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the Advocate

A Publication of the Colorado Women's Bar Association



Annual Business Meeting & 2022-2023 Board Election

SPECIAL EDITION



COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Meet the Candidates for your 2022-2023 Board



PRESIDENT:
KATHRYN STARNELLA

Kathryn handles civil litigation at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state court. Kathryn has been a Member at Wells, Anderson & Race LLC, and will soon return to public service at the Colorado

Attorney General's Office. She clerked for the Honorable Christine M. Arguello. Kathryn has led the CWBA's Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Sex Discrimination in the Judicial System. She previously co-chaired the Professional Advancement Committee and served as CWBA's Secretary. In 2018, she served as president of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA), as well as the CHBA's representative on the CWBA board.



PRESIDENT-ELECT:
EMMA GARRISON

Emma is an Assistant Attorney General in the Tax Unit of the Colorado Department of Law. Emma joined the CWBA in 2014, and has previously served as Co-Chair of the Convention, Membership, and

Judicial Committees, and as the CWBA Secretary. She has also held many leadership positions in the Colorado legal community over the years, including Chair of the Colorado Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and Senior Vice-President of the Colorado Bar Association. Emma is the current host of On What Grounds?, CWBA's virtual leadership café.



VICE PRESIDENT:
ALISON CONNAUGHTY

Alison is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Cyber Crime and National Security Section of the District of Colorado United States Attorneys' Office. She was in the Special Prosecutions Section of the

Colorado Attorney General's Office from 2015 through 2021, and the Jefferson County District Attorneys' Office from 2010 to 2015. She has co-chaired the CWBA's Public Policy and Judicial Committees prior to her current role as Vice President.



SECRETARY:
REAGAN LARKIN

Reagan is a partner at Messner Reeves LLP where she practices real estate and commercial litigation. She has been an active member of the CWBA's Public Policy Committee and Programs

Committee since 2017 and 2019, respectively. Reagan received her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, and her B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Colorado. Reagan was recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2016 through 2020. In addition to the CWBA, Reagan is actively involved in the Legal Aid Foundation's Associates Campaign Advisory Board and the Real Estate Section of the CBA.



TREASURER:
MONICA ROSENBLUTH

Monica works for the Clean Transportation division of Xcel Energy, where she manages the electric vehicle rebate and charging optimization programs. Prior to joining Xcel, Monica practiced

public finance and local government law for many years. Monica has been active in the CWBA throughout her career and has previously served on the Board of Directors. Monica also sits on Latin American Educational Foundation Board. She obtained her MBA from the University of Denver Daniels College of Business, her JD from the University of Wyoming College of Law, and her BA from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Monica lives in Denver with her two daughters.



INCLUSION OFFICER:
CARIME LEE

Carime is a Staff Attorney with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority where she advises the home finance business units to make home ownership more accessible to Coloradans. She has

served as one of the Publications Committee Co-Chairs since 2020. She is honored to be a member of the inaugural Class of the Colorado Bar Diverse Attorney Community Circle as well as the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation's Spring 2022 Impact Denver Class. She hopes to bring the breadth of knowledge and experiences from these diverse leadership programs to her new position on the CWBA Board.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:
GINA L. GLOCKNER

Gina has over 17 years of experience defending complex civil litigation cases and representing clients in professional liability, licensing and compliance matters. She is currently

the Senior Claims Manager and Claims Counsel for SCL Health, where she manages professional liability, general liability, and employment practice liability claims across the health system. She received her B.A. in both English and French from Dickinson College, and her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School.

Since moving to Colorado in 2012, Gina has been actively involved with the Colorado Women's Bar Association where she has served most recently as President of the organization. In addition, Gina has held the roles of President-Elect, Vice President, and Co-Chair of the Public Policy and Legal Services Committees. From 2018 to 2020, Gina also served as a director on the board of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, and is a graduate of the 2020 Colorado Bar Association Leadership Program (COBALT).

Gina lives in Denver with her husband and three children. She enjoys traveling, tasty food, regular fitness, and summers on the lake in Canada and Minnesota, where she grew up.

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Vote Now



CONVENTION:
KENDRIA PEARSON

Kendria is a shareholder at Sheridan Ross P.C., an intellectual property boutique. Kendria’s practice focuses on all aspects of intellectual property from counseling clients on general intellectual property

protection and drafting utility and design patent applications to performing trade secret audits and enforcing clients’ patents or trademarks in court. Kendria received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado and is a licensed patent attorney. She also completed a work-study abroad opportunity in Regensburg, Germany from 2004 to 2005. Kendria received her J.D. from the University of Colorado Law School.



SALLY ROLLER

Sally leads the Title IX and education law practice area at Investigations Law Group. She conducts Title IX and workplace investigations for various entities, especially K-12 schools and higher education institutions.

Previously, Sally has clerked for a judge, litigated medical malpractice actions, and worked at the Colorado Attorney General’s Office in K-12 Education Unit.

Sally graduated from Boston College with a double major in secondary education and history as well as a minor in special education. She received her Master of Education in Moderate Special Needs from Boston College. Sally then graduated from Villanova University School of Law.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION:
JENIPHER JONES

Jenipher is a civil and human rights attorney and Partner at O’Connor, Jones: A People’s Law Firm, LLC. Jenipher also manages The LEVITATE. Institute for Well-

Being, Social Awareness, and Servant Leadership, an endeavor aimed at promoting the positive emotional well-being and growth of law students and lawyers. Jenipher litigates complex civil rights cases involving prisoners’ rights, law enforcement misconduct, and employment discrimination. Her written work has been featured in both domestic in both domestic and international publications. Jenipher has also advocated for the rights of prisoners in the United States before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the United Nations Association, and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. As a legal educator, administrator, and member of the Executive Committee for the American Association of Law Schools (AALS), Balance Section and Scholarship Committee, she promotes diversity and wellness in the legal profession, particularly among law students and lawyers of color.



AZRA TASLIMI

Azra is an attorney at Rathod | Mohamedbhai whose practice consists of litigating civil rights and employment claims on behalf of individuals. She began her legal career at the Innocence Project in New York, working with

incarcerated individuals on exoneration through DNA testing. The experience helped her understand the criminal justice system, but more specifically exposed her to the shortcomings and inequities inherent in the process. She went on to become a Public Defender in New York and thereafter in Denver, working to protect and enforce the rights of people being shuffled through the system. The focus of her law career has been to advocate for equal justice, equal access and equal protection for all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, or other status.



HISTORY:
RHODA PILMER

Rhoda is an Assistant District Attorney with the Adams County District Attorney's Office. Rhoda has committed her career to public service and has been at the District Attorney's office for

over sixteen years. She is a passionate advocate for victims and works to ensure community safety. Rhoda received her undergraduate degree from the University of Portland and law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.



LAURA RATCLIFFE

Laura is Senior Counsel in the Government Section of Hanson Bridgett, a California-based law firm. She represents a variety of public and private entities in real estate, environmental, water, and municipal law matters. Her practice largely

focuses on public agency real property law, particularly for large public infrastructure projects.

Laura moved to Denver from Los Angeles in 2017. She likes to explore the city and the mountains with her husband and three kids. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. This is her second year as Co-Chair of the History Committee.



JUDICIAL:
LAURA CRAMER-BABYCZ

Laura is an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado, where she prosecutes violent crimes. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Laura was a Deputy District

Attorney in the Denver DA's Office for three years. Prior to that she was a Litigation Associate at Perkins Coie LLP. Laura has also clerked for the Hon. Carol Bagley Amon in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and the Hon. Reena Raggi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Laura graduated from Harvard Law School in 2012.



ANDREA BRONSON

Andrea is an associate attorney at Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLC. Her practice focuses on regulatory, litigation and transactional counseling in environmental and natural resources law, with a particular focus on matters involving

the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and water rights issues. Andrea previously served as co-chair of the Professional Advancement Committee in 2020 and 2021. Originally from Maine, Andrea earned her BA in International Studies and French from Colby College. She then packed up, moved west, worked in translation for a while, and later earned her JD from the University of Denver.



MIKAYLA SHEARER

Mikayla is a Senior Associate and supervising attorney at Burnham Law, P.C. Mikayla focuses her practice in the area of family law where she believes she can make the biggest impact with her skillset. Promoting access to

justice is incredibly important to Mikayla, and she is passionate about taking on pro bono opportunities and participating in legal clinics in her community. Mikayla is a first generation college graduate, and proud mother of two special needs children. This will be Mikayla's first year serving as Co-Chair for the Judicial Nominating Committee and she is excited to participate in this role.

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LEGAL SERVICES: DAWN GOULD

Dawn is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dawn was first admitted to practice law in Maryland and the bulk of her legal career was as an Assistant State's Attorney for

the Frederick County State's Attorney's Child Support Division where she prosecuted contempt and violation of probation cases for failure to pay child support and conducted countless trials to establish paternity and to establish, modify, and enforce child support. Dawn later transitioned into private practice where she expanded her legal proficiency to include divorce, custody, domestic violence, prenuptial agreements, and adoptions. Dawn is also admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and Maryland and Colorado.

Outside of office, Dawn enjoys spending time with her family, volunteering for All-Stars Club, her church, and community, golfing, fishing, and cooking.



DEBORAH YIM

Deborah is the founding attorney of the Primera Law Group, where she represents employees and small businesses in employment and civil rights matters. Previously, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central

District of California, as an employment attorney for the Department of the Interior, and as a commercial litigator at Reed Smith. She currently serves as the community outreach chair for APABA Colorado, as legal counsel for the Asian Real Estate Association of Denver, and as an appointed Commissioner to the City of Denver's Immigrant & Refugee Commission. Deborah is also a member of the Federal Pro Se Panel and Faculty of Federal Advocates' Diversity & Inclusivity committee. She is passionate about empowering our youth through education and founded a children's literacy program called Kids Reading to Succeed.



MEMBERSHIP: SYLVIA B. GEIGER

Sylvia is a solo practitioner, primarily working as a Guardian ad Litem for Dependency and Neglect cases. She perviously took conflict cases from the Public Defender's Office and worked as an Assistant District

Attorney in Wisconsin. In her free time she enjoys road trips with her family, sewing and playing board games.



HANNAH SEIGEL PROFF

Hannah is a trial attorney who has represented hundreds of adults and juveniles in criminal and delinquency cases over the last twelve years. Hannah is the co-founder, and acting executive director for the non-profit Learn

Your Rights in the Community (LYRIC), an organization that teaches young people about their constitutional rights. Hannah makes pro bono representation and community activism a priority; she feels strongly that everyone, no matter their means, should have access to quality legal representation. She represents victims of human trafficking as a volunteer attorney for the Alliance to Lead Impact in Global Human Trafficking (ALIGHT). Hannah also represents clients in expungement and deregistration cases as a pro bono attorney for the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC). Hannah is also passionate about mentoring the next generation of lawyers. She volunteers as a mentor for the Professional Mentoring Program at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and the Law School...Yes We Can program.



AD HOC MENTORSHIP:
WHITNEY TRAVIS KELLY

Whitney is VP, Deputy Counsel with Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership, a national mortgage lending company, where she advises the company on various corporate, employment and litigation matters. Originally from Florida, Whitney attended Florida State University before moving to Virginia to attend Washington & Lee University School of Law. She practiced in corporate bankruptcy for several years on the East Coast before moving to Denver. Whitney and her husband are in the process of renovating a 1970s split level in Lakewood, where they will live with their 4-year-old daughter.



KARIN B. WILLIAMSON

Karin is a partner at Childs McCune, LLC defending licensed professionals in malpractice lawsuits and before regulatory boards and defending businesses in complex civil litigation. For nearly ten years as Public Defender in Denver, Karin specialized in defending sexual crimes and the mentally ill. Her vast trial experience in both criminal and civil defense affords her clients holistic representation.

As the eldest daughter of immigrant parents, Karin appreciates the richness and challenges of growing up in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual community. She and her husband are balancing two legal careers while raising two strong-willed mini-mes in their diverse Park Hill community.



PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT:
HON. COLLEEN CLARK

Judge Clark was first appointed to the bench in January 2015. She has worked as a municipal judge, magistrate, and currently sits as a county court judge in Arapahoe County, Colorado. Prior to joining the bench Judge Clark worked around the state as a prosecutor in the rural jurisdictions of Eagle, Summit, Clear Creek and Lake and the metro jurisdictions of Adams and Arapahoe. Although she prosecuted all types of cases, she specialized in victim crimes and crimes against children. Judge Clark is a member of the International and National Associations of Women Judges and is the District Director for Colorado, Arizona, Utah and Wyoming. Judge Clark has been part of numerous problem-solving courts from wellness courts focusing on mental health to truancy. Judge Clark serves on the Judicial Wellness Committee, the Senior Judge Committee and writes a blog for moms on the bench. She spends every day supporting and championing for moms in the courthouse. She originally hails from upstate New York where she received her B.A. from the University of Rochester and then her J.D. from Boston University. She spends her free time wrangling horses, ponies, kids and dogs. She currently oversees an entirely criminal docket.



CHRISTINE WASHBURN

Christine is a trial attorney and managing member of her own law practice. Prior to starting her firm, Christine spent nearly twenty-three years as a prosecutor with the Denver District Attorney's Office. While there, she specialized in handling murder, felony domestic violence, sexual assault, and felony child abuse cases. In addition to the CWBA, Christine is a member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association and South Asian Bar Association of Colorado. Christine graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1995 and a Juris Doctor in 1998.



PROGRAMS:
NATALIE PETRUCCI

Natalie is the Colorado Staff Attorney at A Better Balance, a national workers' rights and policy nonprofit organization. Previously, Natalie worked as an immigration attorney in both the

private and nonprofit sectors. She focused her practice on protecting survivors of persecution and gender-based violence from deportation. In her free time, Natalie continues to represent immigrant clients on a pro bono basis with RMIAN and co-chairs the Colorado American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Access to Services Committee. Natalie is a graduate of UCLA School of Law and the University of Florida. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Panama.



HON. REBEKAH WATADA

Judge Watada was appointed as Associate Judge for the Westminster Municipal Court in October 2021. Additionally, she serves as a Relief Judge for the Aurora Municipal Court. She attended Emory University and graduated from the University

of Colorado at Boulder. She received her J.D. from the University of Denver. Over the course of her 17-year legal career, Judge Watada has primarily focused on complex litigation handling criminal and civil matters. Her CWBA Board Service began in 2021, as co-chair of the Programs Committee. As an active member of the CWBA since 2015, she has served on the Judicial and Programs Committees. She is also an active member of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations and member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA).



PUBLICATIONS:
CHELSEA AUGELLI

Chelsea is an associate at Wells Family Law, P.C. and focuses exclusively on family law matters. Originally from Colorado, Chelsea attended the University of Denver for her undergraduate degree

and subsequently attended law school at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Chelsea has gained a breadth of experience early in her career and was selected as a Colorado Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2022. Chelsea joined the CWBA as a law student and has been actively involved on the Public Policy Committee.



JUSTINE PIERCE

Justine is an Assistant Attorney General in the Health Care Unit at the Colorado Department of Law, where she represents the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Colorado Department of Public

Health and Environment. Justine recently returned to Colorado after spending three years in Singapore, where she worked as Assistant Vice President of Global Legal for Fullerton Health and served on the board of directors of an association dedicated to the professional advancement of women. Justine has participated on the Publications Committee for several years, and serves as the current co-chair.

45th Annual CWBA Convention
May 20-22, 2022

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PUBLIC POLICY:
ARIANA BUSBY

Ariana is an attorney at Nathan Dumm Mayer, practicing civil litigation, administrative, and regulatory law in variety of practice areas including public entity, health care, professional liability, premises liability, insurance coverage, and campaign finance. Ariana’s government and policy background includes serving as the Director of the Mental Health Boards with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. She also previously served as Chief of Staff for the Colorado State Senate, after working her way up the ranks from a Policy Intern to Policy Analyst and then Policy Director. Ariana is an appointed member of the CBA Legislative Policy Committee.



MEAGAN MOODIE

Meagan is a founding Partner of Gebhardt Emerson Moodie Bonanno (“GEM Family Law”), specializing in a diverse range of family law matters as an attorney, mediator, CFI, and PCDM. A Denver native, Meagan moved back to Denver after attending law school in St. Louis. She opened her own firm in 2014 and joined forces to create GEM Family Law in 2018. She now lives in southeast Denver with her husband, their two pups, and their newborn son. Meagan has been recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyer, Rising Star, and Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch. She works closely with Family Tree and Project Safeguard to help those in need navigate their difficult family law situations. She attended Regis University in Denver for undergrad and Saint Louis University School of Law for law school.



ELLEN TRACHMAN

Ellen founded Trachman Law Center, LLC in order to bring dedicated and compassionate legal representation to those wishing to build a family through assisted reproductive technology, including surrogacy, egg, sperm, and embryo donation. Originally from northern New Mexico, Ellen attended undergrad at the University of California, Berkeley, and law school at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia. Ellen is licensed to practice law in Colorado, New Mexico, California, and Montana. Ellen writes a regular column on assisted reproductive technology legal issues for Above the Law and co-hosts the podcast I Want To Put A Baby In You.

The board composition also includes additional appointed representatives from the following organizations:

- CWBA Chapters: Boulder, El Paso, Larimer, Mountain, Pueblo, and Weld
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado
- Colorado Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Bar Association
- Colorado Hispanic Bar Association
- Sam Cary Bar Association
- South Asian Bar Association of Colorado
- Law Students from University of Colorado Law School and University of Denver Sturm College of Law

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AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE:
HON. SUSAN BLANCO

Judge Blanco is the Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial District and was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper in January 2017. She has presided over criminal, civil, probate, domestic relations, and

terminations and adoptions. Prior to the bench, she served as a Deputy District Attorney followed by over a decade in private practice focusing on criminal defense, juvenile delinquency, dependency and neglect, and municipal prosecution.

Judge Blanco graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in 2000 and her J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2003. Her engagement of the community to collaborate on projects with the Judicial Branch include the development of the first Competency Court in Colorado and a Latinx task force focused on improving access to justice for minority populations. Currently she serves on the Chief Judge's Council, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, the CBA Criminal Law Executive Council, the CWBA Board of Directors, the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training planning committee, and the Colorado Diverse Attorney Community Circle planning committee.



SONIA RUSSO

Sonia is an Assistant Attorney General at the Colorado Department of Law in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. She clerked twice at the New Mexico Court of Appeals and at U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. Prior to clerking, Sonia prosecuted violent

felonies at the Second Judicial District Attorney's office in Albuquerque, NM, and was a litigation associate at Modrall Spering, also in Albuquerque.

Sonia is a proud alumna of Brown University and Boston College Law School. At her law school commencement ceremony, Sonia was awarded the Susan Grant Demarais Award for Excellence in Clinical Work for her work as a student attorney in the BC Law Prosecution Clinic. Among other honors from the ABA, Sonia was recognized on the ABA's 2021 On the Rise Top 40 Young Lawyers list. Her interests include going on adventures with her adopted shelter dog, Milo, travel, performing and visual arts, and tennis.



COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE:
HON. JACLYN CASEY BROWN

Judge Brown was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals in June 2019. From 2016 - 2019, she served

as a District Court Judge in the 17th Judicial District, handling domestic relations and civil matters. Previously, Judge Brown was a litigation partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, where she practiced complex commercial litigation, real estate and construction litigation, and eminent domain. She obtained her law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is actively involved in several bar associations and professional/community organizations.



CENTER FOR LEGAL INCLUSIVENESS:
SARA SCOTT

Sara is a thought leader, anti-racist and expert in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI). She currently serves as the CEO of the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, a Denver-based non-

profit bringing EDI solutions to the legal community. Sara was one of the first to graduate from Stanford University with a Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity degree. While at Stanford, Sara won the community building award, and she went on to earn her J. D. from The George Washington Law School. Sara has been largely recognized for her training and the programs she brings to the legal community and was recently named Law Week's Top Women in 2021. Sara is a proud Denver native and graduate of Denver East High School.

**BOLD
VOICES.
BOLD
VISIONS.**

45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

CWBA
COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

We encourage you to join us for our

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the
Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort & Spa

REGISTER FOR CONVENTION NOW

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