

The Advocate

A Publication of the Colorado Women's Bar Association

Vol. 34, No. 1 • 2011-2012 Summer

CWBA Membership Committee At Work

by Holly Gummerson and Gina Weitzenkorn, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

The Membership Committee, lead by Holly Gummerson and Gina Weitzenkorn, is at work and has started making plans for the year.

We would love for interested CWBA members to attend Membership Committee meetings, to discuss upcoming plans for the Membership Committee and how to reach out to potential new CWBA members. Details about upcoming meetings are posted on the CWBA's website, www.cwba.org (see Calendar, CWBA Events).

In addition, our first event for the 2011-2012 year will be a "Membership Social" at the Uptown Tavern, 538 E. 17th Avenue, Denver, on September 22nd from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15.00 for CWBA members and \$20.00 for non-members. Please plan to join us, and bring non-members!

If you have questions about the Membership Committee or want to get involved, contact Gina Weitzenkorn at 303-292-1441, gbw@mwlawpc.com or Holly Gummerson at hgummerson@clarkandassociatespc@gmail.com. We look forward to working with each of you to ramp up CWBA membership! ♦

**CWBA
Membership
Social**



Thursday, September 22, 2011

The Uptown Tavern
538 E. 17th Avenue, Denver
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

**COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR
ASSOCIATION**



The CWBA's 2011-2012 Membership year has begun, running August 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012.

Membership forms have been mailed, contact the CWBA office at (303) 831-1040 or execdir@cwba.org should you have any questions.

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President's Letter: by Kara Veitch

"Why I Joined the CWBA"

I joined the CWBA for three reasons: networking, mentoring, and getting involved in something bigger than myself, and I found each of these things as a member.

The CWBA offers opportunities each year to network. I have even been the beneficiary of several referrals over the years. What I didn't know when I joined is that I would find so many friends at the CWBA! Each year, the CWBA hosts a Membership Mixer, which is scheduled for later this summer. I invite you to attend. Who knows who you will meet?

Although the CWBA no longer has a formal mentoring match program, it provides numerous opportunities for young lawyers to meet with more seasoned lawyers. I was fortunate to find several fabulous women through the CWBA that were willing to mentor me. These women had a profound effect on my career.

The CWBA impacts our community in several ways. The Legal Services Committee offers *pro bono* clinics and holds events to benefit organizations like CWEE (Center for Work Education and Employment), Family Star and the Gathering Place. But the biggest impact the CWBA has is through our lobbyist and the Public Policy Committee, which provide a unique experience and are a great influence to our work. Please con-

sider joining one of the CWBA committees.



Kara Veitch,
CWBA President

Several years ago, Judge Claudia Jordan and I served on a Board together. I told her I was interested in getting involved with the CWBA, and the next thing I knew I was co-chair of the Professional Advancement Committee. It was a wonderful introduction to the Board. I am now honored to be the CWBA's President.

I'm inspired by so many of you. You work tirelessly to better the lives of women and children in our communities by volunteering as CASAs, with Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, the Colorado Lawyer's Committee, and as *pro bono* attorneys in domestic and juvenile cases; you serve on countless boards; and you still find ways to be successful attorneys and mothers.

I am grateful to the new CWBA Board, which has already met to plan our year. I can promise you that there will be something for everyone. We hope to see you at a CWBA event in the near future. ♦

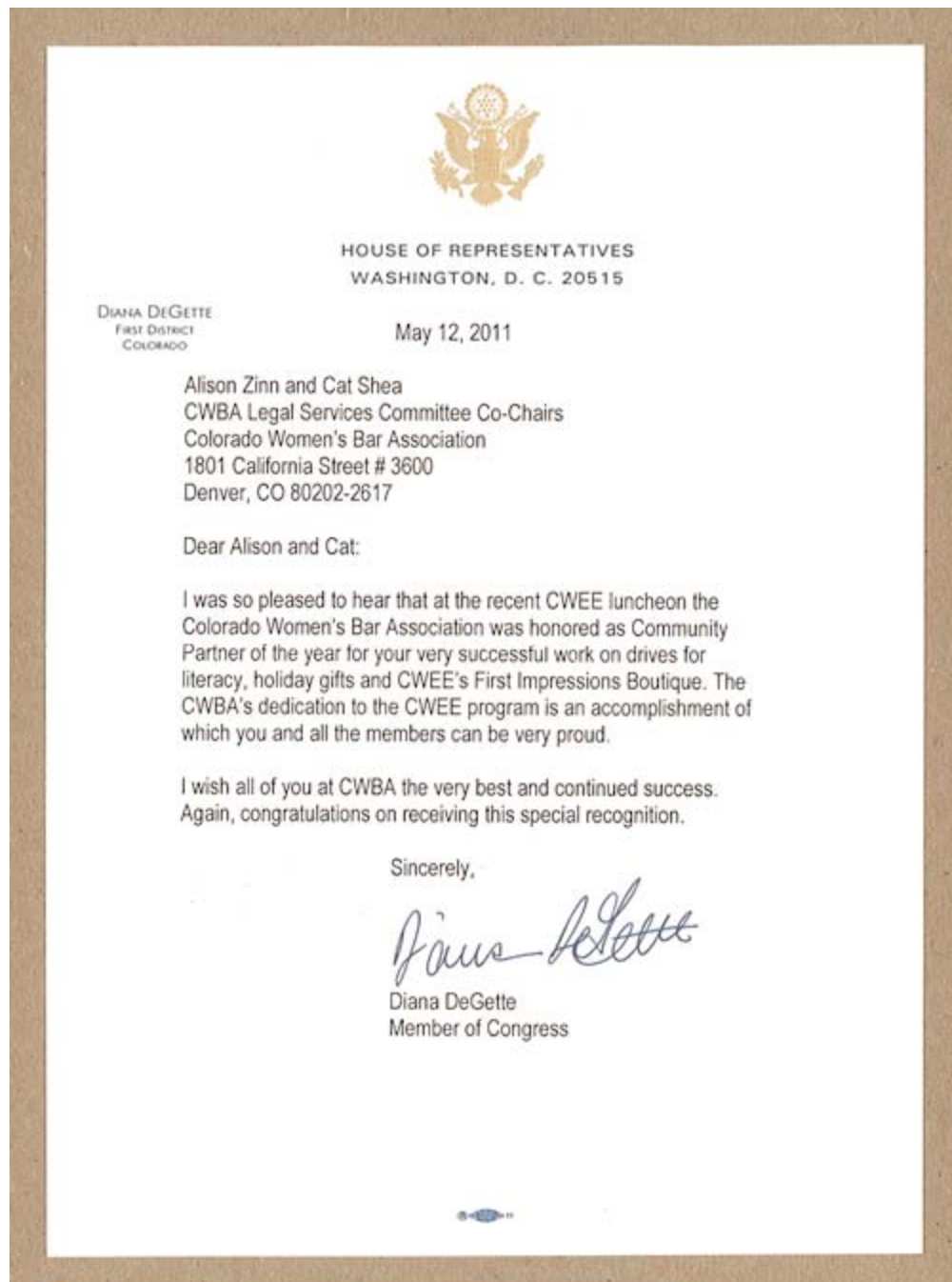
Congratulations to Legal Services Committee

by Advocate Staff

The work of the CWBA's 2010-2011 Legal Services Committee, Co-Chaired by Catherine Shea ("Cat") and Alison Zinn, was recognized in April when the CWBA was recognized as "Community Partner of the Year" by The Center for Work Education and Employment ("CWEE"). CWEE works to provide job training and placement to help

low-income single parents develop and expand the skills and confidence necessary to obtain continuous, meaningful employment and career advancement.

U.S. Representative Diana DeGette sent her "congratulations" to Alison and Cat, and the CWBA, for the Committee's work and accomplishment. ♦



34th Annual CWBA Convention: “We Make Better Leaders” in Review

by Rachel E. Ellis, Convention Committee Member

The 34th Annual CWBA Convention entitled “We Make Better Leaders” took place in Vail from June 10th – 12th. The Convention Committee Co-Chairs, Holly Gummerson and Susan Klopman, along with their committee and our Executive Director Mary Holverstott, put together a lively, educational, and entertaining weekend.

The Convention kicked off with a Leadership Summit for outgoing and incoming CWBA Board members, with many stories exchanged about the history of the organization and enthusiastic plans made for the future.

Our Friday afternoon NITA program was entitled “Leading by Doing: Refresh Old Skills and Experiment with New Ones.” Attorneys at many stages of practice benefitted from the interactive program. In addition, Friday night’s Mary Lathrop Award was bestowed upon the Honorable Mary A. Celeste. We were honored to present this award to an outstanding member of the CWBA and our legal community.

Bright and early Saturday morning, attendees packed a room to enjoy “Will Power & Grace,” a barefoot balanced workout offering strength, cardio, and stretching guided by instructor Mariah Smith.

Saturday’s CLEs included a mix of topics of interest to both transactional and trial lawyers. Our Keynote address during Saturday’s Luncheon was delivered by Theresa Spahn (CWBA President 2007-2008), where she shared her love for the CWBA and the lessons she recently learned as a Denver mayoral candidate.

The Ethics presentation included laughter and applause as the Law Club provided a unique combination of wit, song, commentary and marvelous costuming. The Law Club flattered us by calling the CWBA the best audience they’ve ever had.

Saturday evening the CWBA President’s gavel was passed, from Lucy Hojo Denson to Kara Veitch. We

thanked Lucy Hojo Denson for her tireless service as President. Entertainment - “Team Up for Trivia” - followed, which was a roaring success.

Sunday consisted of a Sunrise Hike before brunch and our much-loved Judges Panel. Panelists included Judge Adele Anderson (El Paso County Court-Retired), Judge Janice Davidson (Colorado Court of Appeals), Judge Catherine Lemon (Denver District Court), and Magistrate Rebecca Moss (18th Judicial District).

We could not have had a successful Convention without the support of our sponsors. As you know, Convention Sponsors are a vital factor in making the CWBA Convention a success year after year. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your generous support. We would also like to thank our speakers and attendees for being part of the Convention. It was wonderful to share the weekend with you and we hope that you will join us next year! ♦

Save the Date

35th Annual CWBA Convention
June 8 - 10, 2012

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa
Vail, Colorado



34th Annual CWBA Convention - In Review

(continued from previous page)

by Rachel E. Ellis, Convention Committee Member

The CWBA extends our most sincere “Thank You” to the CWBA’s 34th Annual Convention Speakers and Sponsors. ♦

Speakers

Judge Adele K. Anderson - Pueblo County Court – retired
Judge Robbie M. Barr - JAG - Judicial Arbiter Group Inc.
Judge Laurie A. Booras - Colorado Court of Appeals
D. Myndie Brown - Nestle USA
Cindy Ha Dang - Cindy Ha Dang & Associates
Judge Janice B. Davidson - Colorado Court of Appeals
Stephen Fairley - The Rainmaker Institute
Carol Hildebrand - Sherman & Howard LLC
Lisa Hogan - Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP
Hollynd Hoskins - Leventhal Brown Puga PC
Victoria V. Johnson - Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Susan Klopman - Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP
Judge Catherine A. Lemon - Denver District Court
Mark F. Leonard - Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP
Marie H. Lowe - Law Office of Marie H. Lowe
Bernadette "Ginger" McGuire - McGuire Law Firm PC
Joseph Middleton - Temkin Wielga & Hardt LLP
Magistrate Rebecca Stepien Moss - 18th Judicial District
Blaine D. Myhre - Isaacson Rosenbaum PC
Neeti Pawar - Neeti Pawar LLC
Nora Pincus - Wellborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley PC
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Anderson Hemmat & Levine LLC
APABA Foundation
(Asian Pacific American Bar Association Foundation)
Barkley Martinez PC
Betzer Call Group LLP
Carleton Gotlin Law PC
CHBA (Colorado Hispanic Bar Association)
Lucy Hojo Denson (CWBA President 2010-2011)
Killmer Lane & Newman LLP
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Helen Shreves, Family Law Dispute Resolution
Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley PC

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Murphy Decker Hensen & Cook-Olson PC
Neeti Pawar LLC
Paula M. Ray PC
Silver & DeBoskey PC
Kara Veitch (CWBA President 2011-2012)

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Public Policy: Recap of 2010-2011, and Looking Forward

by Shannon Stevenson, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

The 2011 Session called our attention to eleven important pieces of legislation. All of these bills were debated and discussed in relation to CWBA priorities of women, family and children involved in the legal system. A tremendous thank you to our lobbyists, Aponte & Busam, for all of their help on these issues!

We actively focused on three bills:

■ **HB 1290 Pay Day Lending (Liston/Heath)**

The bill specifies that a lender may charge a nonrefundable origination fee. This legislation negated a rule issued last summer which stated that the origination fees were refundable. A big “thank you” to Pat Madsen for again testifying on CWBA’s behalf. The bill died in the Senate Committee but regained traction as the summer-time rule was revived when the payday lending industry slipped an amendment on to Senate Bill 78 with twenty-four hours left in the legislative session. Through much intense negotiation with Senate and House leadership, Governor Hickenlooper stepped in to remove the rule – the crisis of a special Session averted.

■ **SB 72 Civil Rights in the Workplace (Carroll/Levy)**

CWBA was an early supporter and coalition member in the efforts to bring state remedies in line with federal anti-discrimination law (Title VII). Through much activity, lobbying, and member-to-legislator outreach calls, CWBA was an active partner in this endeavor. Special “thank you” to our envoy members, Christie Susie and Mary Jo Lowry, for their helpful communication throughout this process and to Monica Rosenbluth for her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. With all efforts made, sadly, the bill died on a party-line vote in the House State Affairs Committee. The Coalition (comprised of several dozen interested stakeholders), will reconvene soon for renewed efforts in the 2012 Session.

■ **SB 126 Tuition Equity “Colorado ASSET: Assisting Students for A Stronger Economy**

Tomorrow” (Giron and Johnston/Miklosi and Williams)

CWBA joined the Higher Education Access Alliance to support the passage of legislation which would create a new classification of students at state supported institutions of higher education. Had the bill passed, it would have made college affordable for qualified undocumented high school graduates by allowing them access to colleges and universities in Colorado at in-state tuition rates. Monica Rosenbluth led the way in bringing CWBA into this coalition. As with the Civil Rights in the Workplace efforts, prepare to see this group continue their mission and work on this issue in the 2012 Session.

In addition, we met with legislators and/or provided amendment language on numerous other bills, including the following:

■ **HB 1145 Availability Background Check for Child Care (McCann/Tochtrop)**

CWBA met with Rep. McCann and learned that this bill was written to close a loophole in background checks. As passed and signed by Governor Hickenlooper on 5/9/2011, the bill requires all child care workers to have a fingerprint-based criminal history record check through both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The bill applies to workers hired on or after August 10, 2011. CWBA had concerns and questions regarding the parental access to records. This portion of the legislation was eventually removed.

■ **HB 1183 Death Certificate Indication If Pregnant (Bradford/Spence)**

CWBA worked quickly with both sponsors and opponents to bring some balance into this legislation. Language was amended in to clarify that the pregnancy-related information applies only at the time of death, and not to the preceding 12 months, and that it only applies when an autopsy is required per current statute. The bill was signed by Governor Hickenlooper on 3/31/2011.

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Public Policy: Recap

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■ SB 34 Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect Cases (Nicholson/Summers)

CWBA met with Senator Nicholson and learned that Women, Infants and Children (WIC) educators were the only category of professional not authorized to report cases of abuse and/or neglect. Because WIC educators get to know families well in their routine visits over the course of several years, it was determined that they be added to the list of mandatory reporters. The bill sailed through the legislative process smoothly with the only measured opposition coming from a small handful of legislators who do not believe in ANY mandatory reporting - regardless of the matter. The bill was signed by Governor Hickenlooper on 4/22/2011.



Public Policy Committee Meetings. We welcome and encourage anyone to participate on the Committee and to become involved in these and other public policy issues. Visit the CWBA's website, www.cwba.org (Calendar, then CWBA Events) for committee meeting details.

Annual CWBA Legislative Appreciation Breakfast. This year's Breakfast is scheduled for November 16, 2011, 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., further details to be announced. We encourage you to join us at this popular annual event, to meet and talk with Colorado legislators, and to personally thank those who have worked on legislation in the interests of women and children. ♦

CWBA Board Begins Work

By Advocate Staff

The CWBA Board of Directors for 2011-2012, elected at the Convention in June, is already hard at work planning CWBA events and activities, CLE programs, community and legislative involvement, and working to help CWBA members connect.

CWBA Board members bring a variety of background and experience to their work with the CWBA. Practice areas represented include law firms, judicial careers, government work and solo practices. From law student representatives to those in practice over 30 years, the CWBA Board enjoys a diversity of perspectives.

It is this diversity, combined with enthusiasm for the CWBA and Board service, that promises to deliver a year full of activities offering "something for everyone."

We hope that you will join us at our October 18th Membership Reception, being held at the offices of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, 1801 California Street, Suite 4200, Denver (5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) This is a great opportunity to meet CWBA Board members, and learn more about the work of CWBA Committees and our plans for the 2011-2012 year. ♦

Save the Date for the Annual CWBA Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Offices of Haddon Morgan and Foreman PC
150 E. 10th Avenue, Denver ❖ 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Admission is free for current CWBA members!

Further details to be announced.

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) 831-1064; e-mail: execdir@cwba.org.

Visit our website at
www.cwba.org

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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.