



Greetings! The Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (CDLA) Board of Directors is thrilled to invite you to the 2023 Annual Conference. This year's Conference will be held in beautiful Steamboat Springs, Colorado, a historical retreat nestled in the stunning Yampa River Valley. The Conference will take place at the Steamboat Grand Hotel from July 23 to 25, 2023.

A time-honored tradition, the Conference is our yearly gathering where CDLA members look to reconnect and be inspired. Our members, sponsors, and speakers from across the country look forward to the Conference each year as an opportunity to learn, network, and enjoy the local fares and attractions of the destination town.

This year's Conference theme is **Forging New Paths**. While we honor our CDLA traditions at the Annual Conference, this year's theme encourages our members and community to look beyond tradition and envision what they can do to forge new paths. Our speakers and

presentations will touch on how members of the legal profession can forge new paths by creating change – change in themselves, change in society, change in the practice of law, and change in the law itself.

The CDLA Board of Directors appreciate your continued support and involvement. We look forward to seeing you all in Steamboat.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenna Donegan at (303)946-6659 or glenna@codla.org.

Sincerely,

Hillary D. Patterson
2023 Conference Chair



ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2023 Conference will be hosted at the Steamboat Grand Hotel.

Room rates start at \$167++ per night. Please make your reservations before June 21, 2023, to be eligible for the group rate. **To make reservations, call the hotel at (877) 269-2628 and use group code CDLA 2023, or click [here](#). You can also go to codla.org and click on the Conference banner.**

If you include Saturday night 7/22 in your search, the pricing will display as the average rate for all nights. Saturday night is priced at \$353++, while the other nights are priced at \$167++. So, \$213++ ends up being the average. If you adjust your dates to include only Sunday – Wednesday, you should see the \$167++ rate.

ATTENDEES

Once again, each paid attendee will receive two wristbands, one for you and one for your guest to attend evening events. Kids are also welcome at all evening events. Breakfast, lunch and breaks are limited to paid attendees only.

Name badges and wristbands will be distributed upon arrival Sunday night at Timber & Torch, and Monday at the entrance to the Conference area. You must have a name badge and wristband to attend all events.





2023 CDLA Summer Conference • Steamboat Grand Hotel Sunday–Tuesday, July 23–25, 2023

AGENDA & SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 7.23		
10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Golf Tournament	Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club
10:30 am	Guided Gourmet Hike	Steamboat Gondola Base
1:00 pm	Mountain Bike Trail Ride	Grand Hotel Entrance
6:00 - 8:30 pm	Opening Reception	Timber & Torch
MONDAY 7.24		
7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast	Grand Tent (2 nd Floor)
8:00 - 8:30 am	Welcome and Announcements	Korbel Grand Ballroom
8:30 - 9:30 am	Against All Tides: The Untold Story of the USS Kitty Hawk Race Riots (a Defense Attorney's Perspective) (Ethics) Marv Truhe, <i>Author, Former US Navy JAG Lawyer</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
9:30 - 9:45 am	Break	
9:45 - 10:35 am	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Premises Liability Act I: Brush up on Basics Rachel T. Jennings and Cara M. Knight, <i>Sutton Booker, P.C.</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
	Fundamental Considerations for Conducting and Interpreting Neuropsychological Testing Dr. Brent Van Dorsten, PhD; Bill Hombach, <i>Integrated Medical Evaluations, Inc.</i>	Burgess Creek Conf. Room
	Trial Skills Refresher Series: Expert Cross Exam* Amy Cook Olson, <i>Klein Cook Olson, LLC</i>	Spring Creek Conf. Room
10:40 - 11:30 am	The Art of Jury Selection* Dr. Christina Marinakis, Psy.D., J.D., <i>IMS Consulting & Expert Services</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
11:35 am - 12:50 pm	Lunch and Learn: Case Law Update Jeffrey C. Reubel, <i>Reubel & Quillen LLC</i> ; Andrew M. LaFontaine, <i>Jeremy R. Maline & Associates</i> ; Dylan G. Lewis, <i>American Family Insurance</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
1:00 - 1:50 pm	Reptile Theory, Runaway Verdicts, and Punitive Damages* Rachelle Mortimer, <i>U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform</i> ; Heather A. Salg, <i>Messner Reeves LLP</i> ; Dr. Christina Marinakis, Psy.D., J.D., <i>IMS Consulting & Expert Services</i> ; Billy-George Hertzke, <i>SGR LLC</i> (Moderator)	Korbel Grand Ballroom
1:50 - 2:05 pm	Break	
2:05 - 2:55 pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Premises Liability Act II: Advanced Issues and Strategies Rachel T. Jennings and Cara M. Knight, <i>Sutton Booker, P.C.</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
	Trial Skills Refresher Series: Preserving Your Record – Trial and Appellate Perspectives* Kendra N. Beckwith and Angela M. Vichick, <i>Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP</i> ; <i>Pike Reporting Company</i>	Burgess Creek Conf. Room
	Worker's Comp Update: Navigating New DIME Rules Joe Espinosa, <i>Law Office of Robert B. Hunter</i> ; Brady Ambron, <i>White and Steele, P.C.</i>	Spring Creek Conf. Room
3:00 - 3:50 pm	Judges Panel – New Paths in the Courtroom*	Korbel Grand Ballroom
5:30 - 9:00 pm	Reception Dinner (Gondola 5:30, Dinner at 6:00)	Thunderhead (Gondola Ride)



AGENDA & SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 7.25

7:00 – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Grand Tent (2 nd Floor)
8:00 – 8:15 am	Welcome and Announcements	
8:15 – 9:30 am	Lessons from Darrow: Ethics and Advocacy in the Courtroom* (Ethics) Sandy Brook, <i>Judicial Arbiter Group, Inc.</i> ; Franklin D. Patterson, <i>Patterson Ripplinger, P.C.</i> ; Karen Wheeler, <i>Wheeler Law, P.C.</i> Meredith McDonald, <i>Barber Ranen LLP</i> (Moderator)	Korbel Grand Ballroom
9:30 – 9:45 am	Break	
9:45 – 10:35 am	BREAKOUT SESSIONS The Wild, Wild West: Battles in Property Damage Bad Faith and Appraisals Sandy M. Eloranto and Lily E. Nierenberg, <i>Sutton Booker, P.C.</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
	Trial Skills Refresher Series: Jury Instructions and Conferences* Jacquelyn S. Booker, <i>Sutton Booker, P.C.</i> ; Chris Unger, <i>American Family Insurance</i>	Burgess Creek Conf. Room
	Knowing When to Ask for Help: Early, Effective Use of Expert Witnesses in Construction Defect Disputes Ryan Williams, <i>Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP</i> ; Aaron Bagley, <i>CMT Technical Services</i>	Spring Creek Conf. Room
10:40 – 11:30 am	The New Age of Remote Proceedings – Pitfalls, Pros, and Cons* Hon. Susan Blanco, <i>8th Judicial District</i> ; Debby Reece, <i>American Family Insurance</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
11:35 am – 12:50 pm	Lunch and Learn: Legislative Update Ike M. Eckert, <i>Hall & Evans LLC</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
1:00 – 1:50 pm	The Island of Misfit Lawyers J. Ryann Peyton, <i>Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP)/Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice (LEJ)</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
1:55 – 2:45 pm	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Insta-What?: Leveraging Social Media and Law Firm Marketing Ethics (Ethics) Douglas K. Burrell, <i>Chartwell Law</i> ; Hillary D. Patterson, <i>Patterson Ripplinger, P.C.</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
	Med Mal Expert Witness Issue Review: Update and Tips Scott S. Nixon and Rodrigo Lugo, <i>Hall Booth Smith, P.C.</i>	Burgess Creek Conf. Room
	Developing your Employment Case at the Administrative Level Meredith McDonald and Alice Conway Powers, <i>Barber Ranen LLP</i>	Spring Creek Conf. Room
2:45 – 3:05 pm	Vendor Raffle Drawing	Korbel Grand Ballroom
3:10 – 4:00 pm	Mosquitos and Sledgehammers...and Other Impacts of Unconscious Bias (Ethics/EDI) John Olafson, <i>Buchalter</i>	Korbel Grand Ballroom
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Farewell Reception	Grand Hotel Tent

Courses with an asterisk*=Trial Skills Refresher Series
 Courses with (Ethics)= Applied for Colorado CLE Ethics and or EDI credit



FUN ON A SUNDAY : THINGS TO DO

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Who will hoist the Cup this year? Put together your foursome to compete for the coveted CDLA Cup.

CDLA will host its annual golf tournament at the Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club on Sunday before the opening reception.

Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort features one of the best golf courses in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. A spectacular 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, II, featuring incredible views of the Yampa Valley with Fish Creek winding its way through seven of the holes. The 66 bunkers and large, undulating bent grass greens make this a truly championship caliber course to be enjoyed by players of all skill levels. With these attributes Rollingstone Ranch Golf Club has received multiple awards including four star ratings and "Best Places to Play in Colorado" from Golf Digest, and "Best Mountain Course" from *Colorado AvidGolfer*.

Shotgun start: Tee times start at 10 am. Price per individual \$140. To register and pay for yourself or your foursome, [click here](#).

Proper Golf Attire is Strictly Enforced.

SPONSORS

Box Lunch: JAG



Golf Hole Sponsorship by:
Exponent, US Legal Support,
CMT Technical Services



Beverage Cart: Explico





FUN ON A SUNDAY : THINGS TO DO

BIKE TRAIL RIDE

Bike Steamboat, a cycling community at its core. Explore single track, cross county & road bike rides with Michael Watts as your guide. Enjoy scenic views atop Mt. Werner!

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Grand Hotel
Entrance

GUIDED HIKE & LUNCH

Your journey starts with a ride up the Steamboat Gondola, where the views of the Yampa Valley will be on full display. From there, your mountain Ambassador will lead you on a one-mile hike with vistas, forests and hopefully an animal sighting, all while learning about the mountain and surrounding areas. After the hike you will have lunch at the Oasis Sundeck at the Thunderhead Lodge, where you will be able to choose from variety of menu options.

Plan on two-hours for your hiking and lunch adventure. Wear sturdy shoes and be sure to bring water and a light jacket. The hike is not difficult although the elevation is slightly above 9K feet.

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Gondola Base

Cost \$79 per person.
[Click here to register.](#)





RECEPTIONS, DINNERS, & PARTIES



SUNDAY EVENING WELCOME RECEPTION AT TIMBER & TORCH

Join us in kicking off the 2023 CDLA Annual Conference at Timber & Torch, located at the base of the mountain, a short walk from the Grand Hotel. Entertainment provided by The Hip Replacements featuring CDLA Member Scott Nixon. Dress is casual, and kids welcome.

Time: 5:30–8:30 pm, **Dinner served:** 6–8 pm

Sponsored by:

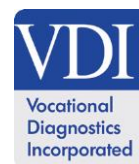


MONDAY NIGHT DINNER AT THUNDERHEAD ATOP MT. WERNER

This year's Hub's Pub Party will be held at the top of Mt. Werner, just a short gondola ride from the Grand Hotel. During the Monday night event we will be raffling off items supporting CDLA's annual contribution of bicycles to Children's Hospital, CASA, and many other philanthropic organizations. This year's event will feature music by Buffalo Commons.

Time: 5:30–9:00 pm, **Dinner served:** 6–9 pm

Sponsored by:



TUESDAY NIGHT CLOSING RECEPTION

We wrap up the 3-day event in the backyard of the Grand Hotel, with a **hosted cocktail hour and light hors d'oeuvres**. Make your dinner reservations in Steamboat by taking the shuttle downtown or dining at many of the base mountain restaurants.

Time: 4:30–6:00 pm





CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES



While we are promoting Forging New Paths for our members through an enriching Conference, we also strive to help those in need to forge new paths to wellness and happiness.

Each year at the Annual Conference, the CDLA holds a “Hub’s Pub” event/raffle in honor of Daniel M. Hubbard, a former incoming president of the CDLA, who suffered a cardiac incident while riding his bicycle home from work and passed away. The funds raised at Hub’s Pub are used to fund the charitable functions of the CDLA Foundation. In memory of Dan Hubbard and his passion for cycling, a portion of those proceeds are used to donate bicycles to Children’s Hospital and to children served by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) throughout Adams, Broomfield, and Jefferson Counties.

Since its inception, the Hub’s Pub event has helped raise over \$140,814 and funded the donation of 347 bicycles. Funds are also donated to various causes including, but not limited to, Food Bank of the Rockies, Project C.U.R.E., Alzheimer’s Association, Jessie’s Heart, Florence Crittenton Services, “LAW SCHOOL...Yes We Can,” Marshall Fire, Tamaya Horse Rescue, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Mountain Resource Center providing food, heat, and shelter for those in need.

We truly appreciate all your past and future support.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

There is no shortage of places to go and things to do in Steamboat Springs. Activities abound full of art, culture, cuisine, recreation, and relaxation.

Click on these local visitor guides and linked web-sites to find out what the town has to offer.

Plan your trip today!





FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS



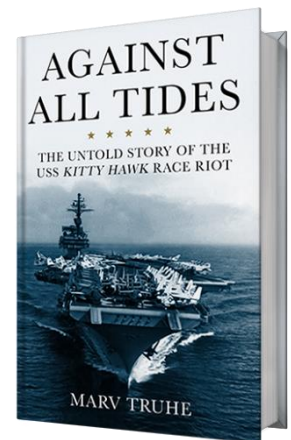
Forging new paths is easier said than done in the practice of law, where we operate within established rules and laws. Yet, improvement and innovation are necessary in the law and in an ever-evolving society. At this year's Conference, we provide inspiring content for our members exploring new ways to expand their personal and professional horizons as legal practitioners, and to further our noble profession. Our presentations will equip members with the thinking and skills to create new paths in law and legislation, and to seek and develop opportunities for leadership and personal growth. Presentations will have a balance of broad topics and perspectives affecting all members, and smaller, more focused topics on the various practice areas of our members. Read on for a preview of some featured presentations.

TRIAL SKILLS REFRESHER SERIES*

You spoke, and we listened. The CDLA Board of Directors strive to present timely, relevant educational content for its members. In feedback, survey responses, and listserv discussions, members consistently requested courses to help sharpen trial practice skills. Thus, we have delivered a variety of CLEs throughout the year as part of our Trial Skills Refresher Series. This year's Conference has several more offerings focused on trial practice. From voir dire to jury instruction conferences, our courses touch on almost every aspect of trial practice. Trial Skills Refresher Series courses are marked with an asterisk.*

MONDAY 7.24

Against All Tides: The Untold Story of USS Kitty Hawk Race Riots (A Defense Attorney's Perspective)



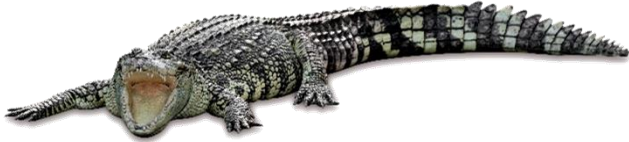
SPEAKER: Marv Truhe is a farm kid from South Dakota. He received a mechanical engineering degree, with honors, from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which later awarded him an honorary doctorate. He is a graduate of Northwestern University Law School where he was a member of the Law Review. He then served as a US Navy JAG officer and military judge during the Vietnam War.

Marv's book, *Against All Tides, The Untold Story of the USS Kitty Hawk Race Riot*, exposes the racial injustices perpetrated against 25 Black sailors who were charged with rioting aboard the *Kitty Hawk* in 1972 while it was conducting bombing runs into North Vietnam. His first-person account chronicles the incident and his defense of several of those sailors at their courts-martial trials. His book website, marvtruhe.com, contains additional photographs and details.

Following his military service, he led the trial division of the South Dakota Attorney General's Office. He next practiced law in Rapid City, South Dakota, specializing in insurance defense, construction litigation, and corporate, mining, and environmental law. Following his retirement, he and his wife moved to Colorado where their son Eric's family lives. Eric and his wife Leigh (Trueblood) are 2001 graduates of DU Law School.



Reptile Theory, Runaway Verdicts, and Punitive Damages*



SPEAKER: Rachel Mortimer serves as associate director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform (ILR). She is responsible for legal reform advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and in state capitols throughout the eastern and mid-western portions of the country.

Before joining ILR, Rachel worked in copyright law and policy, advising clients on proper intellectual property protections and clearance as well as advocating for creators' intellectual property rights in Congress. Rachel is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She holds a J.D. from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University and is admitted to practice law in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

The mission of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform is to champion a fair legal system that promotes economic growth and opportunity.



SPEAKER: Heather A. Salg, Esq. is an insurance defense attorney in Colorado at Messner Reeves LLP. Heather has decades of experience defending insurance carriers and their insureds from the claims stage through appeal. She has significant trial experience and has written and lectured on a

variety of topics, including bad faith, premises liability and cross examination of experts for the Colorado Bar Association, the CDLA and the National Business Institute. Heather is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, among numerous other honors and accolades.

Heather is an active member of the CDLA. She has repeatedly chaired professionalism events that are co-sponsored by the CDLA and the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association at Mock Trial events for the Colorado Bar Association and Denver University Law School. She is also an active part of the community judging events for DECA, Speech and Debate.

The Art of Jury Selection*



SPEAKER: Dr. Christina Marinakis, IMS Consulting & Expert Services Jury Consulting & Strategy Advisor, has over 20 years of experience in jury research, jury study, and applied practice in law and psychology. Clients laud Christina as an insightful, trusted advisor with great judgement who

is the “best in the business” at jury selection and developing pithy trial themes.

Christina is inside of the courtroom nearly every week assisting counsel with voir dire and jury selection. In addition to analyzing jurors during this process, she has developed methods for maximizing cause dismissals of undesirable venire members while preserving favorable jurors, which has led to many successful trial outcomes for her clients.

Outside of the courtroom, Christina is particularly skilled at translating legal concepts into juror vernacular. She regularly assists counsel in developing and implementing trial themes through-



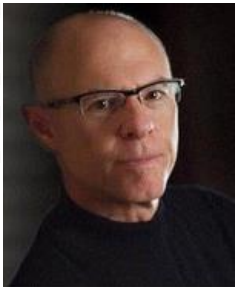
out voir dire, opening statements, and witness testimony. She has analyzed thousands of mock jurors through focus groups, mock trials, shadow juries, and post-verdict interviews, and she uses these experiences to develop themes that will resonate with a jury.

Christina's case experience includes product liability, transportation, antitrust litigation, class action, legal and medical malpractice, contract disputes, patents, securities, fraud, trade secrets, employment discrimination, wage and hour, toxic tort, and criminal work for both prosecutors and defendants. In 2021, she assisted the prosecution with jury selection in *State of Minnesota v. Derek Chauvin*, and in 2022, she advised the plaintiffs regarding jury selection and trial themes in *Vanessa Bryant v. County of Los Angeles*, among other successes.

Christina's educational background includes a BS in bioscience psychology from The Pennsylvania State University, an MA in clinical psychology from Widener University, a JD from Delaware Law School, and a PsyD in clinical psychology from Widener University. She is a licensed attorney in the state of Pennsylvania and member of the American Society of Trial Consultants

TUESDAY 7.24

Lessons from Darrow: Ethics and Advocacy in the Courtroom*



SPEAKER: Sandy Brook is a former Chief Judge of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Sanford M. "Sandy" Brook served sixteen years on the bench in Indiana. Twelve of these years were spent on the trial bench in South Bend, Indiana, where he also served three years as Chief

Judge. As a trial judge Sandy presided over 190 jury and 350 bench trials, and he authored over 275 appellate opinions while on the Indiana Court of Appeals. While a judge, he promoted alternative dispute resolution in the Indiana court system by serving as a judicial mediator and conducting numerous settlement conferences at both the trial and appellate levels.

Since 1987, Sandy has taught extensively in the areas of Evidence and Trial Advocacy. He has been an Adjunct Professor at both the Notre Dame Law School and the Indiana University Law School in Bloomington, and has taught Evidence in the Indiana Bar Review Course. Brook has also taught advocacy internationally in Canada, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Thailand and China with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), and was an Adjunct Faculty member at Nottingham Law School in England.

Sandy has had a lifelong interest in acting and the theater. Referring to acting as a "secret passion," he has studied Courtroom Theater in an unusual way — as a trial lawyer, trial judge, and trial advocacy instructor. His real-life experience with the art of storytelling and persuasion, coupled with this commitment to the critical importance of an independent judiciary, makes his presentation of Clarence Darrow a natural fit. Sandy has performed "Darrow" for audiences in Indiana, Illinois, Colorado, and Florida. The play brings to life the emotion, oratory skill, and courtroom drama of an extraordinary man, Clarence Darrow, who exposed inequality and injustice by taking on society's most controversial causes.

Sandy creatively uses portions of the play as a backdrop for a memorable and instructional CLE. His passion and commitment to the critical importance of an independent judiciary as well as his strong belief that our profession has a continuing obligation to assist those most in need are exemplified in his performance of "Darrow."





PANELIST: Franklin D. Patterson, Esq. is the founding partner of Patterson Ripplinger, P.C. He is acknowledged by peers as a leading personal injury and bad faith defense lawyer in Colorado. Frank handles substantial exposure liability and injury cases such as his defense of the parents of

one of the Columbine shooters. He is consulted by major insurers for coverage opinions and advice, and is regularly retained as an expert witness on insurance industry standards.

The list of appellate decisions on his cases cover all of the key insurance and litigation issues over the past 30 years. The Court of Appeals, Supreme Court and 10th Circuit Court of Appeals have chosen many of his cases for public oral arguments in high schools and law schools. Frank was the youngest member ever selected to the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a past president of the CDLA and has volunteered countless hours of his time to the Colorado legal community through numerous speeches, seminars, articles, and serving on committee, and associations throughout his forty-year career.

Born in Indiana, Frank received his BA from Earlham College. He came to Colorado in 1978 with his wife Robin to attend law school. They immediately fell in love with the State and it has been home ever since. While at the University of Denver he earned his J.D. in 1981, and a Master in Judicial Administration in 1982.



PANELIST: Karen H. Wheeler, Esq. is the founder of Wheeler Law. Ms. Wheeler's trial experience involves complex litigation and any other litigated matter. She obtained a defense verdict for her client after a fourteen and ½ week class-action jury trial involving claims in excess of \$380 million.

Her wide range of experience includes lead counsel in dozens of successful jury trials, many arbitrations, and appellate arguments in varied legal areas and venues. Her appellate practice has resulted in numerous published Court of Appeals and Supreme Court opinions.

Karen has practiced civil defense litigation since

1987. Karen's trial work has included commercial litigation, professional negligence, personal injury, construction law, product liability, environmental law, toxic torts, employment law, civil rights litigation, insurance coverage, regulatory compliance, bad faith litigation, and general tort law. She has also served as an arbitrator in numerous personal injury and contract arbitrations and has presented various educational seminars in many areas of the law, including how to litigate class action lawsuits in Colorado. Karen is also active in estate and business planning.

Karen is and active leader in state and national bar associations, and a philanthropic contributor to the community. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, among numerous other honors. She served on the Board of Directors of the CDLA for over a decade. She is a past president of the CDLA and a former Colorado State representative for the National Defense Research Institute. She has held many other respected positions in various legal, educational, and community associations.

The Island of Misfit Lawyers



SPEAKER: J. Ryann Peyton, Esq. serves as the Director of the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP) and Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice (LEJ), lawyer professional development programs of the Colorado Supreme Court. A former litigator and a seasoned consultant and advocate on professionalism, diversity, and equity in



the legal field, Ryann focused their law practice on civil litigation with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ families and civil rights.

Ryann has been routinely recognized for their legal practice, most recently earning the American Bar Association Rosner & Rosner Young Lawyer Professionalism award and the IDEA Leader in the Community award from The Center on Colfax. Ryann sits on the boards of several Colorado non-profit legal organizations and serves as the 2022 President of the Colorado Bar Association. Ryann earned their law degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law and holds an LLM and undergraduate degree from the University of Denver.

Ryann will present on the modern identities and experiences of lawyers. They have also written on this topic in their article published in the April 2023 edition of The Colorado Lawyer. An insightful and inspiring read, their presentation is bound to be even better.

The New Age of Remote Proceedings - Pitfalls, Pros, and Cons*



SPEAKER: Honorable Susan Blanco is the Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial District of Colorado and is the first female chief judge for the district. She has presided over criminal, civil, probate, domestic relations, and specialty courts. Prior to the bench, she served as Deputy District Attorney

followed by over a decade in private practice

focusing on criminal defense, juvenile delinquency, dependency and neglect, and municipal prosecution. She developed the first Competency Court in Colorado and the award winning Latinx task force focused on improving access to justice. She helped develop and launch the DEI initiative “Lawyer’s Teaching for Change” which allows attorneys to teach about the law in grade school classrooms. Currently she serves on the Chief Judge’s Council, is a commissioner on the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, the CBA Criminal Law Executive Council, the CWBA Board of Directors, chairs the Colorado Judicial Branch’s Pathways to Access Standing Committee working on virtual proceedings, language access, and plain language forms, and co-chairs the Colorado Judicial Branch’s IT Standing Committee.

The use of technology and remote proceedings accelerated rapidly in the wake of the global pandemic. As remote proceedings are becoming widely used in many jurisdictions, attorneys must learn/adjust their trial practice skills to embrace the technology. Chief Judge Blanco will share her knowledge gained from presiding over trials, as well as her involvement with the Judicial Branch IT Standing Committee related to remote trial proceedings, impacts on the judiciary, and related developments.



SPEAKER: Debra Reese, Esq. is Supervisory Senior Staff Attorney for American Family Insurance. She manages the Supervisory Legal Department, including identifying and overseeing outside counsel and managing matters involving complex coverage issues, high exposure, and high-

profile cases.

Debra has nearly three decades of experience as a trial attorney. Debra has worked with several large insurers and respected firms in Colorado. She has trained and managed teams of attorneys and claims personnel across the United States. She has conducted bench and jury trials in state and federal court. Her practice areas have spanned insurance defense and coverage, first and third-party claims, workers’ compensation, medical malpractice.

Debra will share her knowledge gained from her own courtroom experience, and in overseeing other



trials in her management roles. She brings specific insights regarding remote trials and other remote proceedings from the perspective of trial counsel.

Mosquitos and Sledgehammers ...and Other Impacts of Unconscious Bias



SPEAKER: Jon Olafson, Esq. is a member of the Labor & Employment practice group at Buchalter and is the founding shareholder of the firm's Organizational Inclusion, Diversity, and Belonging practice group. Jon is an experienced complex commercial and corporate litigator and counselor, which specifically includes business tort, corporate and non-profit fiduciary duties and board governance, trade secret and corporate espionage,

restrictive covenants, and employment discrimination litigation and counseling on a national scope. Jon is also an award-winning consultant and leader with regard to organizational inclusion, diversity, equity, belonging, and authenticity. Jon has a certificate in organizational inclusion and diversity from Cornell University, and uses his experience as a corporate, employment, and litigation attorney to develop programs for clients. Jon has helped to form one of the first corporate and organizational-wide practice groups in the country, taking into account an entire organizational view of inclusion and belonging.

Priding himself on being involved in his community, Jon currently serves as the Secretary of the Board for the Center for Legal Inclusiveness, Interim Secretary for the Sam Cary Bar Association, and the Diversity and Inclusion Director for the CDLA. Jon previously served on the Colorado Bar Association's Executive Council as an at-large member, the Board of Governors representative for the Colorado Bar Association Labor and Employment Section, and on Group IV of the Colorado Bar Association's Diversity Initiatives. As part of his role on the CBA's Executive Council, he founded and chaired the Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Committee. Since 2020, he has been a Bar Fellow with the Colorado Bar Foundation. Jon is also the immediate past president of the Nathan Yip Foundation and is on the Board of Directors for Opera Colorado, where he also serves on the organization's diversity committee. Jon is an out gay man and he and his partner enjoy traveling, paddle-boarding, and spending time with their dogs, Elske and Bailey.

CONFERENCE APP

For more information on all Conference speakers and presentations, check out the Conference App.



There is more fun to come as we near the Conference. Please keep an eye out for news and information!





2023 CDLA Summer Conference • Steamboat Grand Hotel Sunday–Tuesday, July 23–25, 2023 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

15

Name		Name as you would like it to appear on your badge		
Spouse/ Guest Name		Guest/spouse name as it should appear on badge		
Firm Name		Firm Address		
City	State	Zip	Phone	E-mail

ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS Please identify the activities and/or excursions you and your guest would like to attend.

YOU GUEST

BIKE TRAIL RIDE: Sunday, July 23, 1:00 p.m., Grand Hotel Entrance. BYO Bike.

Registering for the GOLF TOURNAMENT? Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. *Proper Golf Attire is Strictly Enforced.*

To register and pay for yourself or your foursome click [HERE](#).

GUIDED HIKE & LUNCH: Cost \$79 per person. [Click here to register.](#)

REGISTRATION FEES

Until June 30, 2023

July 1, 2023 and after

CDLA Members:	\$825	_____	\$875	_____	
Non-CDLA Members:	\$925	_____	\$975	_____	TOTAL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION—PLEASE FILL OUT ALL CREDIT CARD FIELDS.

A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to CDLA.)

Pay by Credit Card: Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____ (Visa, MasterCard, American Express Accepted).

Name on Card	CC Number	Exp. Date	CSV Code
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Street Address of Cardholder	City / State / Zip	Signature
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PLEASE MAIL, SCAN + EMAIL, OR FAX with payment to: CDLA: 643 Dexter Street, Denver, CO 80220 Send fax to: 925.364.2405. For more information call 303.946.6659 or email glenna@cdla.org.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY: A registrant for a COLA event will be entitled to receive a refund in the amount of 50% of the registration fee if the request is received more than 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the event. Thereafter, no refunds will be provided, but the registrant may substitute another person to participate in the event.

WAIVER & RELEASE: Please read the PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE on the last page of this Brochure and Registration. Failure to sign the release below may prevent your participation in the Conference and activities. BY SIGNING BELOW, YOU ATTEST THAT YOU HAVE READ THE PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE, YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, YOU UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND YOU SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Print Name	Date
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Signature



PARTICIPANT WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE & IMAGE RELEASE

As a participant of an event at the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (“CDLA”) Annual Conference and/or activities (the “Events”), and by signing the Conference Registration Form, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. There is a risk of injury and/or death from one or more of the activities at the Events, and as a participant I understand that there is a potential related risk to me due to my presence near the Events, including but not limited to exposure to COVID-19;
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation;
3. If I observe any unusual and/or significant hazard during my presence, I will remove myself from the area that I perceive as a hazard and shall bring such hazard to the attention of the nearest official;
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and/or next of kin, forever WAIVE, RELEASE, DISCHARGE and COVENANT NOT TO SUE, CDLA, and its officers, directors, representatives, officials, agents and/or employees, subsidiaries, and/or assigns, as well as its independent contractors, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises used to conduct the Events (collectively, the “Releasees”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, and/or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE. I further agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Releasees from any loss, liability, cost, claim, or damages arising from my participation in or association with the Events organized and sponsored by CDLA or any person or organization connected with the Events;
5. My attendance as a participant at the Events organized or sponsored by CDLA is entirely voluntary;
6. I consent to administration of first aid and other medical treatment in the event of injury or illness and hereby release and indemnify Releasees from any and all liability or claims arising out of such treatment;
7. The Releasees reserve the right, in their sole determination, to postpone, cancel, or modify the Events due to weather conditions or other factors beyond the control of the Releasees that might affect the health and/or safety of the participants;
8. I consent to CDLA using any photos, other images taken of me, and any results of conference related activities that occurred during the conference for media outreach efforts, promotional campaigns, various publications/communications, or other business purposes as determined by CDLA.
9. I hereby grant permission to use my personal information for contacting me and for promotion of the Events to include but not limited to; email, mail, text, and phone.

MINORS: IF UNDER 18 - SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (required)

The undersigned, referred to as the parent(s) and natural guardian(s) or legal guardian(s) on behalf of the minor does hereby represent that he/she (they) is (are), in fact, acting in such capacity and agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless each and all of the parties herein referred to above as Releasees from all loss, liability, damage, cost or claim whatsoever that may be imposed upon said Releasees because of any defect in or lack of such capacity to so act and release said Releasees on behalf of the undersigned.

BY SIGNING MY NAME ON THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM, I ATTEST THAT I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT. I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS. I UNDERSTAND I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT. I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.