



# SOTA

State of the Association

Your News Bulletin for the  
Colorado Association of Legal Support Staff

2010-2011, Volume 3

February/March 2011

## OUR GOALS = OUR GROWTH

Happy New Year! We know that we have great things going for us as CALSS members: great colleagues; great camaraderie; great learning; great community. More and more legal support staff members know that, too, as our chapters report increased numbers of new members, our advertisement is in the Colorado Lawyer and we create more opportunities for ourselves and our fellow legal support professionals.

Growth was certainly on the mind of the Executive Committee (EC) when we met at our October retreat. As your elected board members, we've set two goals for ourselves: increase CALSS chapters by two new chapters and increase member participation.

The first goal is already off to a great start with two meetings of the fledgling Boulder chapter having taken place. Thanks to Audrey Brekel's initiative, the support of Pat Thompson, and your EC members, the second lunch meeting was held on January 26 featuring the head of the Enforcement Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue, Dan Hart, discussing the challenges of medical marijuana enforcement.

We are excited to see the Boulder chapter take off and to see where else in Colorado there is a need for the sense of support and community we offer.

We have also seen increased involvement in the number of members of our chapters and in the

outreach Lisa Ritter, Treasurer, has done to make sure our members at large feel included in all we do and the activities of our committee chairs and other members. One great example was a meeting in Sterling just before Christmas with Peg Bell, Guidelines chair, and members of the EC who met to refine our CALSS Guidelines.

The next example of your involvement is Friday, February 4 and Saturday, February 5 in Longmont at our second CLE and Board Meeting. For \$25.00 members receive 4 CLE credits and timely knowledge imparted by computer wizard, Reba Nance, from the Colorado Bar Association. We are all excited to see you there.

Save the dates May 13 and 14 for our third CLE and Board Meeting "Spring Splurge" when we meet in Breckenridge for an afternoon of learning and a weekend of fun. The EC will be calling on many of you to help us coordinate this and other upcoming events. We're excited to work together as CALSS continues to meet our goals and grow as a community.

**Mark Donovan**  
CALSS President



## PRESIDENT-ELECT

It's February (it's cold and snowy outside) – and it isn't too early to start thinking about the 2011-2012 CALSS year! It would be absolutely fabulous to see new/different people take on a leadership role on the state level. If you would like to take on a committee but aren't sure what to do or what it entails, please contact me.

Please let me know your ideas to make *your* association the very best it can be!

**Audrey Brekel**

## OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Outstanding Member nominations are coming up soon. Who are you nominating? Who is that person in your chapter? Get ready as the time is near.

**Ginny Lee  
Chairman**

### MEMBER NEWS

*Wishing a speedy recovery* to Jane Sprague with her recent hip replacement!

### MEMBER NEWS

*Our thoughts and prayers* to Jan Knoll following her diagnosis of breast cancer. Jan is very optimistic about her recovery because of early detection and good prognosis. Let's support Jan as she goes through treatment.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mile High  
Shelly Hunter  
Judy Stevens

We hope to meet you at one of our upcoming meetings!

### MEMBER NEWS

*Wishing a speedy recovery* to Sonja Ostrom with her recent knee replacement!

## VICE PRESIDENT

The EC had an awesome EC Retreat in Longmont in October. We discussed goals and other matters.

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. Thank you, Cathy Vlasak and Jodi Morse, for helping organize the seminar!

In December, I traveled with Cathy and Lisa Ritter to Sterling, to meet with Peg Bell and Mark Donovan for a review of the Guidelines. In addition to having a productive meeting, it was great to visit with Peg.

On January 26, Cathy, Lisa and I again hit the road and went to Boulder for a luncheon seminar on medical marijuana. Not only was it informative, but there were quite a few Boulder legal people in attendance. Thank you, Holme Roberts & Owen for providing the location, Mark Donovan for setting up the speaker, and Audrey Brekel for getting notices out – wish you could have attended!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Second Board Meeting in Longmont!

**Sherry McWethy**

## MEET THE MEMBERS!

### MEET JODI MORSE

Jodi Morse is a member of Larimer-Weld Legal Support Staff. She works at March, Olive & Pharris, LLC, in Fort Collins.

How long a CALSS member: 5 years (I am not sure).

How long in the legal profession: 13 years.

My family consists of: a husband, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 2 dogs.

In my spare time I like to: crochet, hand quilt, and ride my bike.

My favorite place on the planet is: Caymen Islands.

My favorite music/song is: When The Sun Goes Down, by Kenney Chesney.

My favorite TV show is: Law & Order.

My favorite movie is: Pretty Women.

My favorite actress is: Julia Roberts.

My favorite actor is: Russell Crow.

It drives me crazy when: People are very lazy.

Only my very best friends know that: I had a crush on an older guy (3 years older than me when I was 14) and he kissed me.

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### MEET PEG BELL

Peg Bell is a member-at-large. She is retired in Sterling, Colorado.

How long a CALSS member: 37 years.

How long in the legal profession: 40 years.

My family consists of: Husband Lowell and two cats, Buff and Boots.

In my spare time I like to: Read and make cards and gardening in the summer.

My favorite place on the planet is: Home.

My favorite music/song is: No favorites but like most of Rascal Flatts music.

My favorite TV show is: Extreme Makeover Home Edition.

My favorite movie is: Can't think of just one!

My favorite actress is: Julia Roberts.

My favorite actor is: Alan Alda.

My favorite author is: Too many to mention! I read a lot and just can't pick a favorite.

The last great book I read is: The Help – although any book I read becomes my favorite at that time!

It drives me crazy when: People are late.

Only my very best friends know that: I don't have a clue what it would be.

I'd also like to share: My books and the cinnamon twists I make at Christmas!

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## MEET CAROL DONAHUE

Carol Donahue is a member of Mile High Association of Legal Support Staff. She works at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP in Denver.

How long a CALSS member: 11 years (maybe).

How long in the legal profession: 19 years.

My family consists of: me, Loki, Comet, Moondance, my housemate & her pets.

In my spare time I like to: play poker, make cards, make jewelry, walk the dogs, hang with my BF's.

My favorite place on the planet is: a yoga mat – it's the only time I can clear my mind and have total relaxation. I'm also very fond of Vegas.

My favorite music/song is: classic rock, classical & new age.

My favorite TV show is: Supernatural, Sons of Anarchy, Bones & Dr. Who.

My favorite movie is: Sweet Home Alabama (I know it's cheesy, but I can't resist it).

My favorite actress is: Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep.

My favorite actor is: Sean Connery – has there ever been a classier guy?

My favorite print authors are: Christopher Moore and Charlaine Harris.

My favorite podcast authors are: Scott Siegler and Mike Bennett.

It drives me crazy when: people are wearing super baggy clothes and they have to keep pulling their pants up as they walk. Also, bad grammar makes me insane.

Only my very best friends know that: I'm intensely shy around folks I don't know and that

I can't resist a double dog dare. That's how I ended up doing the Alligator in my wedding dress.

I'd also like to share: I LOVE my life – my house, my job, my friends, my family, my critters – all of it. I used to break dance, skateboard and had spiked, purple hair when I was (MUCH) younger.

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## HISTORY BOOK

We have started on the 2010-2011 History Book and would appreciate receiving contributions for the book as soon as possible after each meeting so that we can include everyone's contributions in the book. If you have any photos to contribute to the History Book, please email them to: [teresa\\_chamberlain@yahoo.com](mailto:teresa_chamberlain@yahoo.com) or mail them on memory stick or CD to Teresa at: 375 East Horsetooth Road, Bldg. 6, Suite 200, Fort Collins, CO 80525. Please send any other contributions to Teresa. Thank you to Cathy Hansen and Lisa Ritter for their photos.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Our **February** and **March Birthdays**

Peter Smith	February 5
Vivian Acott	February 9
Sherri Meadors	February 18
Sereena Salzano	February 22
Jan Knoll	February 28
Shelly Hunter	March 8
Janie Kelley	March 11
JoAnn Thompson	March 21

## 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 section followed by dinner and a CLE presentation. January's speaker was Tim Rotter, an investigator with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office. Mr. Rotter offered tips and strategies to protect oneself from identity theft. The fraud theme will continue into February when Doug Cash, a forensic investigator for Eide Group, will address identity fraud. The speaker for March will be Chuong Le, an associate attorney at Katz Look & Onorato, P.C. Mr. Le will do a presentation on estate planning.

Mile High is looking forward to its second charitable event in March. Monetary donations will be collected for Excelsior Youth Center in Aurora. This organization serves girls who would otherwise be placed in foster homes. Excelsior assists the girls with school and social networking.

Several Mile High members have volunteered their time and talents to assist with the Colorado Bar Association High School Mock Trials Competition. Assistance as scoring panelists and courtroom monitors will be provided during the Denver Regional Mock Trials on February 11 and 12 at the Denver City and County Building, and during the State Mock Trials on March 11 and 12 at the Adams County Justice Center.

Janet Price  
State Representative

### MEMBER NEWS

**Judy Boker** is a candidate for Greeley City Council! There are 7 candidates and the other council members and mayor will make the final decision.



### *Message From the Editor*

I hope you are enjoying the new year and that 2011 brings you happiness and prosperity!

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 April 1, June 1, and August 1.

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

Audrey Brekel



**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	Vacant
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