



Colorado Judicial Institute hosts Second Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner

Proceeds benefit the Judicial Education Preservation Fund

Dana Nelson
Executive Assistant to the Board
Colorado Judicial Institute

CJI is pleased to report the remarkable success of the Second Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner. The metro areas most prestigious law firms, accounting firms, business leaders, banks, attorneys and judges gathered to honor three outstanding judges and support judicial independence.

The over 300 attendees at the Hyatt Regency Denver enjoyed a fine selection of wines provided by Primo Vino wine shop in Arvada, Synergy Distribution Company, and Montage Cellars. Emmy Award Winning 7NEWS Anchor Bertha Lynn again served as the emcee for the event, assisting CJI in presenting the 2004 Judicial Excellence Awards to **Judge Cheryl L. Post, Judge Roy G. Olson and Magistrate Clinton A. Smith.**

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CJI Board Chair Message

Welcome to our first of hopefully many newsletters! As you all know, our mission statement focuses on public education regarding Colorado's judicial system and on preserving and enhancing the independence and excellence of the Colorado courts. For 26 years, CJI has pursued its mission through a wide variety of projects, and we are very proud of what we have achieved and of our ongoing initiatives. Through this newsletter and those to follow, we look forward to letting you know what we have been up to and, hopefully, to get you as excited about our projects as we are. Thanks for your support and for joining in our shared vision of judicial excellence!

Richard L. Gabriel
Board Chair
Colorado Judicial Institute

2004 Judicial Excellence Awards Presented

Outstanding Jurists Receive Recognition

Dana Nelson
Executive Assistant to the Board
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CJI proudly presented its 2004 Judicial Excellence Awards on November 8, 2004 during the Second Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner. Each nominee for the awards must meet the following criteria:

- Efficiently, expeditiously and objectively manages cases and dockets
- Is recognized by members of the bar, litigants, court personnel and others as respectful and even-handed, but in firm control of activities within the courtroom
- Is recognized as an innovator and is creative in dealing with the processes within the courtroom
- Has displayed extraordinary courage, energy and tenacity in the handling of high profile, controversial, or difficult cases

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The Keynote Speaker for the evening was Mr. Robert J. Grey, Jr., President of the American Bar Association and partner at the law firm of Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Grey's address "The American Jury in the 21st Century" touched upon his primary project of creating better justice through better juries via the American Jury Initiative. The Jury Initiative is composed of the Commission on the American Jury – charged with creating a modern set of jury principles that the ABA can propose as a national standard, and the American Jury Project – charged with educating the public on the importance of jury service in providing equal justice.

The Judicial Education Fund was the real winner of the evening. In just over 2 years, CJI has raised over \$60,000 for the fund. These monies are now available for continuing education and training programs for judges, magistrates and court staff. CJI has established rules and procedures for requesting these funds. See page 3 for more information on education fund request procedures.

This remarkable evening would not have been possible without the support of the many sponsors who have made a commitment to Judicial Excellence for Colorado. For a complete list of CJI supporters see page 4. CJI thanks all of the corporate sponsors, in-kind sponsors and individuals who attended the Second Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner.

The Third Annual Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner will be held in November 2005!

CJI TOUTS ADR ON NEWS4 PROGRAM

Alternative Dispute Resolution can aid the people of Colorado in solving issues without the wait for a court appearance.

Members of the CJI Board of Directors participated in a mock mediation for the News 4 cameras in an effort to educate the public on the availability and advantages of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). CJI Board Member and Retired State Supreme Court Chief Justice Anthony Vollack acted as mediator in the mock dispute with CJI Board Chair Richard L. Gabriel and CJI Board Members Constance C. Talmage, Lance Tanaka and Peter D. Willis playing the parts of opposing clients and attorneys.

ADR has much to offer to individuals involved in disputes as varied as wrongful discharge from employment, divorce, product liability and insurance disputes. ADR may take the form of a private arbitration, and it also includes mediation, which is a third-party assisted negotiation aimed at settling disputes out of court. With the current financial crisis in the state courts leading to extremely crowded dockets, unfilled court staff positions and required furlough days, the excellent arbiters and mediators in Colorado can fulfill a critical role in ensuring that the citizens of Colorado have access to timely resolution of many issues.

Board of Directors News

Board Chair Richard L. Gabriel of Holme Roberts & Owen LLP contributed a "Speakout" editorial to the Rocky Mountain News. Published December 10th, 2004, the editorial responded to an earlier "Speakout" editorial by Dale Charles of the Colorado Civil Justice League (CCJL). The CCJL proposed to evaluate judges based solely upon whether their rulings expand or further limit liability. CJI supports an impartial evaluation process and criteria that are not dependent upon prevailing political sentiment.

Gary Lozow of Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Woods & Levy, P.C. has been named a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge Robert J. Kapelke of the Colorado Court of Appeals has retired effective January 11, 2005. He was appointed to the bench on January 4, 1994. Judge Kapelke has served as president of the Denver Bar Association, as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, and as a member of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of the Colorado Bar. He was the 2001 recipient of the Denver Bar Association's Award of Merit. In addition to his service on the CJI Board, Judge Kapelke is currently president of the Denver Rotary Club.

Sheila Gutterman of Gutterman, Griffiths & Powell, P.C., along with a panel of collaborative law experts, is the author of *Collaborative Law: A New Model For Dispute Resolution* available now from Bradford Publishing. Sheila has also been named one of the Top Divorce Attorneys in Denver by *Divorce in Denver Magazine*.

Upcoming CJI Meetings:

February 10
Executive Committee Meeting
March 10
Board Meeting
April 14
Executive Committee Meeting
May 2005
CJI Annual Meeting

- Is respected by, and has the confidence of, other judges, court staff, lawyers and others
- Has exemplified the highest standards of judicial excellence throughout a distinguished career.

The District Court Award Winner was **Judge Cheryl L. Post** – Deputy Chief Judge in the 18th Judicial District. Judge Post is committed to improving the processes of the court and, as such, is a pioneer of electronic filing, simplified and fast-track post-decree procedures, and improved case management protocols. Judge Post currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Statewide Caseflow Leadership Taskforce and as the Judicial Liaison to the Office of the Child Representative. Judge Post has received the Raymond Frenchmore Award for Outstanding Contribution to Juvenile Justice from the Arapahoe County Bar Association and was a judicial honoree of the Colorado Women’s Bar Association.

The County Court Award Winner was **Judge Roy G. Olson** of Jefferson County. Judge Olson shares oversight of the truancy cases in Jefferson County in addition to a mixed county court docket. He serves on the District Attorney’s Task Force on Domestic Violence, has attended numerous national seminars on domestic violence, and participates in training victim advocates through Family Tree in Jefferson County. Judge Olson’s commitment to the youth of Jefferson County is displayed in his participation in Moot Court Competitions, the Drive Smart Evergreen campaign, speaking to student organizations, and a 30-year association with the Forest Heights Lodge, an Evergreen-based treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents.

The Magistrate Award Winner was **Magistrate Clinton A. Smith** of the 10th Judicial District. Magistrate Smith’s docket includes all juvenile delinquency cases, all attorney-filed dissolution of marriage and custody cases, and all county court civil cases. Magistrate Smith serves on the Juvenile Probation Services Committee. Karen Studen, 10th District Court Administrator, described Magistrate Smith as “always maintaining a positive attitude. He actively offers suggestions and proposals for changes and efficiencies. He always considers the impact on everyone involved. Many of his suggestions for change center on making things easier for the lawyers, court customers and clerks rather than to meet his own needs.” Magistrate Smith is a true team player who consistently places the best interests of the judicial system and citizens of Colorado first.

The hard work of the dedicated, well-educated and determined men and women who serve on the Colorado Bench needs to be recognized by all the citizens of Colorado. CJI is proud to honor outstanding judges every year!

Judicial Education Preservation Fund

Funds are now available for the education and training of judges, magistrates and court staff.

CJI is accepting requests for funds from the CJI Judicial Education Preservation Fund. Requests for funds may include the purchase of hardware, software, attendance at educational conferences and seminars, funding educational classes, and other services that are useful in the education and training of judicial personnel.

Recipients of moneys from the Fund must be qualified in at least one of the following ways:

1. be an established educational institution or training facility;
2. have provided education or training for judicial employees or judges for at least five (5) years;
3. be a recognized specialist in a particular field of learning or training;
4. be a credentialed or established and regular provider of the type of services or merchandise selected or sought by the Committee; and
5. be able to demonstrate qualifications and experience in providing the types of products or services, education or training sought or selected by the Committee.

Individuals applying for funds must submit evidence of need and that the end recipient of the funds, ie: the provider of training/education classes, meets at least one of the above listed criteria.

The complete criteria and submission instructions are available by contacting Dana Nelson at danacji@comcast.net, or online at www.coloradojudicialinstitute.org/judicialexcellence.htm.

CJI Judicial Excellence Award Previous Winners

2003	Honorable Harlan R. Bockman Chief Judge, 17 th Judicial District	2001	Honorable Kenneth K. Stuart Chief Judge, 18 th Judicial District
	Honorable Charles T. Hoppin Jefferson County Court		Honorable James R. Leh Chief Judge, 13 th Judicial District
	Honorable Tijani (T.J.) Cole Magistrate, 20 th Judicial District	2000	Honorable H. Jeffrey Bayless District Judge, 2 nd Judicial District
2002	Honorable T. Peter Craven District Judge, 9 th Judicial District		

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The Colorado Judicial Institute is the only independent and nonpartisan citizen's group in the nation devoted to the excellence and independence of its state courts. Established in 1979, CJI was originally formed to preserve Colorado's merit selection system for judges. Its mission has broadened to include public education about the judiciary, support for judicial education, recognition of judicial excellence, and collaboration with the public, the legislature and the judiciary to improve Colorado's courts.

