



Colorado GLBT Bar Association  
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February 1, 2009

Dear Members of the Colorado GLBT Bar Association:

Welcome to 2009! We write to update you on your bar association and to invite you to renew your membership. Membership forms are available on our website, [www.coloradoglbtabar.org](http://www.coloradoglbtabar.org).

Our Winter Social was held on Thursday, January 22nd, and we were happy to see so many familiar and new faces. A new membership year began January 1, and paid 2009 members attended without additional charge. **Now is the time to renew your membership for 2009.** Benefits of membership include: professional networking opportunities such as our Spring Social and Summer Judicial Reception, continued receipt of our email dispatches, and opportunity for active participation in our education and outreach efforts. Our 2009 annual events will include:

- Spring Social* – April
- Judicial Reception* – June
- Fifth Annual Awards Dinner* –September

At the Winter Social, we were pleased to introduce a new board for 2009:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| President:                        | Jason Cobb                |
| Vice President:                   | Kevin Bemis               |
| Secretary:                        | Liz Titus                 |
| Treasurer:                        | Eric Kuhn                 |
| Immediate Past President:         | Alyssa Yatsko             |
| Special Events:                   | Susie Roh                 |
| CBA Liaison/CLIP Rep:             | Mindy Barton (ex officio) |
| University of Denver Student Rep: | Matt Goodrich             |
| CU Boulder Student Rep:           | Jennifer Marski           |
| Judicial Endorsements:            | Jason Prussman            |
| Community Outreach :              | Erica Johnson             |
| Website/Listserv:                 | Monica Marquez            |

As GLBT persons have made great progresses in Colorado in recent years, so have the opportunities for this bar association. Under the capable leadership of 2008 President Alyssa Yatsko, the 2008 board sought to fulfill our mission in new and sustainable ways. We have forged new partnerships, refreshed old ones, and provided a GLBT face in the profession and community.

In 2008, Andy McCallin continued in a new board role announced in 2007 - Judicial Endorsements Chair. Through 2008, the Judicial Endorsements Committee has interviewed candidates for twenty-

five judicial vacancies arising from Colorado's judicial performance system, of which eleven of the Colorado GLBT Bar Association's recommendations have been appointed by Governor Ritter and Mayor John Hickenlooper. Members had the opportunity to interact with many of these judges and a host of others at the Summer Judicial Reception, an event presented annually at the lovely home and gardens of Milo Gonser and Steve Keiley. The 2008 event was the largest ever!

Jason Prussman is the Judicial Endorsements Chair for 2009, and is already fielding requests for the Colorado GLBT Bar Association's input on an expanded field of nomination, including for new U.S. Attorney. Subcommittees are typically organized in short order following vacancy announcements, and notifications are sent to the membership through the listserv (don't miss them by failing to renew!). If you have interest in serving on a future committee or have questions, please contact Jason Prussman at [jason.prussman@huschblackwell.com](mailto:jason.prussman@huschblackwell.com).

In 2009 we will continue our cooperation with the Colorado Campaign for Inclusive Excellence, which will hold its second national-caliber legal diversity summit in March. Beyond the original Pledge to Diversity Internship program that allows GLBT and other diverse law students summer associate opportunities at Colorado's largest firms, CCIE expands the resources available to firms seeking to incorporate diversity into their practices. The Colorado GLBT Bar Association remains active in a CCIE-facilitated dialogue with Colorado's other "specialty bars" in efforts to advance our common goals, including presenting a unified front in the face of potential cuts to firm diversity program funding. We also hope to soon announce a jointly-sponsored CLE targeted to GLBT and other diverse legal professionals.

We continue to work closely with the Center's Legal Initiative Project in promoting our attorneys and their practices. We are again a sponsor of the Center's marquee event, Jokers, Jewels and Justice, which brings together a large cross-section of political leaders, business persons, and advocates in promoting the principles of equality in the law and equal access for GLBT persons. CLIP and the Center have also continued to facilitate practitioner workgroups addressing new developments in the law. In the business community, the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has lead the way, and we expect an expanded relationship in 2009 affording even greater inroads into the business community.

The universities and law students are the source of our profession and bar association's renewal. By having both CU and DU GLBT student groups represented on our board, we actively seek opportunities to support their efforts on campus, and to provide mentoring. In 2008, we brought our Annual Awards Dinner to the campus of DU. There, we were roused for the challenges ahead by keynote speaker Professor Kristian Miccio, and honored the years of struggle and accomplishment of Pat Steadman and State Representative Alice Madden.

In 2008, we saw the greatest level of law firm sponsorship for our Annual Awards Dinner ever. In 2009, we expect this to decline along with the economy. In seeking to remain relevant and visible, we will be asking everyone's help in promoting GLBT values at a personal level. For your bar association, this means: making sure you've renewed your own membership, asking your acquaintances to become fully-fledged members, gathering a table of friends to attend an event, joining a judicial endorsements subcommittee, offering the Colorado GLBT Bar Association as potential partner to your other professional networks, approaching your firm about sponsoring the Annual Awards Dinner, or gathering a table of friends to attend the dinner together.

We have not forgotten that this organization had its origins in — and has been sustained by — the dedication of committed GLBT legal professionals standing up for one another and claiming their place of leadership in the profession and community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, and look forward to working with you in 2009.

Very truly yours,

*The Board of the Colorado GLBT Bar Association*