

# Boulder COUNTY

## BAR ASSOCIATION

## CBA PRESIDENTIAL VISIT LUNCH

Please join us on Wednesday, January 17 as we welcome CBA President Judge Nathaniel Baca at Murphy's Tap House (585 McCaslin Blvd, Louisville) from 12:00 - 1:15 pm. Judge Baca will be discussing current happenings at the CBA. Special thanks to our event sponsor, Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP.

We look forward to seeing you at our first event of 2024! This event is capped so please register quickly to secure your spot. \$20 for BCBA members for lunch. Please click [here](#) to register.

**Volunteer  
for 2024  
Mock Trials  
Page 5**

**Special thanks to our event sponsor**



**BERG HILL**  
**GREENLEAF RUSCITTI<sub>LLP</sub>**

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, January 17**

**CBA Presidential Visit Lunch**

Special thanks to event sponsor [Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP](#)

12:00 - 1:15 PM @ Murphy's Tap House  
(585 McCaslin Blvd)

\$20 for BCBA Members

[Please click here to register](#)

[Please click here to sponsor](#)

**Tuesday, January 23**

**Updates in Colorado Wage and Hour Law**

Presented by Victoria Guzman

12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA office (3269 28th St.)

Free for BCBA Members

[Please click here to register](#)

[Please click here to sponsor](#)

**Thursday, January 25**

**BCBA Criminal Law Section Membership Lunch**

12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA office (3269 28th St.)

\$20 for Section Members

[Please click here to register](#)

[Please click here to sponsor](#)

**Thursday, January 25**

**BCBA Bowling Night**

Special thanks to event sponsor [Martin Law Office LLC](#)

5:00 - 6:00 PM @ University Memorial Center CU Boulder (1669 Euclid Ave)

\$10 for BCBA Members

[Please click here to register](#)



**Every Wednesday**

**Bagels with the Bar**

8:30 - 10:00 AM @ BCBA Office (3269 28th St.)

Free for BCBA Members

**Tuesday, January 30**

**Are You A Trauma Informed DR Attorney In Instances of High Conflict Divorce?**

Special thanks to event sponsor [Our Family Wizard](#)

Presented by Christy Stewart

12:00 - 1:00 PM @ BCBA Zoom Meeting Room

Free for BCBA Members

[Please click here to register](#)

**Friday, February 9**

**& Saturday, February 10**

**Boulder County High School Mock Trials**

Volunteers needed!

[Please click here to register](#)



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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## EMILY ELLISON

Happy New Year! I hope you had a happy, healthy, and restful holiday season. As we move into 2024, I'm grateful for your continued support of the BCBA and am looking forward to exciting new events and programs.

In my first President's Page, I mentioned how the BCBA's softball team leads to many authentic connections and friendships. A playful environment and working to achieve something together as a team is conducive to building authentic relationships with others. This allows members to connect in an informal setting.

This leads to why I'm excited to share that in 2024, we have several new events that are geared towards playfulness, hobbies, and team building. On Thursday, January 25 at 5:00pm, please join us for an evening of bowling at the aptly named Connection Lanes at CU Boulder. There will also be billiards, if anyone prefers pool over bowling. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other members in a casual and fun environment.

Then, on February 22nd, come out and play pickleball with the BCBA at Boulder Pickleball. If you're like me and haven't ever played pickleball, don't worry, there will be an instructor teaching the basics. Come see what all the rage is about and enjoy a playful evening with BCBA members. If there's enough interest, maybe a BCBA pickleball team could be in the cards for 2024.

On January 17th, join us for lunch at Murphy's Tap House in Louisville with CBA President Judge Nathaniel Baca. Come share a meal with and get to know your CBA President. Judge Baca is a District Court Judge in the Sixth Judicial District and we are grateful that he is coming to Boulder County to visit with us and share updates from the CBA.

I want to thank everyone who participated in December's Precious Child Gift Drive and made a



child's holiday season special. It was moving to see all of the many bikes and toys that were compiled at the BCBA office just waiting to be wrapped and delivered to children.

Thank you to the members and their guests who attended the Holiday Party. We enjoyed singing and dancing to songs from throughout the decades while playing musical bingo. Thank you to BCBA President-Elect, Carolyn Steffl, for warming us up by making Gluhwein and hot apple cider, and BCBA Treasurer, Liz Parker, who satisfied our sweet tooth by making delicious holiday sweets at the holiday party.

The BCBA will continue to host weekly Bagels with the Bar on Wednesday mornings. This event is typically held at the BCBA office, however, once a quarter Bagels with the Bar is held in Longmont. We hope you can join us for a Moe's bagel soon.

When the weather warms up, I intend to plan more BCBA hikes for members and their furry companions. So, stay tuned for more fun and exciting events.

I look forward to connecting with you in 2024 and wish you a happy, healthy, and safe new year.



# BCBA BOWLING NIGHT AT CU BOULDER



Picture courtesy of The Connection

Please join us on Thursday, January 25 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm as we host an evening of bowling for BCBA members at The Connection lanes at CU Boulder. We will also have 2 billiard tables reserved for our group. **Special thanks to our event sponsor, [Martin Law Office LLC](#).**

We look forward to seeing you at our first event of 2024! This event is capped so please register quickly to secure your spot. \$10 for BCBA members, \$25 for nonmembers. **[Please click here to register.](#)**

## 2024 MOCK TRIALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2024 Boulder County Mock Trials will be held at the Justice Center on February 9 and 10, and we are looking to fill our Scoring and Presiding Judge slots. Please help us ensure we have the volunteers we need!

**Friday Session 1 (1:00 - 3:30 pm)** – need 5 presiding judges and 15 scoring judges

**Friday Session 2 (3:30 - 6:00 pm)** – need 5 presiding judges and 15 scoring judges

**Saturday Session 1 (8:30 - 10:30 am)** – need 5 presiding judges and 15 scoring judges

**Saturday Session 2 (10:30 am - 1:00 pm)** – need 5 presiding judges and 15 scoring judges

The volunteer sign-up link below also includes a link to the case and all of the rules.

**[Please click here to volunteer](#)**

Please contact us if you have any further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

# ELEVATE YOUR IMPACT: KICKSTART THE 2024 NEW YEAR WITH PRO BONO EXCELLENCE

## BRETT E. LANDIS & ALISIANA MEDINA

As we usher in the new year, we have a valuable opportunity for self-reflection and contemplation. It is a time to assess our personal and professional achievements, aligning them with the values that define us both as individuals and legal practitioners. In our noble profession, we stand on the shoulders of brilliant leaders such as Clarence Darrow, Thurgood Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sandra Day O'Connor. Their legacy inspires us to aspire to the highest standards of service and commitment.

As we embark on this new year, I encourage you to consider how we can collectively contribute to our community by extending pro bono services to those in need. By leveraging our skills and expertise, we have the power to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those who need it most.

### **Boulder County has a need for Pro Bono Service**

We are used to thinking of Boulder County as both a wealthy and progressive community. However, that is not an accurate assumption. The BCBA's recent screenings of "This is Not Who We Are" demonstrate the shortcomings between our community's self-perception and the lived experiences of people of color within our community. Similarly, people living in poverty in our community face serious challenges, particularly when interacting with the legal system.

The Emergency Family Assistance Association recently compiled community health statistics that are shocking. In 2019, 10.9% of Boulder County



residents were living in poverty, and in 2022, that number jumped to 12.3%. Children in particular now face poverty at a higher rate than one might expect. For instance, during the 2022-2023 school year, 1,412 students of the St. Vrain and Boulder Valley School Districts experienced homelessness. And in 2022, 9.4% of children in the county of Boulder and 14.7% of children in the city were living in poverty.

From a legal perspective, we can see the number of people struggling to stay housed rising. In 2020 the 20th Judicial District had 392 eviction filings, and in 2022, 1,143 evictions were filed.

[\(EFAA, BOULDER COUNTY COMMUNITY WELLBEING DASHBOARD 2023, 2023\)](#) These numbers make it clear that poverty, and the symptoms of poverty, are dramatically increasing in Boulder County.

At the same time, nationally and locally, we are seeing a decrease in attorneys donating pro bono service. The Legal Services Corporation (the federal agency that distributes funding to legal aid organizations nationwide) published a report in 2022 with data on all LSC funded work nationwide. 77,800,000 cases (representing 10.7% of all LSC funded cases closed in 2019) were closed by



# TRANSPARENCY ACT CONTINUED

private attorneys in 2019. In 2022, only 59,300,000 cases (representing 8% of all LSC funded cases closed that year) were closed by private attorneys. In Colorado, in 2022, only 6.1% of cases at CLS were closed by private attorneys. ([Legal Services Corporation, 2022 By The Numbers, Data Underlying Legal Aid Programs.pdf, 2022](#))

In the Boulder office of Colorado Legal Services (CLSB), the pro bono referral model proves to be exceptionally cost-effective. Clients gain access to legal services typically priced between \$132.00 and \$416.00 per hour, and CLSB incurs no expenses for support services related to the attorney, dedicating only minimal staff time once the case is assigned to the pro bono attorney volunteer. Throughout 2022, volunteer attorneys contributed 1921.92 hours of service to CLSB and its clients. Calculated at the average market rate of \$261.00 per hour for attorneys, the community generously provided a total estimated value of \$501,621.12 in in-kind services to low-income residents. ([Medina, Alisiana. Boulder Case Report. 2023. Colorado Legal Services. Unpublished report](#))

The Colorado Legal Services Boulder office has experienced firsthand the increased needs of people in our community. We've encountered increasingly complex legal situations as people attempted to navigate issues independently over extended periods. Concurrently, available resources to support individuals in these situations are dwindling at an increasing rate.

If these trends continue (an increase in poverty and a decrease in pro bono service), our community will struggle.

## **Pro Bono Service benefits attorneys and our communities**

Pro bono work benefits both attorneys and their communities, and we have an ethical obligation to offer our expertise to people who need our help.

Colorado Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 sets an aspirational goal of 50 hours of pro bono work per year. To better support this ethical duty, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission is examining ways to require reporting on this duty. By taking on pro bono work, an attorney will not only fulfill their ethical requirements, but also be recognized statewide for that work. To further encourage pro bono work, the office of Attorney Regulation allows up to nine CLE credits per reporting period to be earned by providing pro bono service. ([Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel, An Independent Office of the Colorado Supreme Court, Continuing Legal Education FAQs, 2023](#))

Beyond the ethical duties, pro bono service benefits attorneys. Particularly within the Boulder County Bar Association, we are equally members of the greater Boulder community. We know how our work directly benefits our community because we are part of that community. Bar members' children go to school with children who have experienced homelessness in the last year. Our neighbors may be experiencing food insecurity. People who work at our favorite restaurants may be living with and trying to escape from domestic violence. Pro bono service helps to resolve problems that affect our entire community.

Finally, pro bono service can be an opportunity to learn new skills or expand your skill set. Pro bono cases can be challenging, but they can also grow your abilities as an attorney. You become more empathetic, more creative, and much better at communicating. And, you always have assistance on these cases through the Colorado Legal Services Boulder office attorneys.

Brett E. Landis is the Managing Attorney with Colorado Legal Services, Boulder. Alisiana Medina is the Pro Bono Coordinator with Colorado Legal Services, Boulder.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRO BONO SERVICE

Below are several pro bono opportunities available here in Boulder County.

## **Take a Pro Bono Case with CLS Boulder**

We're looking for pro bono support in family law, housing, benefits, consumer cases, and more. By taking a pro bono case, you'll be contributing to ensuring equal access to justice. Engaging with diverse legal scenarios will provide the opportunity to encounter and navigate various dynamic approaches across different case levels, contributing to a multifaceted understanding of legal processes with CLS cases.

Interested? Contact our Pro Bono Coordinator:

Alisiana Medina (she/her/hers)

P: (970)-499-1003 | E: [amedina@colegalserv.org](mailto:amedina@colegalserv.org)

## **Actively participate in CLS Boulder's weekly Pro Se Clinic**

3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursdays

Our Pro Se Clinic focuses on family law matters. You can contribute to providing legal assistance to those in need! Joining us in making a meaningful impact on family law cases where our clients are self-represented. Your expertise can empower them and help them succeed.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4EABA92BA1F94-46323989-proseclinic>

## **Volunteer with the BCBA Virtual Legal Clinic**

This clinic was established shortly after the start of the pandemic, and it was expanded in response to the Marshall Fire. Clients are matched with a knowledgeable volunteer attorney to have a brief advice appointment. This is a low-commitment way to help answer important questions for clients and help set them on the right path. Please contact Kyle to volunteer for the Virtual Legal Clinic.

## **March 5, 2024 - Legal Clinic**

Additionally, the BCBA, the City of Longmont, CLS, and the Access to Justice Committee are working to provide an in-person legal clinic on March 5, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Longmont Senior Center. This is another great opportunity to provide brief advice to help people and provide pro bono service to our community. Please contact Susan Spaulding at 303-651-8444 if you are interested in volunteering your time.

## **Justice for all Ball**

Finally, if you absolutely cannot take on pro bono work (or are restricted from doing so), please support the Justice for All Ball (JFAB) coming in April 2024! This event, coordinated by the Boulder County Bar Foundation, raises funds to support civil legal services through the Colorado Legal Aid Foundation. Consider donating money, silent auction items, or your time to help organize the event.

## **Resources to make signing up easy:**

Palladin: <https://app.joinpaladin.com/!/colorado-legal-services-2/opportunities>

BCBA: <https://www.boulder-bar.org/>

SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4EABA92BA1F94-46323989-proseclinic>

Contact: Alisiana Medina at P: (970)-499-1003 | E: [amedina@colegalserv.org](mailto:amedina@colegalserv.org)



# LAWYER ANNOUNCEMENTS



**STAHLY|MEHRTENS|MINER LLC**

— Experienced Leaders in Family Law —



We are pleased to welcome **Mike Miner** as a partner as of January 1, 2024 and the firm will be known as **Stahly Mehrstens Miner LLC**. Mike has been

practicing law for 37 years and has specialized exclusively in divorce and family law matters in Boulder County for more than 28 years.

[www.stahlyllc.com](http://www.stahlyllc.com)

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## WELCOME NEW BCBA MEMBERS

Lauren Concepcion

Lena Fields

Lindsey Knapton

Brian Bagley

Ashtyn Knight

Nicholas Espenan

Jennifer Landry

Kaya McGee

Karen Radakovich

John Barth

Chelsea Kancilia

Sarah Pritchard

Madeline Cohen

Delphine Farr

George Faulkner

John Henderson

Brian Holst

Joanna Monk

# BCBA DECEMBER PHOTOS



BCBA Holiday Party



BCBA Holiday Party



Steve Clymer



Doug McQuiston

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# BCBA DECEMBER PHOTOS



**BCBA Holiday Party**



**BCBA Holiday Party**



**Our Musical Bingo winners**



**Thanks again to all who participated in our holiday gift drive!**

## PROFESSIONALISM ON CALL

January 1	Mike Rafik	303.444.9292
January 8	Gwyn Whalen	303.443.8010
January 15	Lee Strickler	303.443.6690
January 22	Connie Eyster	303.442.6514
January 29	Meghan Pound	303.443.8010

The Professionalism Committee assists lawyers, clients, and other members of the community with questions or complaints about behavior by lawyers that fails to meet generally accepted standards of professionalism and courtesy, or that is contrary to the BCBA Principles of Professionalism.

The Professionalism Committee does not address allegations of criminal or ethical violations by lawyers, as regulated by the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, and any such violations should be addressed to the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel.

## BOULDER COUNTY FREE LEGAL CLINIC

The Boulder County Free Legal Clinics have been replaced with our Virtual Legal Clinic until further notice. We are always seeking new volunteers to assist the public: please email Kyle if you are interested in participating.

## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The BCBA Virtual Legal Clinic remains ongoing and has served over 30 people to date. Thank you to the attorneys who serve as volunteers:

Dan Droeger	Amy Stengel	Beth Kelley
Jennifer Huston	Laura Herndon	Dipak Patel
Sherri Murgallis	Maki Iatridis	Lindsey Killion
Craig Small	K.C. Cunilio	Karen Burns
Scott Hamerslough	Fern O'Brien	Susan Spaulding
Starla Doyal	George Farmer	Chris Lane
Jeff Skovron	TJ Willard	Connie Eyster
Lila Sol	Meghan Hungate	Beth Montague
Georgiana Scott	Ann England	Kurt Hofgard

## PRO BONO REFERRALS

More than 10 cases were referred in the month of December. Thank you to the following attorneys:

**Jennifer Terry**  
**Jodie Gilbert**  
**Yun Wang**  
**Mireya Rios**  
**Laura Kinde**

## PRO SE VOLUNTEERS

There were multiple Pro Se Clinics held in the month of December, thanks to the help of the following attorneys:

**Kathleen Franco**  
**Ariel Williams**  
**Shana Beggan**  
**Pat Riley**  
**Todd Stahly**  
**Jared Rotzo**  
**Jennifer Huston**  
**Chris Jeffers**  
**Jennifer Terry**  
**Josh Anderson**

## PRO BONO CORNER

Interested in a Pro Bono case? Please call Alisiana Medina at 970-499-1003. CLE credits available for pro bono service.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Full-Time Legal Assistant Position.** Elevate Your Career: Legal Assistant Opportunity in a Dynamic Litigation Team at Lyons Gaddis Join Our Thriving Litigation Group. Lyons Gaddis is excited to offer a unique opportunity for a passionate and detail-oriented Legal Assistant to become an integral part of our dynamic Litigation team. This is more than just a job – it's a chance to immerse yourself in diverse and stimulating legal cases, collaborate with a team of professionals who value camaraderie and expertise and grow in a role where no two days are the same. [Please click here for more information about this opportunity.](#)

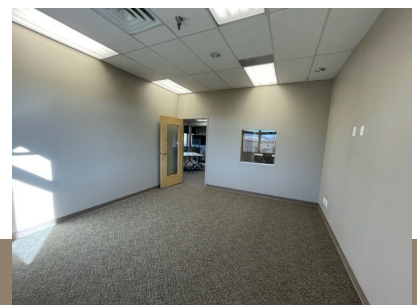
**Full-Time Paralegal Position.** Great Paralegal Sought: Lyons Gaddis is seeking a full-time Paralegal for its Litigation group. Work on a variety of exciting cases and projects in a collaborative team-based work environment with professional and congenial colleagues. A great benefits package with a generous 401(k) match. The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in the legal profession, exceptional attention to detail, an outstanding work ethic, and a unrelenting desire to learn new things every day. [Please click here for more information about this opportunity.](#)

**Offices for lease.** West End individual offices for lease. Ideal for solo practitioners. Quaint Victorian office building with parking, in walking distance to Boulder County Courthouse, Pearl Street, Creek path. [Click here for more information.](#) Call Maureen for more info: 303-449-2131 x 123.

**Intelligent Office** – 4450 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 100, Boulder, CO 80303 | Live Local Phone Answering | Private Offices | On-Demand Meeting Space. Intelligent Office is where savvy attorneys meet clients, get their mail, and even have their phones answered. With top-notch staff, free parking, and a variety of turnkey meeting rooms, you are set up for success. Everything we do is customized for you – from how you want your phones answered to how you'd like your clients greeted, we are truly your team. We can even notarize and witness document signings. At Intelligent Office, you only pay for what you need. Call us at 303-447-9000 or email Dottie at [Dottie.Stowe@intelligentoffice.com](mailto:Dottie.Stowe@intelligentoffice.com) to learn more.

## OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE AT THE BCBA

This is a great opportunity for any firms or groups looking to create a Boulder office! The property includes 4 executive offices, a reception area, large coworking space for staff, and a patio with awesome views of the Flatirons. The space comes with all existing furniture and is available for only \$6k per month through the end of the sublease term (April 2026) which is renewable with the property owner. <https://marketboulder.com/property-item/3269-28th-street-boulder-office/>



# BoulderCOUNTRY BAR ASSOCIATION

THE BCBA NEWSLETTER IS A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION BY THE BOULDER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. ARTICLES BY GUEST LAWYERS MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE BOULDER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION OR THE AUTHORS.

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