It’s Time for Convention!

Annual Business Meeting & Election Notice

The CWBA’s Annual Business Meeting will be held at the 39th Annual CWBA Convention on Saturday, May 21, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at The Sebastian Hotel in Vail, Colorado. At that time, the 2016-2017 CWBA Board of Directors will be elected.

I strongly encourage you to attend in person. We have an amazing Convention planned. Among other things, Friday afternoon will offer ethics credit and will feature famed Life Balance, Inc. President, author, and speaker Mary LoVerde, who has appeared four times on Oprah.

On Saturday morning we will hear from Keynote Kathryn Ruemmler, who served President Obama as White House Counsel for six years and was awarded the Department of Justice’s highest award, in part for her role in the Enron prosecutions.

Over lunch on Saturday, Facebook Deputy General Counsel Ashile Beringer will talk about controlling the narrative in technology matters, and why women are essential to that mission.

On Saturday afternoon, University of Colorado Law School Professor Melissa Hart will moderate a panel of experts, including Dana Bolger, who was named by Politico Magazine as a top 50 influencer of 2015 (at age 24), on the important issue of campus sexual assault.

And Sunday morning, a panel of judges including “Judge in Residence” Court of Appeals Judge Terry Fox, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs, District Court Judge Kandace Gerdes, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Craig Shaffer will provide helpful insights to practitioners and respond to questions.

In other words, you don’t want to miss Convention this year. But if you are unable to attend, you may use the ballot and proxy forms enclosed with this correspondence to cast your votes for the 2016-2017 CWBA Board.

BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS:
If you do not plan to attend the Business Meeting in Vail, please mark your ballot, PRINT and sign your name where indicated, and mail it to the CWBA by close of business on Tuesday, May 17, 2016:
Colorado Women’s Bar Association
P.O. Box 1918
Denver, Colorado 80201

OR use the Proxy Form if you wish to have another CWBA member vote at the Meeting on your behalf. You should sign the Proxy Form and give it to your appointed Proxy to bring to the Business Meeting with your ballot. Do not mail your Proxy Form to the CWBA.

For those planning to attend the Business Meeting, please use the ballot form provided (with this correspondence or posted on the website) to cast your votes in person.

We’ve had a tremendous year, and we are very optimistic about the year ahead. Many thanks to President-Elect Sarah Chase-McRorie for leading the Nominating Committee charge. The entire Board appreciates the work of this year’s Nominating Committee to recruit and fill commitments for the proposed slate of Board members, officers, and committee chairs.

If you have any questions about the annual Business Meeting or the election, please contact Executive Director Kim Sporrer at (303) 831-1040 or execdir@cwba.org.

Thanks for your membership and commitment to the CWBA. Hope to see you at Convention!

Jessica Brown is a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLP specializing in employment law, e-discovery, and class action litigation.
Meet the Candidates for your 2016-2017 Board

PRESIDENT:
SARAH CHASE-McRORIE

Sarah Chase-McRorie is Senior Legal Counsel for Matrix Financial Solutions, Inc., a Broadridge company, and oversees the legal department for the business unit based in Denver. Matrix is one of the nation’s largest providers of back-office, trust, custody, trading and mutual fund settlement services for financial institutions. Her practice focuses on the financial services industry and the corporate retirement and institutional services business. Sarah is a graduate of Colorado State University and California Western School of Law. Sarah is a member of the Broadridge Women’s Leadership Forum and the Association of Corporate Counsel’s Emerging Leaders Group; and sits on the planning committee for the Libations for Life fundraising event for the CU Women’s Cancer Clinics. She also is an active member of CWBA and prior board positions include Professional Advancement Committee (2009-2011), Public Policy Committee (2011-2013), and Programs Committee (2013-2015).

VICE PRESIDENT:
ALISON ZINN

Alison Zinn is a partner at Lindquist & Venuum, LLP. She is a trial attorney who focuses her practice on trust and estate litigation, particularly wills, trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, probate fiduciaries, beneficiary disputes, removal proceedings, and pursuit of non-probate assets. In addition, Alison accepts guardian ad litem appointments for the elderly and the disabled. Before turning her focus to trust and estate litigation, she represented commercial clients in various industries. Alison served as CWBA President during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

SECRETARY:
Catherine “Cat” Shea

Catherine (Cat) Shea is an Assistant Regulation Counsel for the Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel. In that capacity, she investigates and prosecutes attorney discipline and disability, law examiner, magistrate, and judicial matters at trial and in appellate proceedings. Cat received her undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University and her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. After a brief stint in private practice, Cat clerked for the Honorable Robert D. Hawthorne at the Colorado Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel, she served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Colorado in the Business & Licensing Section for nearly five years. Cat is a member of the Colorado Bar Association’s Ethics Committee and Professionalism Coordinating Council and has served on the CWBA’s Board of Directors since 2010.

PRESIDENT-ELECT:
WENDY WEIGLER

Wendy Weigler is Of Counsel with Winzenburg, Leff, Purvis & Payne, LLP, following a merger with Lansky, Weigler & Porter, P.C., a women-owned law firm Wendy founded in 2006. Wendy’s practice focuses on community association law, including the representation of condominium communities and homeowners associations throughout Colorado. She received her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Albany in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 1994. Wendy is a member of the Colorado Bar Association, the Denver Bar Association and CWBA, where she served as Judicial Committee Co-Chair (2008-2013), on the Executive Committee (2013-2016) and as a mentor. She also served two terms on the Board of the National Conference of Women’s Bar Associations, where she was on the Executive Committee and chair of the Awards Committee. Wendy is a frequent lecturer on condo and HOA law and has published several articles in industry publications.
TREASURER:
GRETCHEN MOORE

Gretchen Moore is a Tax & Accounting associate at Harper Hofer & Associates, LLC. She provides tax planning, tax preparation, and litigation support services related to tax and accounting. Gretchen has previous experience in both the public and private sectors that span a vast array of clients and entities. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. This will be her third year as a non-attorney member of CWBA and her first to serve as Treasurer.

HISTORIAN:
JANET DRAKE

Janet Stansberry Drake received her Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1996. After 10 years as a trial attorney in private practice, Ms. Drake became a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Special Prosecutions Unit at the Colorado Attorney General’s office. As an attorney in the Special Prosecutions Unit, Ms. Drake investigates and prosecutes organized and complex, multi-jurisdictional crimes. She prosecutes a diverse caseload that has included human trafficking, homicides, drug trafficking, motor vehicle theft, mortgage fraud, trademark infringement and identity theft.

Ms. Drake is also a past-president of the Colorado Women's Bar Association. She cherishes the personal and professional relationships that have developed as a result of the Colorado Women's Bar Association.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:
JESSICA BROWN

Jessica Brown, a partner in Gibson Dunn’s Denver Office, specializes in employment law and class action litigation. She has been ranked by Chambers USA for 12 consecutive years as one of ‘America’s Leading Lawyers for Labor & Employment’ and she won the Denver Business Journal’s “Outstanding Women in Business” award for the Law category in 2015. She was also a finalist for that award in 2013 and 2014 and was named one of the DBJ’s Denver’s “Forty Under 40” in 2006. Jessica is a frequent author and speaker on employment law and professional development issues. She is a member of her firm-wide Diversity Committee and also served as Denver office Hiring Partner and member of the firm-wide Professional Development Committee for many years. She is Past Chair of the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado and Chair of the Development Committee for Stanley British Primary School. Before joining the firm, Jessica clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Jim R. Carrigan and received her law degree from UT in Austin, where she served as Executive Editor for the Texas Law Review and graduated with High Honors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
KIM M. SPORRER, APR

Kim Sporrer joined the CWBA in July 2014 as Marketing Director and was appointed as Executive Director in April 2015. Kim reports to the CWBA’s President and Board of Directors and is responsible for strategic leadership and management for the effective achievement of the CWBA’s mission and goals. Kim brings 26 years of public relations, marketing, and communications experience to the CWBA, including 15 years with nonprofit organizations and 11 years with PR agencies in Colorado and Iowa. She was previously Director of Marketing & Communications for The Women’s Foundation of Colorado. Her work has been recognized with numerous local and national awards. In 2007, Kim earned her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR), a distinction held by less than 25 percent of PR practitioners in the world. Kim has also served on several nonprofit boards, including as 2013 President of the Public Relations Society of America, Colorado Chapter. She is an alum of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation’s “Impact Denver” program.
CONVENTION:

RYANN FOGEL

Ryann Fogel graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in Business in 2005 and from the University of Denver College of Law in 2009. Since graduating, she has worked as a Judicial Fellow for the 18th Judicial District, as a contract attorney at Reilly Pozner, LLP where she focused on commercial litigation, and as an Associate at McConnell Fleishner & Houghtaling where her law practice consisted of professional liability defense, typically in legal malpractice actions. Currently, Ryann is taking a break from the active practice of law to raise her son. This will be Ryann's sixth year serving on the CWBA Board. Previously, Ryann was actively involved with the CWBA Legal Services Committee for three years, serving as Co-Chair of that committee for two years. She has also served as the Co-Chair of the Membership Committee for one year, Co-Chair of the Convention Committee for 2014-2015, and Co-Chair of the Programs Committee for one year.

JUDICIAL:

MEGAN ROSE

Megan Rose works at Gordon & Rees and has experience in Professional Liability Defense, Commercial Litigation, and Intellectual Property Litigation. Before joining Gordon & Rees LLP, Megan served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Nathan B. Coats in the Colorado Supreme Court. Megan is active in the community serving as a board member for the Colorado Women's Bar Association, as a committee member in the Colorado IP Inn of Court, as a mentor to a college student in Law School Sí Se Puede, and as a coach for a high school mock trial team. Previously, Megan externed for the Honorable Neil M. Gorsuch at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, externed for the Honorable Michael E. Hegarty at the U.S. District Court of Colorado, and served on the board for the Colorado Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Division.

SARA PAPPAS BELLAMY

Sara Bellamy is Assistant Regional Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel for the Social Security Administration (SSA). She advises and represents the agency in employment matters, as well as disability benefits appeals. Prior to working at SSA, Sara practiced civil litigation at Davis Graham & Stubbs in Denver and Heller Ehrman in San Francisco. She received her law degree from Stanford and her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia. She volunteers with Reading Partners Colorado and has been an active member of the CWBA Judicial Committee since 2014.

Cast Your Vote!

Please complete your ballot and bring it with you to Convention.

If you are not attending Convention, please mail your ballot to the CWBA office.

If you plan to have someone submit your ballot for you at Convention, please give the Proxy Form to them with your ballot.
LEGAL SERVICES:

GINA GLOCKNER
Gina Glockner is an associate at Martin Conklin P.C., specializing in medical malpractice and civil litigation defense work. She is a graduate of Dickinson College and Brooklyn Law School, and is a member of the Colorado, Connecticut and New York bars. Since moving to Colorado in 2012, Gina has been active in the CWBA and has served on the Public Policy Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Convention Committee. She lives in Denver with her husband and three children.

SALLY ROLLER
Sally Roller is an Assistant Attorney General in the K-12 Education Unit at the Colorado Attorney General’s Office. She represents the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Colorado Charter School Institute. Previously, Sally was an associate at McConnell Fleischner Houghtaling, LLC, where she represented professionals involved in medical and legal malpractice actions. Sally earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston College, Masters of Education from Boston College, and her law degree from Villanova University School of Law. She has previously served as Co-Chair of the CWBA’s Legal Services Committee and as Co-Chair of the Publications Committee.

MEMBERSHIP:

CASEY CASSINIS
Casey S. Cassinis is a partner at Schaden & Cassinis, PLLC where she represents clients in a variety of matters requiring litigation expertise including personal injury, bad faith insurance, and contract disputes. Ms. Cassinis has litigated in state and federal courts across the country. Ms. Cassinis has been recognized as a Colorado Super Lawyers “Rising Star” since 2014, and she is a member of the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 under 40 and the Global Directory of Who’s Who. Ms. Cassinis earned her undergraduate degree in business from the University of Colorado and her law degree from the University of Denver. Ms. Cassinis is licensed to practice law in Colorado and Florida. Ms. Cassinis has proudly served on the Board of the Colorado Women’s Bar Association since 2012.

WHITNEY BECK
Whitney Beck was born and raised in the small town of Kokomo, Indiana and moved to Denver, Colorado five years ago where she started her own firm, Whitney K. Beck, Attorney at Law. As a licensed trial attorney in both Indiana and Colorado, Whitney focuses her practice in the areas of personal injury and family law. She has been a member of the CWBA and the Membership Committee for the last three years. She earned her undergraduate degree from Miami of Ohio. After living in South America for a year, she moved back stateside and earned her J.D. from Indiana University - Bloomington.

Register Now!

39th Annual CWBA Convention
May 20-22, 2016
The Sebastian-Vail
PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT:

MELANIE K. CORRIN (Personal Capacity)
Judge Melanie Corrin was sworn in as an Immigration Judge with the Department of Justice’s Executive Office for Immigration Review in June of 2015. Prior to her appointment to the immigration bench, Ms. Corrin worked in private practice and focused solely on immigration law, where she has served on numerous national and local committees including the Colorado Women’s Bar Association Board (2013-2015), the American Immigration Lawyers Association Colorado Chapter Executive Committee (2008-2014), and the Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee (2010-2015). Judge Corrin is a member of the Colorado Bar, and she earned her bachelor of arts degree in 1999 from University of Central Florida and juris doctorate in 2002 from the New England School of Law.

ELIZABETH HOWARD
Elizabeth Howard is an attorney at Childs McCune LLC where she focuses on litigation involving professional negligence defense. Prior to joining Childs McCune LLC, Elizabeth practiced family law, representing clients in all types of domestic relations matters. Before beginning her career in private practice, Elizabeth clerked for the Honorable Russell Carparelli of the Colorado Court of Appeals. Elizabeth was named as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine in 2016. Elizabeth earned her undergraduate degree and Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver. Elizabeth graduated number eight in her law school class, and received several awards for achieving the top grade in a class. During law school, Elizabeth served as an officer for the Legal Association of Women, first as Event Coordinator and then as President. Elizabeth is passionate about mentoring young lawyers. She puts that passion to work as a mentor for DU law school students, and in her role leading and coordinating CLE trainings for new lawyers through her Inn of Court.

PROGRAMS:

ELIZABETH MECK
Elizabeth Meck is an associate at Holland & Hart LLP. She has been a member of the CWBA since 2010, previously serving on the membership committee and programs committee. Elizabeth received her J.D. from the University of Denver in 2012. She also received her Master’s degree in Education from the University of Denver and her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia. Elizabeth's practice is concentrated in all aspects of estate and wealth transfer planning, complex and disputed estate and trust administration, and fiduciary litigation. In addition to the CWBA, Elizabeth is an active member of the Colorado Bar Association's Trust and Estate section and is involved with community organizations focused on education and women’s health issues.

DEBORAH O’NEIL
Deborah (Debbie) O’Neil is Vice President at Assured Equity Management Corporation where she works with business owners of privately held companies to help them identify and implement their business and estate planning objectives. Debbie received her J.D. and LL.M. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and is licensed in Colorado and Michigan. Debbie is on the Board of Trustees of the CO-WY Chapter of the National MS Society and is a member of the Financial Development Committee of the Metropolitan Denver YMCA. Debbie holds the Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional (CFP®) designations. Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® and CFP® in the U.S. Debbie offers securities and annuity & insurance products through AXA Advisors, LLC (NY, NY/member SIPC) and AXA Network, LLC respectively, which do not provide legal counsel or services and which do not own or operate Assured Equity Management Corporation. #102057 (03/2015)(exp 03/2017)
PUBLICATIONS:

DIANE WOZNIAK

Diane Hankins Wozniak is a family law attorney in Berenbaum Weinshienk’s litigation practice. Diane clerked in Arapahoe County District Court for the Honorable Judge Cheryl Post and the Honorable Judge Charles Pratt. Diane has served on the Membership and Judicial committees for the CWBA. Diane graduated magna cum laude from the University of Oklahoma in 1999 and earned her law degree from the University of Houston in 2006. In her spare time, Diane enjoys spending time with her husband, dogs, family and friends as well as running, yoga, food and travel. Diane is a member of the Runners Roost racing team and has completed more than 14 marathons, including multiple Bostons and two Ironman triathlons.

MONICA ROSENBLUTH

Monica Rosenbluth is an attorney with the law firm of Butler Snow LLP, where she practices in the public finance/ tax credits department and has served as counsel in connection with a variety of tax-exempt bond financings in several states. Monica is a frequent speaker in Colorado on various legal and public finance topics, including the fiscal challenges our state faces due to its current Constitutional structure. She graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder and University of Wyoming College of Law and has co-chaired the CWBA’s Public Policy Committee, Professional Advancement Committee, and now the Publications Committee. Monica grew up near City Park in Denver, and she and her family now live a few blocks from her childhood home. Her two daughters attend Denver Public Schools.

PUBLIC POLICY:

ALLI GERKMAN

Alli Gerkman leads Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers, a national initiative of IAALS (Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System) that works with a consortium of law schools and legal employers, educators, lawyers, and judges, to align legal education with the needs of an evolving profession. In addition to her work with the CWBA, she is a commissioner of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professional Development; a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Advisory Committee's subcommittee on Limited License Legal Technicians; and a member of the National Advisory Council for Law School Transparency. She served as CWBA Public Policy Committee Co-Chair for 2015-16 and as Professional Advancement Committee Co-Chair for 2014-2015.

SARAH PARADY

Sarah Parady is a partner at Lowrey Parady, LLC, where she practices plaintiff’s-side employment and civil rights law. Sarah received her J.D. (Order of the Coif) from New York University School of Law, where she served as Executive Editor for the NYU Law Review and as a Hays Civil Liberties Fellow. After law school, she received a Skadden Fellowship to build a foreclosure prevention program at Colorado Legal Services. Sarah is President of the Plaintiff Employment Lawyers Association and a former law clerk to the Honorable Carlos F. Lucero of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.
CWBA REPRESENTATIVE TO CBA BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

MICHAL LORD-BLEGEN

Michal Lord-Blegen is a founding partner of Wohl Stetler Lord-Blegen, a Denver law firm focusing on family law and mediation. Michal often serves as an expert in education-related cases included teacher dismissals and school choice. She received her undergraduate degree from Hood College in 1990 and her J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2009. Before moving in to the law, Michal worked as a teacher and principal for 18 years. Michal is a member of the Colorado Bar Association, the Denver Bar Association and CWBA, where she served as a member of the Professional Advancement and Convention Committees. She also serves as the President of the School Board for RiseUp Community School, an alternative high school in Denver, and has just been named to the board of Colorado Ethics Watch. Michal has lectured on topics including the impact of domestic violence on children, and parenting plans for children as they mature.

AT–LARGE REPRESENTATIVE:

SARAH DOMKE

Sarah Domke is a Deputy District Attorney for the First Judicial District of Colorado. In that capacity, she prosecutes adult felony matters. Sarah received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and her law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. In 2012, she left the practice of law and the state of Colorado to travel the world for one year. Upon her return she worked as a contract attorney before returning to the District Attorney’s Office in the fall of 2014.

MIRANDA HAWKINS

Miranda K. Hawkins is a partner at Goddard & Goddard, P.C., specializing in estate planning and administration. She has previously served on the CWBA Board of Directors and as a member of the Professional Advancement Committee and Convention Committee. Miranda is also a member of the Women’s Estate Planning Council, Denver Mother Attorney Mentoring Association, Trust and Estate Section of the Colorado Bar Association, and the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the American Bar Association. She received her law degree from the University of Denver in 1999 and her undergraduate degree from Baylor University in 1996.
AD-HOC COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE:

LISHA McKINLEY

Lisha McKinley is a litigation associate at Silver & DeBoskey, P.C. She received her J.D. from the University of Colorado Law School in 2008. Lisha served as Co-Chair of the CWBA’s Convention Committee in 2011-2012 and the Professional Advancement Committee in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. In addition to the CWBA Board of Directors, she is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association. Lisha was the 2011 recipient of the Bryan S. Gardner Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the El Paso County Bar Association. Her practice focuses on business and real estate litigation.

AT-LARGE NON-ATTORNEY LEGAL PROFESSIONALS REPRESENTATIVE:

JENNA KLOS

Jenna Klos is a licensed CPA and an associate at Harper Hofer & Associates, LLC. She provides business valuation, marital dissolution, and litigation support services. Jenna has previous experience in both assurance and advisory accounting services for public, private and government clients. She is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This is her second year serving on the CWBA Board of Directors.

Register Now!
39th Annual CWBA Convention
May 20-22, 2016
The Sebastian-Vail

Cast Your Vote!

Please complete your ballot and bring it with you to Convention.

If you are not attending Convention, please mail your ballot to the CWBA office.

If you plan to have someone submit your ballot for you at Convention, please give the Proxy Form to them with your ballot.