

LARIMER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FALL TERM DAY

MINUTES

March 6, 2020 9:00AM

Larimer County Justice Center, Jury Room

201 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado

1. **Call to Order:** President of the Larimer County Bar Association, Anda Stephenson, called the business meeting to order at 8:57 am.
2. **State of the Judiciary:** Chief Judge Stephen Howard spoke on the following topics: The state of the judiciary is changing. The new jury room has been completed since February 18, 2020. There has been construction in Loveland, oriented towards probation but the courtrooms will not be changing, just the court staff. Estimated completion of the construction in Loveland is in April of 2020. Larimer County continues to have changes in the judiciary – since last term day Judge Dean, Judge McDonald, and Judge Ellison joined the bench. Magistrate Spangler moved to the new courtroom that was completed recently which is a larger courtroom well suited for dependency and neglect. Judge French retired so there was additional movement between the courtrooms. Number one budget item in the judiciary is more magistrates to be appointed state wide, including in Larimer county. The County will need to find a location for the anticipated new magistrate. The selection process for the new magistrate is estimated to be started/completed March 11, 2020 and Judge Howard anticipates the new magistrate to begin on July 1, 2020. The entryway of the Justice Center was also reconstructed to accommodate the jury intake process because on jury trial days there would be long lines. With the new security setup (at the request of the sheriff's department), security is no longer allowing metal drink containers to be brought into the building. Janelle Brunin, the Court executive, is retiring and Kristin Sheeran will be taking over.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** LCBA treasurer Kara Clark reported that the bar association is on budget with no unexpected expenses or unexpected income. See the financials posted on the Bar Association's website.
4. **Court Resource Center** Ian Bonner and Tina Gomez reported that there have been increase in numbers in people served in the Court Resource Center ("CRC"). Last year the average number of people served was 27 people a day which translates to 8 hours of contact time with pro se litigants per day. The average is now 35 people a day, or 11 hours a day. The number of people served grew 27% from 2018 to 2019. In the beginning of this year the number of people served has grown 30% in the few months of this year. The CRC is now serving more non-English speakers. 35 people were served in 2018. In 2019 the CRC helped 95 people who are non- English speakers. In 2020, 27 people have already been helped. CRC credits and thanks Ben Roacha and the team of interpreters for the increase in the number of non-English speakers served. CRC holds ask-a-lawyer clinics on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 3-5pm on civil/domestic relations areas of law and is now approved to provide criminal defense clinics. The CRC is in need of criminal defense attorney volunteers. The CRC also offers domestic relations *pro se* class on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. The CRC began also offering an eviction class which hasn't had as much demand yet they are still developing and marketing the class. The CRC is working on power points on domestic relations issues to put online to assist *pro se* litigants. The next big event Family Law Day and they are still looking for 9 volunteers – 3 in AM 6 in PM.
5. **Access to Justice Committee:** Rebekah Berry-Chaney reported that Ask-a-Lawyer Day took place on October 25th. 97 people were served at this event. Those volunteers were recognized by name. Family Law Resource Day last year was held in April and served 76 people, 14 of those were walk-ins with 20 attorneys who volunteered their time. The next Family Law Day is scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2020. Volunteer attorneys are needed. Brooke Alexander Acosta is slated to take over on the ATJ committee as chair but Ms. Berry-Chaney will still be involved.

6. **Pro Bono Program:** Cody Knebel, program co-chair with Ben Kramer reported on behalf of the program. The Pro Bono program is designed to serve low income residence in Larimer County, with weekly intakes in Fort Collins and Loveland and monthly class. In 2019: 427 people 22 resulted in extended representation. Both the classes and intakes are staffed by attorneys. Mr. Kneble extended thanks to those who participated in the past.
7. **Women's Bar:** Heidi Whitaker provided the report. The mission of the Women's Bar is to promote women in legal profession, but anyone is welcome who is interested encouraging diversity in the profession. The Women's bar is hosting a CLE on human trafficking which will be the first in a series. Elections will take place on April 2nd at the Rio. The preliminary slate of members is anticipated to be Claire Havelda President, Renee Doak Vice President and there will be a liaison to Colorado Women's Bar, and Kelly Hult is the At Large member. The Women's bar hosted a breakfast in the fall which included a video conference with state legislature and county commissioner which was very successful.
8. **National Adoption Day:** Heidi Whitaker reported this event was held on November 22, 2019. 6 adoptions were performed by Judge Blanco and were formalized in her courtroom. The next National Adoption Day will be planned for the fall in November. The National Adoption Day committee is seeking donations to help pay for goodies, entertainment, and decorations to the event and volunteers to assist in collection of donations for this event.
9. **Mock Trial** Magistrate Linda Connors reported the Northern Colorado Mock Trial Tournament took place on February 21st and 22nd and was co-sponsored by the Larimer and Weld bar association. Together 6 teams and 8 schools were represented. Magistrate Connors extended thanks to all of the judges who volunteered, special thanks to Magistrate Christiansen who provided extra assistance, and thanks to all of the attorney and paralegal volunteers who served as scorers. Thanks also to the Young Lawyer Division, and especially Fred Long, who assisted in providing food for the events. Poudre High School came in second and will go to the state wide competition to represent Northern Colorado.
10. **Family Law Best Practices Committee:** Magistrate Linda Connors reported on behalf of Judge Julie Field who chairs the committee but was not available. The Committee is updating the list of PREs and PCDMs. A recent change is that they have transitions to having district court judges schedule their own trials. The district has met the state wide goal for age of cases. Upcoming brown bag CLEs including on how bankruptcy interacts with divorce. The committee is also considering new type of expert reports that could be limited such as a "voice of the child" report or a drug/alcohol evaluation. The Committee is hoping to develop and have a process to request these "expert-light" appointments this summer.
11. **Ethics Seminar:** Former Magistrate John Jostad reports that "It's a great day to be alive!" He also reports the Ethics Seminar is currently scheduled for April 22, 2020. Speakers will include all four of the new judicial officers as well as Jessica Yates (attorney regulations); Matthew Kurtz from the Department of Justice, and Jerry Pratt will be addressing Rule 116 and listserv sharing of information.
12. **Young Lawyers Division:** Fred Long reports the major event planned by the YLD is Law Day which is held on May 1, 2020. The theme this year is the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage. The YLD is still looking for a speaker for this event. Happy hours will continue rather than lunch meetings each month. The YLD will look to see if firms or other vendors would be interested in sponsoring these events.
13. **Family Law Section:** On behalf of the Family Law Section of the LCBA, Brook Alexander Acosta reports they held the first event on domestic relations issues with Magistrate Christiansen, Magistrate Majoros and Magistrate Connors. The Section is going to be hosting a CFI speed dating event to share knowledge on experts.

14. **Inns of Court:** Doug Stratton reported the Byron White Inn of Court meetings are held at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, at the Promenade Shops at Centerra, in Loveland. The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2020 at 5:45 p.m. The speaker will be Britton Morrell will present and discuss upcoming U.S. Supreme Court cases on balance of power, 1st Amendment- Religion, Trump's Tax Returns, DACA, 4th Amendment "Reasonable Suspicion," and Sex Discrimination. Membership is not required to attend. Non-attorneys welcome. The charge for non-members and guests/spouses is \$35, payable the night of the dinner by cash or by check made out to the Byron White Inn of Court. Now you can pick off the menu rather than having to indicate your meal selection in advance.
15. **Mentorship Program:** Ian McCargar reports the program pairs more experienced lawyers to less experienced lawyers to pass knowledge on. Contact Mr. McCargar (Windsor Town Attorney's Office) if you would like to serve as a mentor or be connected with a mentor. It's been a little slow but Mr. McCargar encourages attorneys to contact him so he can connect with a mentor or mentee.
16. **Library Committee:** Ian McCargar reports that despite not having a law library in Larimer County, the committee still meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at Silver Grill at 7am. Mr. McCargar invites any who might be interested to join the committee to lament the long lost library that used to be housed where the beautiful new jury room now stands.
17. **Steven J. Roy Scholarship:** Ian McCargar also reports that the ethics seminar net proceeds are the source of the Steven J. Roy scholarship program. One award is given each year to a high school student who intends to pursue a career related to the law. The fund is now endowed so will continue to contribute to the scholarship. Please consider at least paying the fee for the ethics event even if you cannot attend as it continues to support students interested in the profession and related fields.
18. **Continuing Legal Education Committee** Anda Stephenson reported for Renee Doak that the next event is co-hosted with the Women's Bar with a speaker from Free Our Girls on increasing trauma informed practices in the courts. The CLE will be held on March 11, 2020 over the noon hour in the jury room at the Justice Center. The committee is intending on hosting a series of related CLEs on trauma informed practices.
19. **Introduction of New Lawyers:** Sara Stieben introduced the following new lawyers with her usual cheekiness and humor reminiscent of Roger Clark's famous attorney introductions.
- Matthew Hinrikus with Gast Johnson & Muffly from Nebraska;
 - Lawrence Glasner from Southern California is working as a mediator in employment, tort, business, civil litigation;
 - Bruce Campbell with Blue Dot Advocates is from Pittsburgh via Washington D.C. and is an experienced corporate attorney;
 - Cassandra Wich joins Hadfield Stieben & Doult having graduated from D.U. undergrad and John Marshall in Chicago. She now lives outside Chyenne, WY but practices here in Fort Collins;
 - Matthew Chudacoff joins Coan, Payton & Payne practicing in the areas of business, real estate, natural resources, and employment matters;
 - Kimberly Penix originally from east coast relocates to Fort Collins from Denver and practices mainly appellate law in both civil and criminal law;
 - Steven McFarlan, originally from Ogden UT relocated via Boston and is now in Fort Collins practicing in family law and civil litigation.
20. **Nominations of Executive Board Officers.** Ms. Anda Stephenson nominates the following:
- a. President – Art Spiciatti
 - b. Vice President – Kara Clark
 - c. Treasurer – Rebekah Berry-Chaney

d. Secretary - Heidi Whitaker

No other nominations are made to the above officer positions. The vote is unanimous in favor of the election of the above officers.

21. Term Day Activities were announced:

- Lunch at Block One
- Bowling at Chipper's Lane – there is still time to get on a team!

22. Ms. Stephenson adjourns the meeting at 10:22 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebekah Berry-Chaney, Esq.
LCBA Secretary