

# The Docket

PROUDLY PUBLISHED BY THE DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION | FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020



## TRAVEL

Turkey: Crossroads of Civilizations

## COMMENTARY

St. Patrick's Day: Not My Sort of Thing

## FEATURE

A Serendipitous Route to Becoming a Lawyer

# New Year... More Resolutions.



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Elaine A. Wohlner, Esq.



Hon. James S. Miller



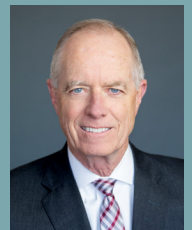
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## Crossing Borders

I originally intended on giving this issue a theme. For some reason, “crossing borders” was really sticking with me. Borders both literal and figurative. The wonderful folks on the Docket Committee were telling some entertaining stories of their border crossing experiences over the years — some horrifying, some absolutely hilarious — and I thought it would make a great direction for this first issue of the new decade. But then I got caught up in my other work and realized I had run out of time to curate a themed addition. Drat.

Then, as I was putting the magazine together, I realized that the theme had presented itself without any help from me. Marshall Snider gives us a fascinating peek across the borders into Turkey where

the city of Byzantium → Constantinople → Istanbul literally straddles the dividing line between East and West. Jennifer O’Connell takes us beyond the borders of earth altogether and into the “final frontier” with her piece on the newly minted United States Space Force. And Richard Lionberger shares his personal story of crossing over from oil industry company man stationed in the North Sea to Colorado attorney. Even the subject of our latest *Bar Review*, Denver’s famed Cruise Room, turned out to be a vessel for crossing the borders of time, taking us all the way back to post Prohibition 1933.

Maybe the little globs of glue I provided are found in *Briefly*, where I recommend the intriguing documentary series titled,

you guessed it, *Borders*, and this little *Letter from the Editor* where I confess that what I wanted to make had already built itself. Easy peasy.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for possible themes of future issues, or if you have a tale you’d like to tell in the pages of *The Docket*, please let me know! I’m looking forward to crossing many more borders with you in these new Roaring Twenties! 🍷

*Charles McGarvey*

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# METRO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MVL's Post Decree Clinic is designed to help people with the issues that arise after a Dissolution of Marriage or Allocation of Parental Responsibility order was issued. Attorneys get to meet with clients one-on-one and give a one hour legal consultation. Clinics are held in Denver, Arapahoe, Jefferson, and Adams Counties.

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*Photo by Jordan Whitt on Unsplash*



## An Interview with Kristin Bronson

**H**ello fellow DBA members. As your President, I have the opportunity every year to help select the winner of the Richard Marden Davis Award, which recognizes a Denver lawyer under 40 “who so combines excellence as a lawyer with creative civic, cultural, educational, and charitable leadership as to best exemplify the character and promise of Richard Marden Davis at that stage of his career.”

This year’s winner, Theresa Wardon Benz, joins a long line of renowned Colorado attorneys whose ranks include Supreme Court Justices, a governor, and the subject of my most recent interview, Denver’s City Attorney, Kristin Bronson. The City Attorney’s Office serves as legal adviser to our local elected officials (i.e. the Mayor, City Council, City Auditor, City Clerk and

Recorder) and all City departments as well as representing the City in all litigation and enforcement of City ordinances.

**Kevin:** What was your path to becoming the City Attorney for Denver?

**Kristin:** I started out as a public servant. I worked in Washington D.C. for my hometown Senator Bob Graham from Florida. That was an incredible experience, but I knew that I wanted to go to law school.

After graduating from CU Boulder, I went into private practice at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie and the predecessor firms and stayed for about 20 years.

I had a wonderful practice as a trial attorney. But in my heart-of-hearts, I really yearned for public service again. I was very civically engaged as a private attorney, but

eventually decided that I wanted to jump in and do this full-time. When the City Attorney position became available, I made a few inquiries and interviewed and was delighted when I got the job.

**Kevin:** For those who aren’t familiar with it, how would you describe the role the Office of the City Attorney?

**Kristin:** We provide all of the legal advice to city officials from the Mayor to all the agencies and boards. We handle all aspects of advice for city leadership and help guide them in the decisions they make from a policy, enforcement, or regulatory perspective.

In delivering that legal support, we have six substantive law sections: (1) airport; (2) human services; (3) litigation, which is our defense of the City section; (4) municipal operations, which is all of the transactional and regulatory work as well as our plaintiff team for representing the City; (5) employment; and (6) prosecutions and code enforcement.

**Kevin:** What are your favorite parts of the job or that you enjoy most about serving as City Attorney?

**Kristin:** I love working at the City and the team that we have here within the City Attorney’s Office. We have amazing lawyers that have an incredible wealth of experience. I think that when you’re in private practice you may get that one big case or that one big project. In the City Attorney’s Office you have the opportunity to touch everything that’s going on in the City. So the opportunities to learn and to work on complex projects in really limitless. I’ve really enjoyed that challenge and the comradery of working with such a great team.

**Kevin:** Having transitioned from private practice, what do you find most challenging about working as a government attorney?

**Kristin:** In private practice I had been a trial attorney and did a lot of business disputes, business torts and had dabbled in employment law early in my career. I

# The Docket

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## OUR MISSION

To educate and entertain the Denver legal community *without being sued!*

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The editor has the right to accept and reject submissions at his discretion.

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I think a lot of people assume that government practice will mean going home at four in the afternoon and not having to bill hours and not work as hard. But the city never sleeps. The pace that we work at here is really intense. – *Kristin Bronson*

also had done a lot of work in real estate, construction, banking and finance. As far as my own transition to the City, I had a lot to learn and spent a lot of the first year learning a lot about municipal law, airport law, human services, and our child welfare system. So while my practice trained me well in some respects, I did have a steep learning curve and had an amazing team to help me get up to speed in those areas where I hadn't had much experience before.

The pace of government practice was also a huge change. I think a lot of people assume that government practice will mean going home at four in the afternoon and not having to bill hours and not work as hard. But the city never sleeps. The pace that we work at here is really intense. When I come in each day, I may be working on the Great Hall project, or the unauthorized camping ban ordinance, or an employment issue. I never know what the issue is going to be and then there's always that curveball that comes up because a lot of unexpected things happen.

**Kevin:** What would you say to law students or practicing attorneys who are considering a career in government service?

**Kristin:** If you don't devote your career to it, find time at some point in your career to be engaged in public service. It is the most rewarding thing that I've done in my career. I love my community and having the opportunity to help build a better community and lift up Denver residents and improve their lives and the quality of life in Denver has been a true blessing.

**Kevin:** How has your involvement in professional groups, including bar associations, impacted your career?

**Kristin:** All of those groups have made me a better leader; a more connected leader; a more confident leader and better prepared to handle the challenges of my job. I've learned so much from my engagement at the bar association level and also with nonprofits and community organizations. It gave me opportunities to grow, stretch, learn as a leader much earlier in my career and those experiences have proven invaluable.

**Kevin:** What do you wish other people knew about the Office of the City Attorney?

**Kristin:** I've said some of those things, but selfishly speaking I'd tell them that it's a wonderful place to work so please apply! We're always trying to recruit the best and the brightest. The opportunities that a young lawyer or even a more seasoned attorney can have here in working for the City are really incredible. It's a little known secret that we have such great opportunities to do meaningful work such as participating in opioid litigation against big pharma or major capital projects with multi-billion dollar bond issuances. The work itself is second-to-none. 🍷

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## Social Media: Humbug

Let's face it: none of you are very interesting. So why would you think that I care one whit about what you had for breakfast, who you are having drinks with tonight, what you think about Donald Trump ("A Great American"), or what a grand time you had at your daughter's birthday party? For that matter, what makes you think that I need to see instantaneous photos of your kids, your cats, or the wonderful time you are having at Disneyworld? I don't care because (do I really need to repeat myself here?) *you aren't that interesting.*

With that premise in mind, do not waste my time with tweets, retweets, Instagrams or Snapchats, or whatever other narcissistic digital sludge is on your phone. My life will be adequately fulfilled if I never know that you and your sweetheart are dining at the Olive Garden tonight. Or that your daughter almost scored a goal in some pointless soccer match in which a dozen or more 7-year-olds ran around a field in a random pattern that defies any notion of geometry. You are just wasting your time. A recent study found that American workers lost 4 trillion hours

of productive time last year by staring at their phones and subjecting their thumbs to early-onset arthritis.

Frankly, I don't care if you want to waste your time. But you are wasting mine and that is a more serious matter. This is why I will not follow or "friend" any of you or let you "influence" me with your lame videos.

And while I am on the subject, those of you who read this publication are supposed to be lawyers. As such, you are expected to be articulate. Yet you can't seem to express any fact, sensation, or emotion without typing some silly picture onto your phone. Is it so hard to say "OK?" Why do you need a yellow "thumbs up" that was obviously stolen from Homer Simpson? If you want to tell me that you are flying to Seattle tomorrow I think I can understand your point — no need to add a picture of an airplane. In fact, why text me at all? Back in the day we were able to communicate much more efficiently by the now out-of-date method the ancients called "talking." The only time we needed to include a picture or some other non-verbal method of interacting

with another human being was when we played charades or Pictionary.

The world will be a better place if you remember these few rules:

- Most people, especially me, don't care about what you or your family are doing or thinking unless it directly affects us.
- An emoji is not worth a thousand words. It is either superfluous or you are too lazy to type actual words.
- Interacting with other human beings in a non-digital format is much healthier than hiding behind a phone screen.

Follow these rules and you may become healthy, wealthy, and wise. Though I doubt it. 🍷



*Laszlo Scofflaw*




**Q: Where is the world's highest border?\***

**B**orders is a compelling documentary series produced by Vox Media. Host, filmmaker, and journalist, Johnny Harris, explores the “human stories” of the lines on the map.

Governments draw borders. Governments manage borders. But humans live inside them. From the North Pole to the northern shore of Africa to the Himalayas of Nepal, the lines we've used to apportion the planet play a decisive role in the past, present, and future of billions.

Throughout the series, Johnny Harris explores borders that make for tricky situations. Episodes range from the border between mainland China and Hong Kong — which delineates two types of governmental rule within the same nation, to the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic — which divides the island of Hispaniola into two vastly different economic environments, to the Arctic — where the U.S., Canada, Denmark, Norway, and Russia vie for access to the planet's newest ocean. The latest season of *Borders* will explore the lines drawn right here at home that separate the 48 contiguous United States.

Watch *Borders* free of charge on their website: [vox.com/a/borders](http://vox.com/a/borders) or on the Vox YouTube channel. 



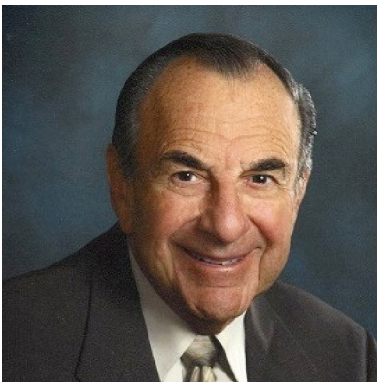
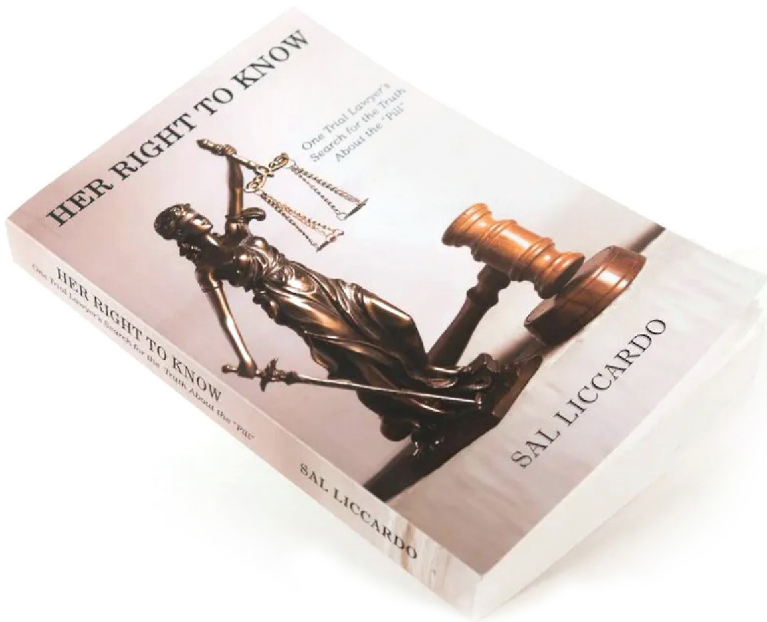
*"I always forget - when we switch to Daylight Savings Time, do we gain a billable hour or do we lose one?"*

**Don't forget to  
spring forward  
on March 8<sup>th</sup>!**

**\*A: Mount Everest. The border between China and Nepal crosses the 29,029-foot summit of the world's tallest mountain.**

“Let borders become sunlight so we traverse this Earth as one nation and drive the darkness out.”

– *Kamand Kojouri*



*Her Right to Know: One Trial Lawyer's Search for the Truth about the 'Pill'*

**By Sal Liccardo**

TLLF Publishing, 340 pp.

\$15.95 (paper)

**H**er *Right to Know* is the true story of a jury trial that has the suspense of a well-written novel with a surprise ending that affected the lives of millions of women world-wide. The author, Sal Liccardo, is a well-known California trial lawyer and was the lead lawyer in the highly publicized Ahearn trial which revealed the fraudulent conduct of big pharma concerning birth control pills. Liccardo has over 50 years of experience as a trial lawyer in over 200 jury trials. He is a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a member of both the Inner Circle of Advocates and the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a former president of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (now Public Justice). He demonstrated tremendous courage and tenacity and the skills of an exceptional trial lawyer in the preparation and trial of the now-famous Ahearn case.

In the 1960s, major pharmaceutical companies, collectively referred to as big pharma, began manufacturing and selling oral contraceptive pills throughout the world. Many women of childbearing age ended up in hospitals with diagnosed

blood clotting disorders after taking the pill. Lawsuits were being unsuccessfully pursued against various manufacturers of the pill before Sal Liccardo's involvement. He was retained by a young woman who became totally blind from blood clots after taking pills distributed by Ortho, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Through extraordinary investigation and consultation with medical experts he developed a causation theory and pursued litigation on behalf of his courageous blind client, Michelle Ahearn, and her husband.

What emerged made legal and medical history when the jury determined that the pill was the cause of the blood clots that induced blindness. After going through the appellate process, the jury verdict was upheld and opened the door for the success of thousands of lawsuits that followed. More importantly, big pharma, including Johnson & Johnson, was forced to disclose their fraud to the medical profession and the FDA and further disclose the risk of blood clotting to women worldwide.

I found the story of this trial, the appeals, and the aftermath, to be inspirational, educational, and an excellent example of the importance of jury trials in the public disclosure of corporate fraud. Millions of people can be injured until disclosure occurs. In the Ahearn trial disclosure happened as a result of the courage of a single lawyer, his co-counsel, and 12 jurors.

This story and case are unique because the client's treating physicians denied that the pill caused her blindness. Instead, they blamed it on a throat infection, as did the defendant's expert witnesses on direct examination. However, the concessions made by these witnesses on cross-examination were devastating to the defense, an illustration of the importance of thorough and unrelenting preparation by Liccardo and his co-counsel, Dr. J. Harold Williams, M.D., LL.B. The trial was also unique because the judge demonstrated bias that favored big pharma, causing Liccardo to request

a mistrial, which was denied. The judge also allowed the jurors to openly, orally question all witnesses without counsel's prior knowledge or consent. However, as the trial progressed, it became clear that this well-educated jury understood the complex medical issues. Their questions and the answers received often advanced the understanding of the issues at hand. Liccardo admits that he was later grateful that the court denied his mistrial motion and permitted jury questioning, which proved to be helpful in post-trial motions.

The trial and subsequent appeals also demonstrated a degree of professionalism by all lawyers involved despite the sometimes intense and bitter rivalry of courtroom battles. The fraud of big pharma was also clearly revealed in its failure to warn the medical profession, the FDA, and the public of the known danger the pill posed to women who had a pre-disposition to blood clotting based on blood-type and other characteristics. Within weeks of the jury verdict in 1974, big pharma published a new, revised, and extensive warning label advising physicians of the increased risk of serious complications from taking the pill, including blood clotting which "is well established" and a cause of ocular lesions.

The book's epilogue is particularly revealing. A French physician developed an easily-administered test which could

determine if a patient had a specific gene variation, existing in 20% of the human race, responsible for an increased risk of blood clotting. The physician wrote letters advising big pharma of this new test and received no response. Liccardo used this new information in the settlement of an additional lawsuit that he filed after the Ahearn jury trial. Liccardo also learned, following the verdict, that the insurance company working with Ortho on the defense ordered a thorough investigation into Liccardo's financial status. The insurance company discovered that Liccardo and his wife Laura refinanced their family home to pay the cost of litigation. A former employee of the insurance company disclosed that meetings were held to discuss ways of deliberately increasing the financial strain on Liccardo through litigation discovery procedures with the goal of bankrupting Liccardo before the case could be brought to trial. How often does this result in case dismissals or inadequate settlements?

Liccardo notes that Johnson & Johnson's continued greed is presently displayed in the recent \$80 million-dollar punitive damage verdict against them and their talc supplier. A courageous New Jersey jury recently found that Johnson & Johnson acted with reckless indifference in selling talcum powder containing asbestos, a substance that directly con-

tributed to a man's development of Mesothelioma, an aggressive and rare cancer.

Liccardo is the sole author of this timely book that demonstrates the importance of jury trials and the judicial system in protecting the public from pharmaceutical fraud. He illustrates the importance of thorough, carefully investigation of potential cases being prepared for trial and why the trial lawyer should often personally prepare the appeal that follows rather than delegate it to someone not familiar with the difficult medical and legal issues of the trial story. I recommend that this book be read and studied by all trial lawyers. It's a real gem. 📖

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**BILL TRINE** has been a trial lawyer for 55 years with offices in Boulder. He is a past president of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, a founder and past president of the Washington, D.C. based Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (now Public Justice), and on the Board of Directors of the Florida based Human Rights Defense Center which publishes Prison Legal News. He is on the teaching staff of the Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming. He is the co-author of a book and over 75 published articles.

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*Dear Docket,  
Valentine's Day  
really ticked  
me off this year.  
Maybe because  
I'm still single.  
What should  
I do?*

## A Practical Guide to Being Single in 2020

**1. Be careful chewing your food.** Otherwise you could choke and die, wearing God knows what.

**2. Ask friends to set you up.** The apps are a fun sort of headache that provide the illusion that you're being proactive about your personal life. But it's a rat race. A hamster wheel. A real bait n' switch, see? And now that they're all married up and a tad stir crazy, your friends' matches for you will be surprisingly on point. Your life is their romance novel. Take advantage.

**3. Make a lot of money.** This is a good idea for anyone, but especially the single. Money keeps you warm, you see. In all sorts of ways. When it's not providing you the societal validation you're missing by being in a couple, you can literally sew it into a blanket or something.

**4. Tell your neighbors you have a "long distance" significant other.** You don't want them thinking they're better than you.

**5. Stop caring what your neighbors think.**

**6. Do something you're passionate about.** You'll most likely meet your person doing something you love. Not like at the bank or the car wash. And definitely not at the grocery store. Contrary to what you've heard since the 90's, no one has ever met anyone at the grocery store.

**7. Enjoy your life.** Be here now. Dance like no one is watching. All those memes are true. We attract people when we know we'd be okay alone. Not just "I have my routine and I'm fine" okay, but actually tickled to be in the flow of life.

**8. Learn to fill exactly two bags at the grocery store.** No more, no fewer. One isn't enough food for the week, and three requires another trip to the car. And who has time for more trips to the car? I needn't remind you that time is precious and fleeting. You know that better than anyone.

**9. Avoid taking advice from single people.** Except for me, of course.

**10. Don't order too much Thai food delivery at once.** You think you'll eat it tomorrow, but you won't. And for goodness sake, don't chew it too quickly, or tomorrow may never come. 🍲

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Hot air balloons over the “fairy chimneys” of Cappadocia

# Turkey: Crossroads of Civilizations, Antiquity to Today

**T**he nation of Turkey holds a unique position in the world, both geographically and culturally. Spanning both Europe and Asia, Turkey is situated at the crossroads of ancient trade routes and has been at the center of many cultures. The architecture and culture of the country reflect these various influences, which make for a fascinating travel experience that my wife and I enjoyed last fall.

Many travelogues discuss the bricks and mortar that resulted from Turkey's cultural and geographic history. And we will get to those, I promise. But first, let's look at some aspects of this country that help define its unique character: the language, the people, and the food.

## Talking Turkey

The Turkish language is part of the Ural-Altaic language group. Although Turkish uses the Roman alphabet, with a few variations, it is still a difficult language to get your tongue around.

We always try to learn a few basic words

in any country we visit — hello, please, thank you, where is the bathroom, two more beers, etc. — but keeping the pronunciation of the Turkish equivalents in my mind was a challenge. The word for “thank you” as provided in a guidebook and a translation app was six syllables long. I stumbled over it almost every time. Our friend in Istanbul taught me a four-syllable alternative but even that seemed to trip over my tongue on its way out. A kind gentleman in a café gave me a two-syllable alternative, but by then it was too late; my mind had become a jumble of Turkish thank yous.

One word that I did master was “nerede,” meaning “where” or “where is it?” This came in handy when getting lost in the maze of alley-width back streets in Turkey's big cities. Pointing to a place on a map and saying “nerede” in an inquisitive tone worked well.

## The People

The modern country of Turkey was estab-

lished by Mustafa Kemal after World War I. Kemal, known as Atatürk (“Father Turk”), is still revered by the Turkish people. Atatürk wanted to create a modern, secular nation even though the overwhelming majority of its citizens are Muslim. The current administration of president Erdogan is moving toward a less secular, Islamist government. Everywhere you go you will hear the call to prayer broadcast from loudspeakers on mosques five times each day. However, in the western, urbanized parts of the country, which tend to be more liberal and secular, the call to prayer appeared to have little impact. We never saw people heading to the mosque or laying out prayer rugs at these times. I presume many people did so, yet following this religious dictate did not appear to be a part of everyday life in these parts of Turkey.

Everyone we met in Turkey was pleasant, helpful, and seemed to enjoy life. They were happy to interact with us despite our feeble linguistic attempts. When

Turkey provides a traveler with such a variety of sights and activities it is no wonder that we ran into visitors from all over the world.



A view of the Galata tower in the old city of Istanbul



we tried to say a few words in Turkish they always smiled their appreciation no matter how badly we did. Whenever we stood on the street or in the jumble of small lanes in Istanbul's old city staring at a map or otherwise looking lost, invariably someone would approach us to help us locate our destination. If that person spoke no English, he would point and often walk with us until we could see where we were going.

### The Food

I am not a foodie, yet Turkey had me enjoying every meal. Everything was fresh, delicious, and beautifully presented. The ubiquitous tea was the best I ever tasted and the yoghurt was so good that it has been difficult to go back to the yoghurt we have in the U.S. I know I loved the food because I took pictures of almost every meal.

A Turkish meal starts with "mezes," an offering of numerous appetizers, involv-

ing yoghurt, hummus, fruits, vegetables, and other delicious things. At times we thought that these initial treats were the meal, they were so tasty and plentiful, only to then be presented with the main course. Breakfast buffets took up entire rooms in the variety of fresh food offered, and then you could add an omelet if you just asked for one.

Two of our favorite dishes were "doner" and "gozleme." Doner consists of meats or vegetables or both wrapped in an incredibly thin flatbread. There are restaurants specializing in doner all over Turkey. Gozleme involves a very thin dough that is cooked to a crispy state and wrapped around a variety of foods, everything from spinach and cheese to bananas and Nutella. One gozleme meal we had was so fresh that the restaurateur actually went down the street to buy the banana.

The cost of food outside of tourist areas was incredibly inexpensive. The first meal we ate, in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir,

cost eight dollars for the two of us. We thought we had incorrectly converted from Turkish Liras to dollars, but we hadn't. That was indeed the cost of two meals and drinks. Even in the tourist areas we could often eat a large meal for two for around twenty-five dollars.

### OK, But How About the Sights?

Turkey abounds with historical and architectural sights, with influences ranging from Roman to Greek to Christian to Persian and even Jewish. We first visited the ruins of the Roman city of Ephesus on the Aegean Sea. With a population of 250,000, Ephesus was the second largest city in the Roman empire, next to Rome. Although only twenty percent of the city has been excavated, it is still a very large site. Walking around the ruins of the city one can see how the people of that era lived, from communal baths and toilets to the mansions on the hill that housed the elite. There are temples, meeting





Mediterranean coast of Antalya. INSET: Testi kebab, also known as “pottery kebab” or “clay kebab,” consists of meat and vegetables cooked in a sealed clay pot. The pot is then broken open at the diner’s table.

places, pharmacies, and an arena that could accommodate 25,000 people. At the end of the main thoroughfare is the multi-story library which, at the time, held the largest number of scrolls in the ancient world.

On the Mediterranean coast of Antalya we walked through the abandoned village of Kayakoy. Originally a primarily Greek village, the village was abandoned in 1923 during the forced “population exchange,” in which Greek Muslims came to Turkey while Ottoman Christians relocated to Greece. Today the village consists of 4,000 structures including a cemetery and a church in which you can still see painted decorations and intricate stone mosaics.

We also hiked a bit of the Lycien Way trail to view a unique sight — flames shooting up through rocks on a hillside. Methane and other gasses trapped underneath the rocks have been igniting at the surface for more than two thousand years. Locals even climb the hill to

have a natural barbeque.

The unique rock formations of Cappadocia are a highlight of any visit to Turkey. Volcanic rocks on the surface of this plain were thrust upwards and eroded resulting in hundreds of rock formations that resemble upside down ice cream cones. The surface of these cones was so soft that over the millennia people lived in caves carved out of these so-called “fairy chimneys.” You can see the entrances to many caves and even go inside churches that were built in caves, paintings of religious figures still visible on the walls. This area also was suitable to the building of several underground cities where early Christians would live for months at a time to protect themselves from aggressors.

Finally, there is the old city of Istanbul. A major attraction is the Aya Sofya (Hagia Sophia), a huge mosque that was originally a church and still boasts mosaics of Christian religious figures. Other historic

mosques, such as the Blue Mosque and the Suleymaniye Mosque, dot the landscape of the old city, along with the Topkapi Palace which housed the sultans of the Ottoman empire between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Yet one of the most impressive structures of the old city was not a mosque, a church, or a palace. Rather, it was a cistern built in the heart of the city under an old church, hence the name the Basilica Cistern. It is a remarkably expansive underground cavern that held the water the Romans brought in by aqueducts from a reservoir near the Black Sea. The cistern is supported by massive columns, many of which were transported from ruined temples, several of which are adorned with artistic carvings.

Turkey provides a traveler with such a variety of sights and activities it is no wonder that we ran into visitors from all over the world. It indeed sits at the crossroads of the globe. 🌐

# The Cruise Room

A few weeks ago, *The Docket* set sail at The Cruise Room. And it was marvelous. Elegantly beautiful in all its brilliant ruby red magnificence, this Denver landmark is a gem worth seeing for yourself. Modeled after a lounge on the famed luxury ocean liner *Queen Mary*, The Cruise Room opened the day after Prohibition was repealed by the 21st Amendment in 1933. At 87 years old, The Cruise Room has the distinction of being Denver's oldest continually running bar.

The Cruise Room is authentic Art Deco. Completely restored in 2012 and classified as a "historic bar" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this is the kind of interior architecture that transports you to another point in history.

The sound of toasts clinking, candles flicker in reflection atop smooth, shiny black tables, a little bit of my friend's French 75 sloshes from the tippy top of her martini glass and onto the white marble floor. From the jukebox comes light jazz standards alongside big band favorites, and as the girl from Ipanema goes walking, I find myself wishing I were wearing a black tuxedo with wide lapels and a satin stripe down the pantleg. Then the time travel fantasy would truly be complete.

Before I moved to Denver, they told me that The Cruise Room was a must-see destination, and they were right.

*Bon voyage!*

**LOCATION:**

The Oxford Hotel  
1600 17th St.,  
Denver, CO 80238

**DRINK SUGGESTION:**

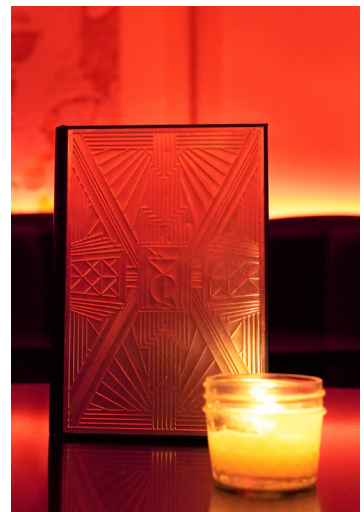
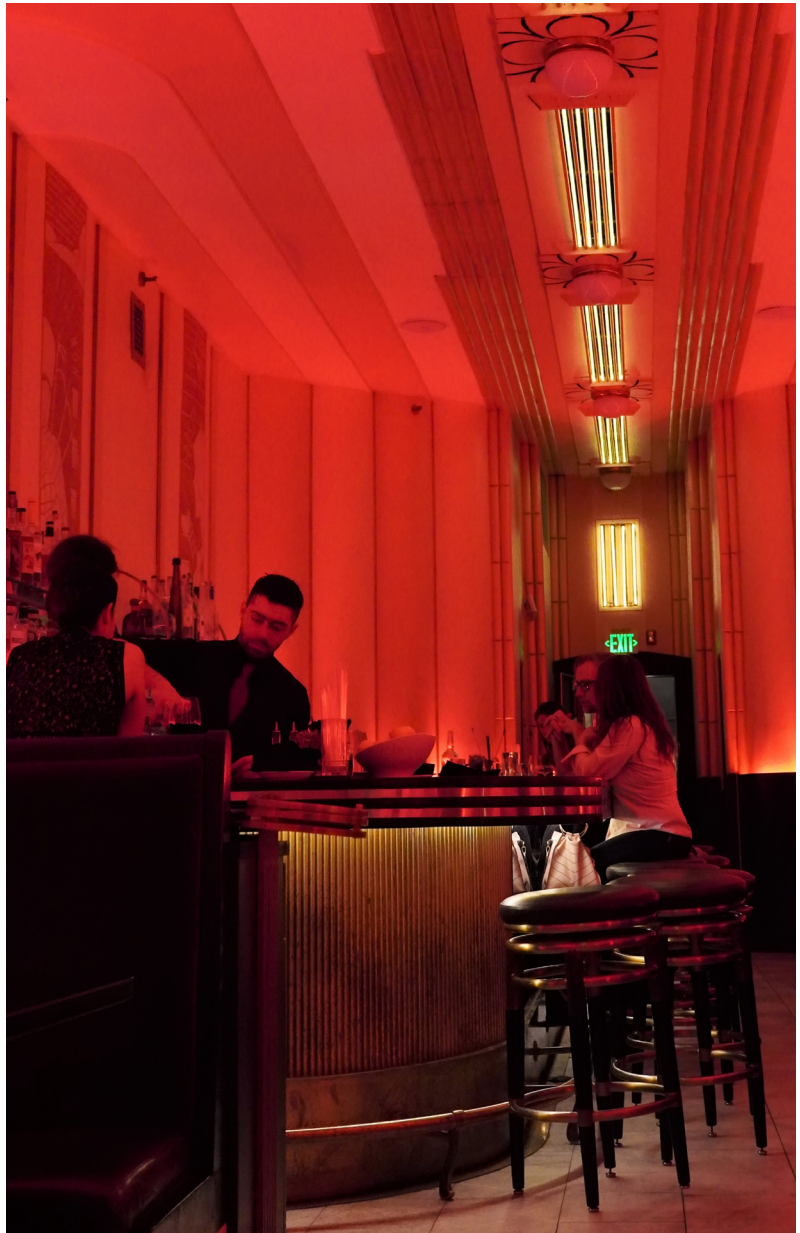
REMEMBER THE MAINE

2 Rye Whiskey  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  Italian Vermouth  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  Cherry Heering  
2 Dashes Absinthe

*Stirred with ice, strained into a chilled cocktail glass, and garnished with a cherry.*

**HOURS:**

Sunday through Thursday,  
4:30 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.;  
Friday and Saturday,  
4:30 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.





# St. Patrick's Day: Not My Sort of Thing

This year, as in most years of my more recent past, I will not go out for St. Patrick's Day. In fact, not only will I not go out, I will actively stay in. I will stock my fridge with food things, restock my liqueur cabinet with booze things, shut off my phone, close the curtains, and bolt the door. I will even remove all traces of green just in case someone happens to see it and thinks I'm one of them.

Now please, don't get the wrong idea about what I am and am not. I am not anti-Irish whatsoever. In fact, I love the Irish! I love U2 and Guinness and Jamison whisky and long, entertaining stories and potatoes and boiled things and dark pubs and cable-knit wool sweaters and James Joyce and the movie *My Left Foot*. In fact, many of my ancestors hailed from that Emerald Isle. My last name is McGarvey for blarney sake! No, I am not anti-Irish, I've just come to realize that St. Patrick's Day is simply not my sort of thing.

I realize that St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many different countries — not least of them Ireland. It is, in fact, the most widely celebrated saint's day in the world. Alas, I have never been to St. Patrick's Day in Australia or Switzerland or Japan (though I did pay \$25 for a pint of Guinness in Tokyo once) or England (that's got to be awkward) so I can not speak to

their interpretations. I am, however, very familiar with what the good people of the United States have done with it. It goes something like this:

Wear something with green in it to the office. Maybe even add some extra pizzazz to your look with a "Kiss me, I'm Irish" pin or a brooch that looks like a leprechaun or a tie covered with shamrocks. Pinch people who you encounter that have failed to incorporate green into their outfit. Leave work with less friends than when you arrived because pinching people is obnoxious. Go straight from work to the nearest happy hour and begin your mission by ordering something strong and a shot. Meet up with friends, some of whom have no doubt come laden with St. Patty's Day paraphernalia (think: plastic green bowling hats, light up flashing shamrock necklaces, light up flashing shamrock antenna headgear, more things that say "Kiss me, I'm Irish" or some lude variation there of, oversized plush leprechaun hats, and, of course, a large assortment of things that make noise). Order a round or two of shots. Notice a small verbal argument taking place between two gentlemen standing nearby. Decide to leave the bar you're

at because it has gotten too crowded and it isn't "Irish" enough. Head to your next drinking establishment making sure to use those noisemakers during your transit. Arrive at next drinking establishment to discover that it is even more crowded than the place where you started. Immediately order a round of shots and more strong drinks. Claim at some point to be at least one eighteenth Irish (this will endear you to your fellow celebrants as each of them will most likely also claim some percentage of Irish heritage before the end of the night). Order another round of shots. Also, while you're at the bar, go ahead and get two strong drinks instead of just the one because it's getting more crowded and who knows how long it'll be before you can get back to the bar. Begin a short conversation about how many cops you've seen out tonight. Start to sing *Danny Boy* in your lowest octave but then realize by the second or third line that you don't know the words. Yell to your friend who's going back up to the bar to not forget the shots. Witness a heated altercation between several people on your way to the bathroom. Try to use the bathroom as quickly as possible so as to escape the pungent



odor of vomit. Decide to again move locations. This time while in transit, strive to be the loudest band of revelers on the sidewalk. Pass an escalating screaming match between two groups of obviously inebriated merrymakers. Arrive at next party place to discover that it is the most crowded yet and that there is a cover charge. Once inside, order shots and more strong drinks. Realize that it's St. Patrick's Day and you haven't had a Guinness yet, so order one of those as well. Complain about how much money you've spent. **\*SCENE MISSING\*** Decide that this is the most opportune moment to bring up that thing that your friend did a while back that's been bothering you, speaking loudly enough so that the whole table can hear you. **\*SCENE MISSING\*** Pick up your drinks and your belongings from your table before they are knocked over by the handful of burly men embrangled in fisticuffs that is heading in your direction. See a middle-aged woman fall off her chair. **\*SCENE MISSING\*** Offer to buy one of your friends their next drink and another round of shots if they go to the bar for you to get yours. Immediately forget this and make your way back to the bar yourself. While waiting for

the bartender to notice you, you find yourself in a back and forth of name calling with a large breasted woman wearing a low-cut, tight fitting Celtics shirt and plush leprechaun hat. **\*SCENE MISSING\*** You make your way out to the sidewalk to find that it is a sea of snarling, stumbling, wobbling people all wearing uncannily similar outfits. You correctly recognize that this crowd is not friendly, but volatile. You go to a street corner where you are one of a dozen people trying to hail a cab or call and Uber. All around you are flashing blue lights, car horns, and screaming. You observe a man throwing up a few feet away. The luck of the Irish is conspicuously missing as you wait for what seems like an hour to catch a ride home. **\*FADE TO BLACK\***

The Irish have had more than their fair share of misery to deal with throughout their history: English invasion, the great potato famine, the IRA, Sinead O'Conner going coccoo. They are proud, strong willed survivors and they bloody well deserve to have their very own day of international recognition. But St. Patrick's Day (The American Version) really has little to do with Ireland at all and everything to do with getting snookered. And

listen, before you jump to any assumptions about my own personal habits based on that last statement, let me assure you that I love to imbibe. One might even classify me as a professional. St. Patrick's Day, on the other hand, is for amateurs. People who are looking for an excuse to go out in public and tear it up. If Thanksgiving is for family and Christmas is for presents and the Fourth of July is for barbecuing and Valentine's Day is for lovers and President's Day is for sleeping in, St. Patrick's Day is for blacking out.

And the Irish must certainly be given props for being so wise as to put their day of celebration in the middle of the most boring time of year for Catholics – Lent (the Catholic Church lifts Lenten restrictions such as drinking alcohol on St. Patrick's Day).

I'm sure I could dig up a "Kiss me, I'm Irish" pin somewhere (or at least a "Kiss me, I'm something-or-another). And I actually own a fantastic green velvet shirt that's been pulled from the back of the closet on many a March 17<sup>th</sup>. But I was younger then and my patience, as well as my liver, had yet to be tried. Now that I'm older and wiser, I'll watch the fights from my window. However, if anybody is interested in singing *Danny Boy*, give me a shout. I know all the words now... ●

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## Legal Aid Foundation's Annual Associates Campaign

Every March, young lawyers from law firms across the state come together to raise money for civil legal aid through the Legal Aid Foundation's (LAF) annual Associates Campaign. This fundraising effort, now in its 16th year, is critical to the ongoing effort to provide civil legal services for low-income people in the state of Colorado. Last year, the Associates Campaign raised over \$230,000, with 62 law firms participating, and donations from more than 1,300 individuals.

So, where does that money go? The LAF is a nonprofit organization on a mission to raise funds to support equal access to justice for all people in Colorado — not just those who can pay for it. The organization was established in 1981 to fill the hole left by cuts in federal funding for legal aid. As a result, the money it raises goes to Colorado Legal Services (CLS), the statewide legal aid organization dedicated to meeting the legal needs of those who cannot pay for services. CLS provides free legal services in civil matters in every county of the state. It has 13 offices and more than 60 full-time attorneys dedicated to addressing the legal needs of low-income people.

Each year, CLS provides services for

over 10,000 Coloradans. Priority is given to addressing the basic legal necessities of a decent life. CLS works to prevent evictions and homelessness; obtain divorces, custody, and child support for victims of domestic violence; maintain parent/child relationships in guardianship cases; prevent utility shut-offs; gain admission to or remain in low-income housing; assist people with disabilities in obtaining public assistance; help individuals and families maintain necessary public benefits; assist veterans in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled; and much more.

In doing so, CLS does not shy away from long or complex legal battles. For example, CLS staunchly advocated for one victim of domestic violence for the past four years. After a woman was physically attacked by her husband, she was left with injuries so severe that first responders did not expect her to survive. When she pulled through, she was left with brain injuries that initially made it difficult for her to make decisions or manage her life. Her injuries also prevented her from earning a living. CLS stepped in and represented her through a bitter and contested divorce process. During the divorce, her former spouse refused to provide financial

disclosures, attempted to hide marital assets by transferring them to other parties, and refused to cooperate with court orders in anyway. CLS ultimately secured a settlement that gave its client a reasonable share of the marital assets. The former spouse refused to honor the terms of the agreement and would not execute the necessary transfer documents. In the end, CLS was able to force a transfer of the assets to its client's name. Now, four years after the attack, the client has recovered enough from her injuries to be able to work part time, and has the financial resources needed to take care of herself as she approaches retirement age.

Another family sought help from CLS when they were faced with eviction. The family lived in a home for about nine years under a promise from their landlord that the property would be deeded to them once they paid off the mortgage. The family relied on that promise and even spent time and money improving the home under the expectation of their future ownership. The landlord, however, passed away before the transaction was complete. The landlord's widow then served the family with a notice to vacate the premises. When the family did not move out upon expiration of the notice period,

the landlord's widow filed a Forcible Entry and Detainer action to evict and remove the family. CLS demonstrated that while there was no written agreement setting forth the installment purchase contract, the terms of the agreement were clear, the contract was enforceable, and the family had performed under the terms of the agreement for nine years by timely paying the mortgage. The court sided with the family, who remain in the property and plan to continue to make their monthly payments with the ultimate goal of completing the terms of the agreement and eventually owning the home outright.

"CLS is dedicated to being an effective advocate for those in need and the impact of our attorneys is felt all over the state. Donations received from the Associate

Campaign make up a vital portion of our annual budget and we are excited to see what the Associates' commitment to justice for all does to support CLS again this year," said Jonathan D. Asher, Executive Director of Colorado Legal Services.

So how can you participate? LAF hopes that 2020 will be another banner year for the Associates Campaign. The Campaign began in 2005 as a way to build support for civil legal aid among a new generation of Colorado lawyers interested in supporting access to justice. That year, 125 associates from 10 Denver firms donated almost \$9,000. In each year since, the Campaign has grown to include more donors and more firms and has raised more money. LAF knows that this year will be no exception. So, on March 1st when the Campaign starts, find

your Associates Campaign Representative or visit [www.legalaidfoundation.org](http://www.legalaidfoundation.org) to donate to the Associates Campaign and support the great work that CLS does every year.

If your firm did not participate last year, there is still time to sign up for the 2020 Associates Campaign by contacting Kelly Bossley, Associate Director of the Legal Aid Foundation, at 303-863-9544 or [kelly@legalaidfoundation.org](mailto:kelly@legalaidfoundation.org).

**MICHAEL L. SCHLEPP** is an associate at S&D Law, where he specializes in civil and commercial litigation. He is a member of the Associates Advisory Board and serves as his Firm's Associates Campaign representative.

**bar CENTER**

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# MAKE IT SO, NUMBER ONE

BY JENNIFER O'CONNELL







It has been announced, as of Dec. 20, 2019, that Space Force is now a reality. What originally rang in the ears like a perfect mixture of “Space Jam” and “Star Wars” now has its own dot-mil page.

In reality, this novel idea of the administration was already in existence as the Air Force Space Command, established during the Cold War. Space operations were its primary mission, according to the pseudo-nouveau Space Force’s own site. What’s it to us? Well, aside from launch points on either coast and a home in lands far, far away, the predominance of business done by America’s storm troopers will be in Colorful Colorado. That’s right, the Garden of the Gods will likely remain the center of the United States’ aerospace operations.

According to [spaceforce.mil](https://spaceforce.mil), “appropriate space-related personnel” will don their chic white helmets and transfer from the Department of the Air Force to Space Force, destination Colorado Springs. Air Force Space Command will now carry the moniker United States Space Force, thanks to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

Along with a new name comes a shuttle-load of cash for Colorado. While the intent, according to the White House, is to “maintain America’s leadership in space,” (forgetting the numerous partnerships NASA has established and the pesky fact that the Russians beat us there in the first place), the Act allows \$148 billion in construction funds to build out the facility. Another \$71 million will soar to Fort Carson for enhanced training and further funds will be allocated for housing.

Seated atop the force-de-space is General John “Jay” Raymond who, according to his biography, has been a dedicated member of the Air Force since 1985. As head of the Air Force Space Command, he was the natural choice.

Next on the flight plan: uniforms. While the tweet requesting design submissions has yet to hit the cyber-waves, it is assuredly forthcoming since a fighting force must be dressed accordingly. Because although certain parts of this planet may quibble, President Trump has named space “the world’s newest warfighting domain.”

Space: The Final Frontier. ●



# A Serendipitous Route to Becoming a Lawyer

BY RICHARD LIONBERGER



**M**y decision to attend law school was a bit whimsical, as many of my life decisions have been. But there was also thought behind it — and a lot of luck and perseverance. This story could be subtitled “Even a Blind Squirrel Sometimes Finds an Acorn”.

It was the Fall of 1976 when I decided to attempt law school. I was 26 and working for Conoco as a petroleum/drilling engineer on a drilling rig North of the Shetlands in the UK North Sea. Since I knew no lawyers and knew nothing about becoming a lawyer, I had to figure out the process. So, I went to the public library in Dundee, Scotland to learn about applying to law school in the U.S. and learned that it was necessary to take the LSAT.

But first some background. I came from a family of blue-collar workers in the oil business and I wanted to be a petroleum engineer. In 1968, when I started college, the oil industry was in the depths of a depression and there were hardly any jobs available for petroleum engineers. Fortunately for me, as it turned out, I didn’t know that and was able to enroll in petroleum engineering anyway, even though my high school performance was awful.

Because the oil industry was in a depression, not many high school graduates wanted to enroll in petroleum engineering. But petroleum engineering departments needed warm bodies to stay in operation. So, I think I was accepted, even with my poor high school grades, mostly because entrance standards had to be lowered to get students. This was the first of many lucky timing breaks that enabled me to go from poor high school performance to a successful petroleum engineering career and eventually to a successful career as a lawyer.

When I graduated from Texas A&M in Petroleum Engineering in 1972, I believe it was the smallest class ever — 14 graduates. That meant most of us were able to get a job offer from any oil company we applied to. I had offers from Shell, Exxon, Texaco, and others, including Pennzoil Company

where I started working. The petroleum engineering starting salaries that year were, on average, the highest of any undergraduate degree program in the U.S. The shortage of petroleum engineers in 1972 and those high salaries were the next bit of luck.

So, I started my career in May of 1972 working as a drilling engineer on offshore drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. Initially, I was based in Lafayette, Louisiana at a salary of \$965 per month. Over the next 4 years, to the time in 1976 when I decided to attempt law school, I was lucky enough to work all over the world as a drilling engineer in the capacity of what is known in the industry as a “company man”.

The company man is the oil company’s representative who supervises the drilling operation and the drilling contractor that is drilling the well. At that time, we worked 7 days on the rig and 7 days off. You may be familiar with the movie “Deepwater Horizon”, about the 2010 Macondo blowout and oil spill. In the movie, there were two company men, both with decades of experience. But when I did the same work in the Seventies, there was generally only one, and I was in my early twenties. It was another lucky break to be working in that capacity in my early twenties because of the challenge of the responsibility and the experience making decisions under pressure.

I worked on offshore rigs in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, the Dutch North Sea, the Arabian Gulf, the Mediterranean, and the UK North Sea. The next piece of significant



luck was that all the international work was on an expense account, with most of my salary going into a savings account. That savings made it financially possible to attend law school eventually.

But why go to law school when I had a lucrative and challenging career ahead as an engineer? From 1972 to 1976 my salary had tripled, and that was mostly due to the shortage of engineers. By then I was aware of the cyclical nature of the oil business and thought that would not continue. I didn't want to be entirely dependent on the oil industry. Also, I was getting bored. Each well began to look the same. I wanted new and different challenges.

Several weeks after my first inquiry I received material to register for the LSAT and learned that the tests were given monthly all over the world. At about the same time, I learned that the February LSAT was the latest I could take and get in law school in the Fall of 1977. So, I chose to take that test to at least have some time to prepare. Because I was on temporary assignment in Scotland and was likely to be on temporary assignments in the future, I didn't know where I would be in February. So, I registered all over the world, including Houston, New York, London, Singapore, and Tokyo.

The next lucky coincidence was that I was transferred to London at the end of 1976. Because I had an office job in London it meant evenings were usually free to study and prepare. That would have been more difficult when rotating to an offshore rig. The preparation materials were mostly practice exams that my wife had found while visiting Houston at Christmas.

Then I needed to try to anticipate where I was going to be located at exam time. I expected to be in London, so I began planning to take the test there. And then I looked at the exam details for the first time. Unfortunately, the LSAT was not given all over the world every month as I had thought but was given at locations all over the world only every other month. The February exam was given only in the U.S. What to do? I remember thinking



that maybe I should just give up on law school. But for some reason, I persevered.

The closest LSAT to London would be at NYU in New York on a Saturday in February. I found a Pan Am flight that left Heathrow about 6 pm and arrived at JFK about 10 pm. There was an informal work setting where I worked, and I thought no one would notice if I left a little early on a Friday afternoon. So, I bought a ticket.

On that Friday afternoon, I left work a little early, walked two blocks to the flat where we lived, picked up my bag, and took a taxi to Heathrow to catch the flight. It was a Boeing 747, and it was practically empty. I found a full row of five empty middle seats at the back of the plane, raised the armrests, and stretched out with a pillow and blanket to get some sleep. But I was far too keyed up with a busy mind to sleep.

When the flight arrived at JFK a blizzard was going on. To economize, I took the bus from JFK into Manhattan. The terminal was open air and it was freezing. There was a long line waiting in the cold for a taxi. But I could see a taxi parked just a few feet away and the driver standing there. So, I started approaching the driver, and he approached me and asked if I needed a taxi. I said "sure". How naïve. Things started okay, but then I noticed the meter wasn't running. When I mentioned that he'd forgotten to turn on the meter the driver said he wasn't going to use the meter. After some strong words back and forth, he stopped in the middle of a

street and told me to get out – to get out in the middle of the street in a blizzard, in a strange place, that wasn't generally very safe in 1977. And then another piece of luck — another taxi was following, saw what happened, picked me up only seconds later, and delivered me safely to my hotel around midnight or later.

After a short night with only fitful sleep, if any, I arrived at NYU on Saturday morning to take the LSAT. When I finished the exam, it felt like a complete failure. I thought I had done terribly, being fatigued to the bone throughout the exam.

Since the blizzard was still going on, and I was worried about getting back to London for work on Monday morning, I went directly back to JFK to take the first flight to London with an empty seat.

When I arrived back home in London early on Sunday morning, I woke my wife and told her we could forget about law school. I was sure I had completely bombed the LSAT, and I began focusing on my fallback, which was taking the GMAT and going to graduate business school.

And then the LSAT results arrived. If I remember correctly, I was in the 3rd percentile. What? To this day, I believe they got my test results mixed up with someone else's. I then applied to The University of Texas Law School, was accepted, graduated in December 1979, passed the Bar Exam, and have been fortunate enough to have a rewarding and interesting career as a lawyer since then. But that's another story. ●

## Changes

**Allen Vellone Wolf Helfrich & Factor P.C.** is pleased to announce their new office location at 1600 Stout Street, Suite 1900, Denver, CO 80202. As growth continues within the firm, the relocation of their office will provide space for expansion and will create an atmosphere where their attorneys, staff, and clients can work together collaboratively in a way that best upholds their unparalleled standards of legal excellence.

▶ Ambler Keenan Mitchell Johnson, LLC is pleased to announce that **Christopher W. Scolari** has joined the firm. Chris assists with a variety of Estate Planning, Probate, Trust Administration, and related matters.

▶ Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP is pleased to announce that **Kent A. Fischmann** has joined the firm as a partner in our Finance & Acquisitions Department. He will continue to focus on intellectual property matters, particularly in the areas of trademarks and patents.

**1** The firm Moye White is pleased to announce the addition of **Niki Vinod Schwab** as an associate in the firm's Business Section.

**2** Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) is pleased to announce **Heather Schell** has been selected to serve as CHFA's general counsel and assistant secretary. CHFA's board of directors appointed Schell in December 2019 following a nationwide search.

▶ Gov. Polis announced the appointments of **David H. Yun**, **Sueanna P. Johnson**, and **Christina F. Gomez** to the Colorado Court of Appeals. These vacancies are occasioned by the retirement of the **Honorable Robert D. Hawthorne**, **Honorable Daniel M. Taubman**, and **Honorable John R. Webb**.

▶ Snell & Wilmer announced the addition of attorneys to the intellectual property and technology practice group in the Denver office **James Johnson**, and **Russell Manning**.

▶ Merchant & Gould announced it has added two attorneys to its Denver Office **Rachel Hammond** an associate joined the

electrical and software practicing group. **Zach Kachmer** an associate joined the electrical and software practice group.

▶ Armstrong Teasdale announced the addition of associate **Darian Mendez** to the technology transactions practice in the Denver office.

▶ Kilpatrick Townsend announced that **Betsy Bengtson** joined the firm's Denver office as an associate on the trademark and copyright team in the firm's intellectual property department.

▶ Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie added new associates in the firm **Kevin Falvo** is a member of the firm's business transaction practice assisting with real estate lending matters. **Tyler Nemkov** is a member of the firm's litigation practice.

▶ Snell & Wilmer announced Nov. 11 that **Judith Lajoie** has joined the firm's Denver office as of counsel in the commercial finance group.

▶ Corporate attorney **Andrew Tawil** joined Holland & Hart in Denver, the firm announced.

**3** The Joint Management Committee of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations announced January 27 it has elected **Amy Larson** as the new Executive Director of both organizations.

▶ Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe announced Nov. 18 that **James Benjamin** joined the firm in its real estate law practice.

▶ Davis Graham & Stubbs announced Thursday that **Taylor Classen** joined the firm's real estate group as an associate.

▶ Holland & Hart announced that the firm added real estate and construction attorney **Thomas Morales** as an associate in the Denver office.

▶ Dorsey & Whitney announced **Laura Gunn**, **David Mangum** and **Andrea Wechter** have been named partners of the firm, effective Jan 1.

▶ Fisher Phillips announced Wednesday the addition of **Brett Wendt** as a partner in the firm's Denver office.



If you are a DBA member and you've moved, been promoted, hired an associate, taken on a partner, received a promotion or award, or begun service on a new board, we'd love to hear from you. Talks, speeches, CLE presentations and political announcements, due to their sheer number, cannot be included. In addition, the Docket cannot print notices of honors determined by other publications (e.g., Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, etc.) again due to volume. Notices are printed at no cost but must be submitted in writing and are subject to editing and space available. **Send all notices to Jessica Espinoza at [jespinoza@cobar.org](mailto:jespinoza@cobar.org). Announcements will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.**



► Fox Rothschild announced Thursday **Jack “Jay” Mankamy** joined the firm’s real estate department as a partner.

**4** Beltzer Bangert & Gunnell LLP is pleased to announce **David Frommell** to the firm’s team as a partner, after eight years as an attorney and partner at a large Denver law firm, bringing with him a decade of engineering experience as well as nearly a decade of legal work.

**5** Beltzer Bangert & Gunnell LLP is pleased to announce **Stephen Wichern** has joined as a partner and it is in the unique position of having worked professionally on two sides of multiple facets of construction: professional design and legal services, in-house and outside counsel roles, and litigation and transactional construction law expertise.

**6** Beltzer Bangert & Gunnell LLP is pleased to announce **Michael Cowan** as a construction litigation associate that represents clients across the country in litigation and arbitration involving all aspects of construction.

**7** Beltzer Bangert & Gunnell LLP is pleased to announce **Lisa Rorden** as a transactional associate, she brings to the firm more than five years of experience as an in-house attorney in the local government sector.



## Good Things

**LEFT** Woods Aitken LLP is delighted to announce that **Colin P. Baumchen** has been named a partner in the firm. He joined the firm as an associate in 2012.

**RIGHT** Mastin Bergstrom LLC is pleased to announce that **Joshua C. Austin** has been named a Partner with the Firm. Mr. Austin specializes in business acquisitions and management. Based on his extensive experience, he is known as one of the top Colorado attorneys representing dentists, veterinarians, optometrists, and other professionals.

► Moye White LLP is pleased to announce that **Zaki Robbins** has been named a partner of the Denver law firm, effective January 1, 2020.



# In Memoriam

**Steven Edward McBride**  
August 14, 1951– January 1, 2020




Steve practiced law for more than 40 years in Denver. In his colleagues' words, "He was one of the greats." Steve was born in Dayton, Ohio to Robert Edward and Luella Kathleen McBride. He attended public schools in Indiana and Pennsylvania where his father was a college professor and dean, then to Denison University in Granville. For the first twenty

years of his professional life, Steve had a general practice; for the last 20 years, he specialized in family law. For the past year and a half he was of counsel with Ciancio, Ciancio, Brown, P.C. During his legal career he led many organizations, including being president of the Arapahoe County Bar Association, the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Family Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association, and the Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary Council. He received many awards, including the Colorado Bar Association Professionalism award, the Arapahoe County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer Award in 1987 and the ACBA Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Donald J O'Connor**  
January 6, 1932 – June 3, 2019



Don O'Connor passed away on June 3, 2019, from complications of dementia and related health problems at the Brookdale Englewood Meridian. Don was born on January 6, 1932, in Staten Island, New York to John J. and Eileen O'Kelly O'Connor. Don married Susan Melvin in 1952. Sue preceded him in death in August of 1997. Don is survived by their four children:

Davis (Cathie), Peter (Kathy), Susan (Amos Miner) and Richard (Holly), seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Don and his current wife, Lenora, were married in 2001. Don's is also survived by his sister, Jackey Davies, of Rhode Island. Don received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from Cornell University (B.A., 1953; LL.B., 1958. From 1953 to 1955, he served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. 

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Attorneys pictured in the second row: Yerin Cho, Sarah McEahern, Britt Holz, Kurt Zaner (partner), Marc Harden (partner), Steven Winegar, Joseph Woelkers, Robbie Landis, Mara Essick.

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*Confidential Products Liability Settlement from Car Manufacturer for mother of four trapped in her car for 6 days as seen on Good Morning America & World News Tonight*

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# Take Flight with MVL at the 2020 Barristers Ball!

**P**lease join us on May 1, 2020, at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum for an evening of conversation, cocktails, dinner, and dancing with 400 to 500 of your closest friends and fellow passengers. We encourage all of our attorneys and friends to come and have fun while we celebrate our community's volunteerism and raise money for Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL).

MVL's mission is "to bridge the gap in access to justice by coordinating the provision of pro bono legal services by volunteer lawyers within the Denver metro area to people who could not otherwise afford legal services for their civil legal issues." MVL is the flagship program of the Denver Bar Association, in partnership with the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin Counties), Adams/Broomfield, Arapahoe, and Douglas/Elbert Bar Associations. It is truly a one-of-a-kind program with metro-wide support and has served as a model and inspiration for other programs around the country. MVL provides various legal clinics like the Family Law Court Program, Post Decree Clinics, the Legal Clinic at the Denver Indian Center, and the Power of Attorney Clinics throughout the metro area. MVL also provides free legal counsel to clients in the areas of domestic/family law, landlord/tenant, adoption, guardianship/conservatorship cases, bankruptcy, and social security law. And this year MVL has launched a brand-new program that provides comprehensive legal services to family law clients through an ongoing clinic-based provision of unbundled legal service: Family Law Unbundled. Year after year for over fifty years, MVL serves thousands of our vulnerable community members in need. In doing so, MVL provides a platform for lawyers to fulfill Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and to put into action the oath we took when we had the privilege of becoming Colorado lawyers.

The Barristers Benefit Ball is the annual fundraiser for MVL and your participation is crucial to MVL's mission. This year we are excited to announce that tickets and tables can be bought through the Denver Bar Association's website. Please contact Jess Ham ([jham@coabar.org](mailto:jham@coabar.org)) for sponsorship opportunities and any questions or requests for further information you may have. We rely on you and your support to make this event a success.

So, we invite you to join us as we recognize and celebrate the countless hours of pro bono work done by our hundreds of active volunteers who represent the very best of our profession. It promises to be a great event to enjoy with colleagues and friends, with the added bonus of giving

back to your community and MVL at the same time. Don't just wing it — we encourage all of you to book your tickets early and make the pledge to come and join us for a great evening. Hop aboard and take flight with MVL. 🛩️

**JERREMY RAMP** is a partner with the firm Lass Moses Ramp & Cooper LLC, where his practice focuses on family law. Jeremy serves on the board of Metro Volunteer Lawyers as an officer of the Family Law Section Executive Council and the Family Law Section Legislative Committee. He has been published in the area of family law and lectured on family law legislation, domestic violence, and trial matters.







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# Barristers Afterhours & Volunteer Recognition

What a phenomenal night for the Denver YLD and MVL to celebrate and recognize our outstanding volunteers! We are grateful for everyone who gives their time and expertise to help those who are underserved in our community. Thanks to everyone who came out to show their support.

- Kyle Brenton (Chair MVL Board), Marie Avery Moses, Jeremy Ramp (MVL Board Member)
- Leo F. Milan, Jr. – Pro Bono Coordinator for the Attorney General’s Office and Toni-Anne Nuñez
- Josh Fitch, Nick Pepler, and Jessica Espinoza
- Ivonne Esparza, Anthony Pereira, Justin Bertron, Anne Zogg
- Mark Chapleau, Matthew Dolan, Steven Lass, Marie Avery Moses, Katharine Lum
- Joey Mark and Toni-Anne Nuñez
- Anthony, Anne, Ivonne, Liz Jones, Toni-Anne Nuñez, Virginia
- Julia Wiggins, Laura Kelly, Leo F. Milan, Jr., Noah Patterson and Dana Showalter



## Theresa Wardon Benz

*Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell, LLP*

# With 2019 Davis Award Recipient Theresa Wardon Benz

**1. Where are you currently working?** Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell, LLP

**2. Why did you become a lawyer?** I took a business law class in college and was drawn to the problem-solving aspect of law. I was fortunate to get an internship at a law firm from a friend's father and that further hooked me. I also saw the power of law to change someone's life.

**3. What are five adjectives that you would use to describe yourself?** Driven, Enthusiastic, Kind, Perceptive, and Optimistic.

**4. What gets you out of bed in the morning?** Right now, it's usually a crying baby. But what gets me motivated — knowing I get to practice law with a wonderful group of people all the while living in this great state.

**5. What made you decide to practice law?** A mentor once told me that I would encounter situations where a client might not want to pay for extra hours or oral argument preparation or one last review of a brief, but that didn't mean I shouldn't do it because excellence is its own reward.

**6. Where are your favorite places to travel?** There are too many. I loved Ethiopia, India, and Italy, which were three very different trips.

**7. Any new obsessions?** Like so many busy lawyer/parents, I'm obsessed with the Peloton.

**8. What's one thing you couldn't live without?** Rent the Runway. They have a subscription service that is like Netflix (back when there were DVDs) for clothing. I have a rotating closet with no dry cleaning. And it's a woman-owned business. What's not to love?

**9. What has been one of the biggest challenges that you have had to overcome?** I didn't come from a family of lawyers or even know any lawyers growing up, so I had to initially learn how to navigate the road to law school and becoming a lawyer on my own.

**10. What are your hobbies outside of the law?** I like to ski, hike, cook, and read. 🍷

# SAVE THE DATES

Network with your colleagues and revitalize your practice by hearing from some of the most preeminent legal leaders at our upcoming CLE institutes.



■ **May 28-29, 2020**

**18th Annual Rocky Mountain Intellectual Property & Technology Law Institute**

Westin Westminster Hotel, Westminster, CO

■ **June 4-6, 2020**

**40th Annual Estate Planning Retreat**

Park Hyatt, Beaver Creek, CO

■ **June 10-12, 2020**

**2nd Annual Colorado Solo-Small Firm Institute**

Cheyenne Mountain Resort,  
Colorado Springs, CO

■ **July 16-18, 2020**

**38th Annual Real Estate Symposium**

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort, Vail, CO

■ **August 20-22, 2020**

**2020 Annual Family Law Institute**

Vail Marriott Mountain Resort, Vail, CO

■ **August 27-29, 2020**

**12th Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Elder Law Retreat**

Grand Hyatt Vail, Vail, CO

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\*Derived from Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.