



# SOTA

State of the Association

Your News Bulletin for the  
Colorado Association of Legal Support Staff

2010-2011, Volume 2

December 2010/January 2011

## **CALSS: THE SECOND BOARD MEETING AND CLE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**

I have a colleague from my earlier career named Debbie Brown who was one of the smartest, most reflective people with whom I've ever worked. I'd like to introduce you to a concept of hers called "Conscious Competence."

In Conscious Competence, we recognize that we all have skills and talents, some of which we take for granted, because they are automatic. That's unconscious competence—we just do it and its right because we've done it that way for so long. Then there's conscious incompetence—something we know we don't know. Working part time in my newest job at a litigation firm I am often reminded of the things that I don't know and I KNOW I DON'T KNOW THEM. Yikes.

The best of all possible worlds is "Conscious Competence" where we know something and we know that we are good at it. So, how do we expand our conscious competence? First, recognize what you already do incredibly well. The more aware you are of the things that you do well, the more confident you become. So, reflect for a few moments on what you already do well.

Second, recognize that learning something new is always risky. One way of lessening the risk is to remind ourselves that we are all learning and that, by being a constant learner, we are always looking for ways to expand our skills—becoming a greater and greater asset to our clients, colleagues and employers.

Third, enlist help. For instance, bringing friends and learning in a safe setting, like the upcoming

CLEs, is an incredible way of making the new feel more safe and more manageable. Our friends are waiting for us to join in the fun at the Second Board Meeting and CLE on February 5, 2011. We'll work on new skills together, using each other and the laughter that we all love to share to keep our conscious competence expanding.

Speaking of Conscious Competence, there are many people I'd like to invite you to join me in thanking who are working incredibly hard to help CALSS grow and succeed. Please join me in thanking, among others, Joyce Beach, Larimer-Weld, who sent out over 150 scholarship announcements; Cathy Vlasak, Teresa Chamberlain, Meg Jeffries, Sherry McWethy and Lisa Ritter, Larimer-Weld, who hosted a tremendous CLE on November 6 in Frederick, Colorado; Ann Salek, Mile High, who revamped our CALSS Marketing materials so they look terrific, are current and accurate; Mile High chapter, which has done a beautiful job of recruiting new members this year; Audrey Brekel, Mile High, who created and mailed 145 flyers to law firms and organizations in the Boulder area, then organized and hosted a tremendous meeting to entertain the possibility of forming a Boulder chapter; Carol Donahue, Mile High, who continues to find the most amazing quotes for our website; and Ginny Lee, Mile High, who was featured on Channel 9's "Nine Who Care Awards" for her work as a CASA volunteer. To those of you listed and those of you whose work I inadvertently overlooked, my sincerest gratitude for all you do for all of us. We are a richer community for having you in our midst.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and see you February 5, 2011.

**Mark Donovan**

## VICE PRESIDENT

After attending the EC Retreat, the energy abounded in the State Officers. On November 6, 2010, CALSS, in conjunction with Larimer-Weld ALSS, sponsored a CLE in Frederick on DUI Court and Family and Juvenile Drug Court. Magistrates Zehe and Spangler were very informative and entertaining.

This has started out as an exciting year, and promises to continue on that course under the guidance of our President, Mark Donovan.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Second Board Meeting in February, and Happy Holidays to you!

Sherry McWethy

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Don't forget to watch the members around you at each event. One of them is the 2010-2011 Outstanding member. Who will you nominate? Who will nominate you? Contact me with any questions.

Ginny Lee  
Chairman

### MEMBER NEWS

*Congratulations* to Cathy Vlasak for her work with the Lincoln Center board in Fort Collins at their big fundraiser last month!!

### MEMBER NEWS

*Congratulations* to Ginny Lee, who was named a 7 Everyday Hero for her work as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Ginny has worked as a CASA since 2004 and logged over 1,000 hours. You can see the full story featuring Ginny on the Channel 7 website ([www.TheDenverChannel.com](http://www.TheDenverChannel.com)) and clicking on 7 Everyday Hero on the left side of the page. Way to go, Ginny!!

## WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

Welcome to our new CALSS members!

Larimer-Weld  
Kathleen Colson  
Emily Thurston-Moench

Mile High  
Jamie Adessa  
Barbara Chavez  
Kari Gallo  
Gina Gradecki  
Santa Patafio  
Sereena Salzano  
Laura Teter  
Tim Curtis  
Linda Smith

We look forward to meeting you at one of our meetings!



**MEET THE MEMBERS!**

**MEET JANE SPRAGUE**

Jane F. Sprague is a Legal Assistant, State Personnel Board, and is a member of the Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff.

Jane answered questions and shared fun facts about her life as follows:

How long have you been a CALSS member: Not sure – maybe 10-12 years – my memory is not great.

How long have you been in the legal profession: 26 years.

My family consists of: my husband Bill and my four daughters (Rachel, 35, who is married to Adam and lives in Shanghai; Maria, 32, who has a son, Sebastian, works at Morton’s Denver Tech, and goes to school for pre-nursing; Maria’s twin, Briana, 32, who works at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and lives with Maria; and Kara, 30, who works at McKinsey & Company out of San Francisco).

In my spare time I like to: hang out or watch movies with my husband, visit my daughters and Sebastian (my first and only grandchild), garden, read or talk to my sisters.

My favorite place on the planet is: Ojo Caliente, New Mexico, where my husband and I own a rural property with an adobe house, from which we watch sunsets and llamas, horses, roosters,

dogs, cats, rabbits, coyotes, and any other animals which may wander onto our property.

My favorite music/song is: Spanish or flamenco guitar music by people like Ottmar Liebert, Segovia, Paco Pena, and Ruben Romero.

My favorite TV show is: “NCIS,” which has a great cast with good chemistry, great plots, and interesting characters.

My favorite movie is: “Billy Elliott,” which shows people should not be limited by gender in the pursuit of their dreams.

My favorite actress is: Charlize Theron, who has taken on difficult roles and is beautiful.

My favorite actor is: Robert DeNiro, who has great range and has had many wonderful roles.

My favorite author is: Dr. Seuss.

The last great book I read is: Little Bee.

It drives me crazy when: I find out how much politicians running for office spend on their campaigns.

Only my very best friends know that: I’d rather give than receive.

I’d also like to share: Sebastian is the joy of my life. I never get tired of seeing him. He is now 8 months old and loves to crawl, play, smile, laugh, grab, eat, pinch, and sleep on my shoulder.

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**MEET PAT THOMPSON**

Pat Thompson is retired, and is a member-at-large from Longmont.

Pat answered questions and shared fun facts about her life as follows:

How long have you been a CALSS member: 40+ years.

How long have you been in the legal profession: 40+ years.

My family consists of: Two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

In my spare time I like to: Work crossword and jigsaw puzzles, read, exercise, garden, handcraft, and I do a bit of volunteering.

(Pat Thompson's life – continued)

My favorite place on the planet is: Right where I am at now.

My favorite music/song is: Anything by Josh Groban and I occasionally like to listen to Pavarotti and the other Italian tenors.

My favorite TV show is: Mike & Molly.

My favorite movie is: Dear John.

My favorite actress is: Can't think of anyone special at the moment. Katherine Hepburn would be up there as a favorite.

My favorite actor is: Paul Newman.

My favorite author is: Nicholas Sparks.

The last great book I read is: Dear John.

It drives me crazy when: Someone pretends to be something other than what they are.

Only my very best friends know that: I have a temper like any other redhead (Yes, I used to be a redhead).

I'd also like to share that I really enjoy being a CALSS member – I've met and continue to meet some very special people.

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### MEET KATE MILLER

Kate Miller is a member of the Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff.

Kate answered questions and shared fun facts about her life as follows:

How long have you been a CALSS member: I think it has been about 12 or 13 years.

How long have you been in the legal profession: I have been in the legal profession close to 20 years, because I had a five-year break, at which time I worked for a pharmaceutical company.

My family consists of: husband, David, a son, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

In my spare time I like to: I enjoy sewing quilts, doing puzzles, crocheting/knitting, reading, and baking. If grandchildren were nearby, they would take precedence over all these things.

My favorite place on the planet is: First of all, my most favorite place is at home doing the above, but otherwise, anywhere my family is, and I wouldn't mind it if they were in Hawaii. I would like to return there for a visit.

My favorite music/song is: I enjoy Praise and Worship and/or Christian music, and some country—miss going to Sundance three times a week!

My favorite TV show is: I still like the Mentalist, but also enjoy reruns of According to Jim.

My favorite movie is: The Sound of Music, followed by old Tom Hanks' movies, also the Anne of Green Gables series. I'll watch most any movie on the Hallmark channel.

My favorite actress is: I really don't have a favorite, but like Meg Ryan and Sandra Bullock

My favorite actor is: Simon Baker, but still like Tom Hanks in his older movies.

My favorite author is: Karen Kingsbury, followed by Nicholas Sparks.

The last great book I read is: I am reading Half Broke Horses, by Jeannette Walls, also author of the Glass Castle.

It drives me crazy when: people do not keep their word and people who are habitually late, and I don't want to forget those other drivers, but won't go there now!

Only my very best friends know that: I don't think there is anything a friend knows about me that others don't – I'm an open book. (I had planned to write that I smoke, but that would be a lie.)

Other thoughts to share: It is great to be part of CALSS. It a fun group, but also one that I have been challenged in. I enjoy my job and so thankful to have one that I enjoy. Life is good!

**MILE HIGH ASSOCIATION OF  
LEGAL SUPPORT STAFF**

The Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff continues to meet monthly at the Lakewood Elks Club. Each meeting consists of a brief business meeting followed by dinner and a CLE presentation. In September Marcia Keppy of Asset Awareness provided information on finding lost assets. October's meeting was filled with information regarding credit, as presented by Chad Gentry with Community Credit Counseling Services. Paul Cha with Holme Roberts and Owen LLP joined us in November with a brief discussion on copyright law. For December, MHALSS will forego the business meeting and celebrate the holidays with good food and a gift exchange.

Rather than choose between two charities to assist during the holiday season, MHALSS members elected to assist them both. Donations of canned goods were collected in November and delivered to Ansar Pantry, a food bank located in Aurora operated entirely by volunteers. In March the members will make monetary donations to Excelsior Youth Center in Aurora, an organization serving girls who would otherwise be placed in foster homes. Excelsior assists the girls with school and social networking.

Janet Price  
State Representative



**TREASURER**

Well it's been a whirlwind of activity putting together the new roster with address/e-mail updates and adding 11 new members. I look forward to adding more new member names to the roster as often as possible! The roster is now updated and available on the CALSS web page Members Only section. Please take a moment to make sure your information is accurate. If not, please let me know at [lrutter@ftccolaw.com](mailto:lrutter@ftccolaw.com).

If you have expenses for reimbursement, the Expense Claim Form is also on the web page.

Happy Holidays to all!

Lisa Ritter

***Message From the Editor***

I hope you enjoy the new section of SOTA entitled "Meet The Members!" Three members will be in the spotlight with each future issue.

State of the Association is published during even-numbered months.

Please submit all articles, updates, news from your chapter, committee, etc., to me ([audrey.brekel@hro.com](mailto:audrey.brekel@hro.com)). Future deadlines are February 1, April 1, June 1, and August 1.

Also, if you have any suggestions for items to be included in deNovo, please pass those along also.

Audrey Brekel

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Our December  
and January Birthdays***

Audrey Brekel	December 2
Janet Elder	December 8
Timothy Curtis	December 10
Pauli Ingwersen	December 14
Jill Smith Buck	December 20
Ginny Schermerhorn	January 1
Lynn Loner	January 3
Santa Patafio	January 3
Cheryl Ellman	January 12
Sherill Mullins	January 21
Rita Watson	January 22

**CALSS Leadership  
2010-2011**

<b>Officers (Executive Committee):</b>			
President:	Mark Donovan	(303) 436-9121	<a href="mailto:med@h-l-mlaw.com">med@h-l-mlaw.com</a>
President-elect:	Audrey Brekel	(303) 417-8502	<a href="mailto:audrey.brekel@hro.com">audrey.brekel@hro.com</a>
Vice-President:	Sherry McWethy	(970) 498-9229	<a href="mailto:colocode3@frii.com">colocode3@frii.com</a>
Secretary:	Cathy Vlasak	(970) 498-7450	<a href="mailto:cvasak@larimer.org">cvasak@larimer.org</a>
Treasurer:	Lisa Ritter	(970) 482-9770	<a href="mailto:lritter@ftccolaw.com">lritter@ftccolaw.com</a>
Parliamentarian:	Pauli Ingwersen	(719) 475-6487	<a href="mailto:pingwersen@hollandhart.com">pingwersen@hollandhart.com</a>

**CALSS Committee Chairs  
2010-2011**

Annual Meeting	Judy Boker and Renie Shovlin Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Audit	Ginny Lee / Sherill Mullins / Vivian Acott Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Bulletin	Ginny Schermerhorn Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Continuing Legal Education	Jodi Morse Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Credentials	Shelley McKinstry Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Guidelines	Peg Bell Member-at-Large
History Book	Teresa Chamberlain/Janet Knoll Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Marketing/Professional Association Liaison	Ann Salek Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Membership	Laura Teter / Carol Donahue / Vivian Acott Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Nominations	Ginny Schermerhorn / Judy Boker / Pat Thompson Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff / Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff / Member-at-Large
Outstanding Member	Ginny Lee Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Pro Bono	Cathy Hansen Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Professional Certification	Janet Price Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Scholarship	Joyce Beach Larimer-Weld Association of Legal Support Staff
Ways & Means	Ginny Schermerhorn Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff
Website	Carol Donahue, RP Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff