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## LEGAL LOWDOWN

# 'Friendly' Competition Benefits Legal Aid

By **Meg Satrom, Esq.,  
James Carlson and David Forster**  
LAW WEEK COLORADO

DENVER — A little friendly competition between two frequent adversaries last week benefited Colorado's Legal Aid Foundation.

"We opened our mail to find this great check," said **Diana Poole**, the executive director of the nonprofit. "Along with it there was a form explaining that it was part of the challenge between the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association and the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association."

The check, which was from the law firm of Jones & Keller, was on behalf of the trial lawyers, who are competing against the defense lawyers in hopes of raising more money and donating more time throughout the month of September. Their efforts came in response to Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Bender declaring October professionalism month.

"We were trying to up the ante a bit," said **Ross Polkrabek**, a shareholder with Jones & Keller, who's chairing the effort for CTLA. Polkrabek's hope was that it might increase pressure on firms on both the CTLA as well as the CDLA sides to give more.

"This is all about working with the



Diana Poole, the executive director of the Colorado's Legal Aid Foundation. | LWC FILE PHOTO

CDLA to give time and money back to our communities."

The two organizations, which set ground rules declaring one hour and \$100 being equal, will tally the totals after the Oct. 1 deadline and name a winner at a dinner on Oct. 10. (The chair of the defense lawyers'

effort is Heather Salg at Harris Karstaedt Jamison & Powers, who could not be reached for comment by press time.) The two organizations will also take an extra step toward professionalism that night when each side will name the top most professional attorney

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# LEGAL LOWDOWN

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from the opposing side.

The gift from Jones & Keller couldn't be better timed, Poole said. "There have been so many funding cuts over the past three years to our organization, and the number of eligible Coloradans continues to increase."

If you'd also like to help Legal Aid, visit its site at [www.legallaidfoundation.org](http://www.legallaidfoundation.org). •

### Rothgerber changes leadership

Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons elected **Frederick Baumann** as the firm's chairman. Baumann, who had served as the firm's managing partner since 2007, will

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There have been so many funding cuts over the past three years to [the Legal Aid Foundation], and the number of eligible Coloradans continues to increase.”

— Diana Poole

play a leading role in providing strategic direction for the firm. His practice is focused in complex corporate and business litigation.

**Brian Spano** succeeds Baumann as the firm's managing partner. Spano has served on the firm's executive committee since 2005 and has practiced law with the firm since 1987. His practice is focused on commercial and insurance-related litigation.

Additionally, partners **Kristin Bronson**, **Thomas Dougherty** and **Michael Plachy** have been elected to the firm's executive committee. They will join Baumann, Spano and **Robert “Sam” Arthur** as part of the firm's six-member leadership team. •

### Moye White names new executive director

Moye White announced that **Dean Nakayama** joined the firm as its new executive director. Nakayama was most recently chief operating officer with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.

“With decades of experience in the legal arena and as a highly respected longtime member of the Denver legal admin-

istrative community, Dean brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our firm,” said Moye White's managing partner, **Jim Burghardt**. “Dean's commitment to teamwork, professionalism and collegiality is a perfect fit with Moye White's core values.”

Prior to his work with Brownstein, Nakayama served as a legal administrator with Isaacson Rosenbaum and with the Denver District Court. •

### New general counsel at Allonhill

Denver-based Allonhill, an independent third-party review firm specializing in mortgage due diligence and credit risk management, has hired **David Kaplan** as general counsel.

Kaplan's background includes experience in securitization and due diligence. Prior to joining Allonhill, he was general counsel, chief compliance officer and vice president for Braddock Financial Corp., a Denver-based registered investment adviser, hedge fund manager, private equity and venture-capital firm.

He previously worked as an associate in the New York City offices of two international law firms. At Sidley Austin, he was engaged in securitizations and structured finance transactions. At Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, he participated in numerous equity IPOs, bond issuances, restructurings, reorganizations, and mergers and acquisitions.

Kaplan holds a bachelor's degree from New York University, a law degree from Widener University Law School and a master of laws degree in taxation from the University of Denver Graduate Tax Law Program. He is admitted to the bars of New York, Colorado, the U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. •

### Northern Colorado firm adds one

Donelson Ciancio & Grant has added a former public defender in the city of New Orleans to its family law practice. **Nathan Bucar** joined the firm last week.

He was most recently practicing with

### Burleson adds three

Oil and gas law firm Burleson added three new attorneys to its Denver office, which opened in 2011, bringing the total number of attorneys in this location to 30. The firm added attorneys **Steve Nagy**, **Craig Rowland** and **Ward Scott**.

All three attorneys will focus specifically on oil and gas title work. Nagy joins Burleson from the Colorado Attorney General's Office where he was an assistant attorney general in the resource conservation unit.

Rowland's expertise includes drafting original drilling order title opinions, working with varied types of interests, analyzing intricate probate issues and mineral ownership among heirs and devisees. And Scott is currently working toward his master's of law in natural resources and environmental law and policy at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. •

### McAllister to serve six years

A former Denver attorney was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to financial fraud charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas, where the case was prosecuted.

**Robert McAllister**, 62, of Denver, pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit financial fraud and one count of bankruptcy fraud.

In his plea, McAllister admitted that from 2006 to 2011 he conspired to obtain wire transfers totaling more than \$1 million