to a letter of opposition.

Looking Forward

The remainder of 2012 is shaping up to be a busy year politically in Colorado. In June, the Joint Budget Committee will convene to receive the quarterly economic forecast, which will likely close out the FY 11/12 budget with a transfer of excess revenue to the State Education Fund. Additionally, several interim committees will be meeting during the coming months. Ongoing committees include the Health Benefit Exchange Implementation Review Committee, Transportation Legislation Review Committee and the Water Resources Review Committee, and a non-funded study that will review the need for mandatory elder abuse statutes, amongst others. In addition, this year a committee was authorized to study Colorado's Enterprise Zone Designations and make legislative recommendations for the 2013 session.

Colorado voters will have many choices ahead of them as we enter the June primaries and November general election. Legislators will begin campaigning in earnest after the special session has concluded, as they race to raise money and campaign in their districts. The 2012 election will feature new district boundaries, and in some cases new districts as set forth in December 2011 by the formal redistricting and reapportionment process. Tempers are still high among some legislators who were pushed out of their districts or forced into primaries with their colleagues, and this election cycle will prove to be hyper-partisan. Primaries are held this year on June 23rd across the state. Many of these races actually determine the winner in the general election because of the voter registration composition in the districts.

In November, all 65 House districts are up for election, as well as roughly half of the Senate districts. As Colorado is a swing state in the Presidential election, we expect some down ticket repercussions of the national campaigns. Additionally, voters will have several ballot initiatives to weigh in on. To date, only one issue has been certified for the ballot, legalization of marijuana, however many others have titles and are gathering signatures for approval. As the deadline for the 2012 election gets closer, we will prepare a comprehensive report of the pending ballot initiatives and

resources for interested voters.

As always, thank you for the honor of representing your issues at the State Capitol, and we look forward to a continued partnership. ♦

CWBA Technology News

Visit our new website!

www.cwba.org

Expanded content, crisp navigation, and online registration are all features of our new and improved website.

We hope that you "Like us"

Visit the CWBA on Facebook



MAMAs Denver

Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association (MAMAS)

MAMAs Denver is a source of support for attorney mothers - a place to network, share experiences, learn from each other, problem solve, and talk about issues in an encouraging environment. Ongoing opportunities to connect: monthly lunches and weekend events with children, plus an online forum. Visit <https://www.bigtent.com/groups/mamasdenver>

No membership fees, no event fees, and no time commitment required!

The Advocate is published quarterly by the Colorado Women's Bar Association. The deadline for articles is the 1st day of the month prior to the publication month. *The Advocate* staff reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

Submit articles or comments to the CWBA, Attention: *Advocate* Editors, 6870 W. 52nd Avenue, Suite 125, Arvada, CO 80002, or to execdir@cwba.org.

Send change of address notices to Executive Director, CWBA, 6870 W. 52nd Avenue, Suite 125, Arvada, CO 80002. Phone: (303) 831-1040; Fax: (303) 539-3994; e-mail: execdir@cwba.org.

Visit our website at www.cwba.org

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The Colorado Women's Bar Association hosts a Lobbyist Fundraiser: "Cooking & Cocktails"

Join us for an evening of cooking lessons and wine tasting to support the CWBA Lobbyist. Have fun and work side by side with professional chefs while fully participating in everything being taught. (Or, sit back, socialize, and nosh on prepared food!) City Spirits will present a tasting to pair wines with the recipes being taught. Gourmet food, wine, CWBA members, and our lobbyists from Aponte' and Busam will make this a "don't miss" event!

Thursday, August 9, 2012 ♦ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Stir Cooking School - 3215 Zuni Street, Denver, CO 80211



Tickets: \$100 Individual ticket
Bring a non-CWBA member with you...
purchase a regular priced member ticket and
you can purchase non-member tickets
for only \$50 each!
Door prize to the CWBA member who
brings the most non-members.



This Fundraiser helps support the CWBA's ongoing lobbyist efforts.

(See the flier in this issue for all of the details and registration information.)

For more information about CWBA events and activities, visit the CWBA website at www.cwba.org, or contact the CWBA office at (303) 831-1040.