



2017-18 DBA Annual Report

In the past year, the Denver Bar Association continued its mission of executing its Five-Year Strategic Plan, launched in 2016, with a mission of advancing professionalism within the legal community and promoting justice in the broader community. With a persistent goal of adding value to its membership with enriched education, networking and volunteer opportunities for legal professionals in all stages of their career, the DBA continues to expand its diversity, engage younger attorneys, communicate with its membership and create ways to serve others. This Annual Report presents a snapshot of the past fiscal year 2017-2018.

Message from the DBA President

By Franz Hardy

The past year has been a tremendous one, and I've enjoyed every minute of the opportunity to lead the DBA. In this role, I was able to meet so many interesting people from all over Denver, from distinct practices, and with unique experiences and backgrounds – which truly stands out as a highlight of my presidency.

This past year, we carefully examined our membership dues structure to ensure that our fees were reflective of both our members and our organization. I am proud of how we are growing our network of offered services while demonstrating our value. To this, we are also eager about the DBA's move to a new location, after a 20-year tenure on Grant Street. Our new offices were carefully selected to remain economic and efficient, while being convenient to our membership, and we are now poised for the next generation as an organization.

This past year, the DBA also continued to expand our efforts to increase our relationships with our diverse members of the profession by strengthening relationships, working together, and continuing to create pathways to leadership.

While there are far too many people to thank in terms of making my year so rewarding and fulfilling, I wanted to recognize Executive Director Patrick Flaherty for his diligence in integrating new leaders into the organization and setting a high bar for what can be accomplished. I thank the incredible staff members who perform the hard day-to-day operations and make the DBA run so smoothly and successfully, as well as the board of trustees who continually seek ways to improve the membership experience and have the action-oriented focus to get things done. Finally, I am grateful to the attorneys of my law firm at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP for their patience and understanding while I served in this leadership role.

As I wrote in my first president's message, so many of us have unique courses that led us to our current profession. As lawyers, we have the unique ability to help people to find their path, and I implore all our members to continue to share your experiences and expertise with others, whether they are young lawyers, would-be attorneys, or are simply trying to find themselves. Help them navigate finding a successful path. This is who we are as an organization. This is who we are as a profession. Thank you.

Promoting Justice

Working closely with the Colorado and national legal aid communities, such as Colorado Legal

Services and Colorado Legal Aid of Colorado, the **Access to Justice Committee** continued to promote and support grassroots projects, such as the **ABA's Legal Aid Defender Campaign**, in defense of the nonprofit Legal Services Corp., established by Congress in 1974 to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans, an agency that's in line for total elimination of funding under the current administration.

The committee also worked closely with Metro Volunteers Lawyers, and staffed, created and promoted pro se legal clinics and opportunities, such as Lawline 9, whereby attorneys answer call-in questions on the first Wednesday of every month from viewers of KUSA (NBC) Channel 9, and Legal Nights with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. They hosted two family law legal clinics, and created an Access to Justice article series for the *Colorado Lawyer*.

Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL), the pro bono program of the Denver Bar Association, provides civil legal services to those living at or below 125% (free legal services) to 150% (low-fee legal services) of federal poverty guidelines. Their five programs: Legal Clinic at the Denver Indian Center, Family Law Court Program, Post-Decree Consultation Clinics, Power of Attorney Clinic and Referral Program, serve Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin and Jefferson counties.

This year, the **Power of Attorney Workshops**, which was started three years ago by MVL's Rovira Scholar Fellow Joey Scott to meet an unmet need in the elderly community, grew

by a whopping 193%. The program, which is unique because volunteers visit local senior centers directly, sets up living wills, powers of attorney and disposition of final remains for these senior citizens. Another upside to the program is that it grants attorneys a different way to give back to the community, as they do not need to make a long-term commitment to volunteer.

The Post-Decree Consultation Clinics that provide meaningful post-decree assistance for people who are representing themselves in ongoing litigation for domestic relations cases in Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, and Jefferson counties, continues to be the only program that serves this niche.

MVL hired a new staff member to coordinate the Post Decree Consultation and Power of Attorney Clinics, and work in conjunction with the Colorado Bar Association Access to Justice Department. They hosted a Family Law Basics CLE to support current volunteers and recruit new ones, and began their Strategic Planning process.

MVL also increased their **mentoring program** for attorneys who cannot take on a full case, but have the expertise and desire to support a more junior attorney who may be new to the practice or the expertise. The mentees take on these pro bono cases, with mentor support.

In 2015, the DBA helped purchase a new case management system, called **Legal Server**, to share a database with Colorado Legal Services. The system has continued to be extremely efficient in streamlining cases, allowing MVL to serve their clients faster. In total, the MVL accepted more than 1,600 cases for the fiscal year 2017-18.

Tomorrow Will Never Die, thanks to the record-attendance of nearly 400 attendees who came donned in their best Bond, and gambled, danced and networked at the **Barristers' Benefit Ball** — Casino Royale, which raised \$20,000 to support Metro Volunteer Lawyers' commitment to providing free and low-cost legal services for civil matters to those in need. This year, the BBB added a lively live auction and a video outlining of the valuable work MVL performs for our community.

Advancing Professionalism

The DBA increased its membership of 8,372 to 9,222 (including retired, inactive and student members), and after a review of the dues structure, the Board of Trustees approved an increase in Senior dues by \$15, to make them more commensurate with the needs of both the members, and the organization's services.

May was **Member Appreciation Month**, with more than 16 events, including free CLEs, member happy hours, a member panel and reception at the Clocktower Cabaret, and a joint Metro Volunteer Lawyers and YLD Happy Hour at Woods Boss Brewery to recognize standout volunteer lawyers serving citizens in the Denver metro area.

The **Internet & Technology Department** continued to support the Denver Bar Association and affiliated programs in their technical needs by maintaining and improving web services, network security and data management.

The Docket continues to be published six times a year, and Brendan Baker joined the team as a Writer/Editor + Communications Specialist for both the Colorado & Denver Bar Associations. Our **social media** presence on Facebook has increased the DBA's exposure with 1,105, followers and 697 followers for the YLD.

The **DBA Young Lawyers Division (DBA YLD)** partnered with three local marketing professionals to bring DBA members a 12-part Legal Marketing Bootcamp dedicated to teaching lawyers how to effectively develop, maintain and leverage their professional networks. The series attracted more than 30 attendees, ranging from various practice areas and career stages.

The DBA YLD once again hosted their annual **Court Orientation**, a program geared at introducing new and new-to-the-area attorneys to the nuts and bolts of practicing law in Denver and throughout Colorado. Presentations from local judges, practitioners and legal professionals highlighted key ethical considerations for practitioners, strategies for negotiation and litigation, practical legal writing tips, and common substantive issues new attorneys face. This year, the program was offered free of charge for all members and students.

Bar Center, a members-only co-working space at the Denver and Colorado Bar Association

offices, witnessed a significant increase in usage during its second year. Offering members a stronger sense of community and collegiality, plus business amenities to enhance a 21st-century practice, Bar Center offers power for devices, meeting space, wi-fi access, printing, scanning, copying, faxing and networking events.

The DBA also administers the **Waterman Fund**, which provides financial assistance to qualifying Colorado attorneys who are "aged, infirm or otherwise incapacitated." The Waterman Fund, which was established in 1954 by Anna Rankin Waterman, makes these benefits available to incapacitated attorneys in good standing who have practiced in Colorado for a minimum of ten years. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, the volunteer administrators approved more than \$110,000 in grants for attorneys in need.

The **DBA Seniors Committee**, for attorneys who are aged 65 or better, hosted two popular events, the 2017 Holiday Party, and 2018 Seniors Committee Spring Banquet honoring 47 DBA members who have been licensed for more than 50 years. DBA President Franz Hardy and Seniors Committee Chair Judge Leonard Plank were among the presenters, and several young lawyers also interviewed and introduced the honorees.

The popular **DBA Golf Tournament**, organized by the Golf Committee, YLD and Seniors Committee, hosted more than 110 golfers at an afternoon tournament and reception at Wellshire Golf Course to benefit Metro Volunteer Lawyers.

The **DBA Awards Committee** honored the following recipients of its annual awards: Mary Jo Gross (Award of Merit); Hon. Alan Loeb (Judicial Excellence); Ellie Lockwood (Volunteer of the Year); Richard Murray (Young Lawyer of the Year); and City of Denver's Youth Outreach Program "Bridging the Gap, Kids and Cops" (Education in the Legal System). The Annual Awards Party held at the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center also featured the induction of the new CBA President John Vaught and DBA president Maureen Watson for 2018-19 year, and a ceremonious thank you to outgoing DBA President Franz Hardy. The ceremony in the Supreme Court Courtroom was followed

by a reception in the atrium, where attendees enjoyed appetizers and drinks.

The **DBA Bench-Bar Committee** continued promoting collegiality and communication between Denver judges and the attorneys who practice before them. The Committee hosted monthly “Courtroom Chats” September through May, with topics such as *Practicing in Denver’s Juvenile Courts* with Judges Brent Woods and Donna Schmalberger; *Ethical Issues in Criminal Law* with Judges Candace Gerdes and Adam Espinosa; *What to Expect Before an Administrative Law Tribunal* with Administrative Law Judges Edwin Felter and Tim Nemechek; *A View Behind the Curtains* with the Chief Judge of the Denver District Court, Michael Martinez, and his CJA Abby Budzien; *Obtaining Probate Court Approval of Personal Injury Settlements Involving Minors* with Denver Probate Court Judge Elizabeth Leith; *Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decisions and the Colorado Supreme Court* with Justice Melissa Hart; *Writing to Persuade a Trial Judge in Denver District Court* with Judge Edward Bronfin; *Nuts and Bolts of Litigating Civil Protection Orders in Denver County Court* with Judge Chelsea Malone; and *Valuable Tips for Handling Depositions* with Judge John Madden. Attendees universally said the most valuable part of the events is getting to know the judges and having the opportunity to talk informally with them.

Colorado Bar Association CLE (CBA-CLE), the nonprofit educational arm of the Colorado Bar Association provides relevant and quality legal resources for Colorado attorneys and legal professionals. With input from attorneys and stakeholders, CBA-CLE has continued to develop new formats for programming—including holding several CLE program with content offered in shorter time frames, adding more speaker panels and new round-table formats.

CBA-CLE promoted Program Director Heidi Ray, who has 20 years of CLE programming experience, eight years of which with DBA, to the position of Assistant Executive Director. Bridgett Shephard also joined the team as the new program attorney, from the 18th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, where she managed a docket of felony cases.

CBA-CLE hosted more than 150 CLE programs and published 70 substantive law publications,

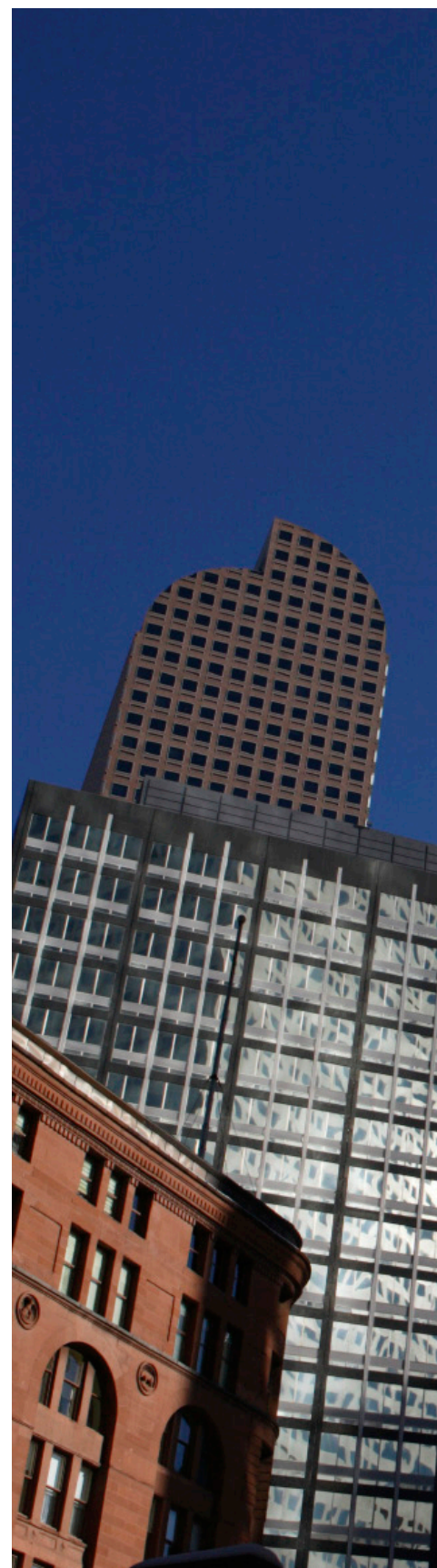
achievements not possible without the time and dedication provided by 900 authors and close to 1,200 faculty. CBA-CLE and the CBA sections also worked together closely to produce the IP Institute, Estate Planning Retreat, Real Estate Symposium, Family Law Institute and Elder Law Retreat.

The **Programs plus Book** programs, which feature CBA legal publications as the course materials, offered the opportunity for authors and editors to highlight portions of the book and answer questions in person.

The **CBA-CLE Pass**, which offers unlimited access to a catalogue of the best CLE courses in Colorado at a discounted price, is going strong. Participation from law firms continues to increase, with many small and medium firms finding the value in offering quality and affordable programming for their attorneys.

The **DBA Bench Bar Committee** began a new series of Breakfast CLE programs called *Courtroom Chats*. These events feature a judge speaking on a specific topic and they have gained a good following. They are held every month at the Lindsay Flannigan Courthouse.

The **DBA Nominating Committee** successfully seated **Kevin McReynolds** as the next DBA President, and filled positions for the DBA Board of Trustees and the BA Representatives to the CBA Board of Governors. The committee is working to streamline the nominating process, including making it easier to understand and determining the best information to seek from nominees.



Finances

Denver Bar Balance Sheet

Assets	2018	2017	*2016	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,243,548	\$1,938,210	\$1,822,114	\$1,798,706	\$1,815,170
Due from CBA		\$165,683	\$228,436	\$187,671	\$119,308
Accounts Receivable DBF					
Accounts Receivable — other	\$89,702	\$45,119	\$18,943	\$32,309	\$10,245
Prepaid expenses	\$27,111	\$32,532	\$35,713	\$23,982	\$30,449
Property net of Depreciation	\$13,457	\$23,430	\$31,750	\$45,263	\$33,759
Funds held for retirement benefits					
Deposits	\$4,544	\$4,544	\$4,544	\$4,544	\$4,544
Total Assets	\$2,378,362	\$2,209,518	\$2,141,499	\$2,092,475	\$2,013,475

Liabilities and Membership Equity

	2018	2017	*2016	2015	2014
Liabilities					
Accounts payable other					
Due to CBA	\$31,729				
Due to DBF					\$28,650
Accrued Compensation	\$66,876	\$32,982	\$25,174	\$28,802	
Accrued retirement benefits					\$339,727
Deferred Revenue (dues and other)	\$599,998	\$479,653	\$463,952	\$403,495	\$24
Accrued sales taxes and property taxes			\$18	\$58	\$-2,089
Accrued income taxes			\$-3,159	\$2,249	\$366,312
Other	\$698,603	512,635	485,986	\$434,604	
Total Liabilities	\$2,601,980.00	\$2,240,091.00	\$2,281,896.45	\$2,294,428.39	\$2,062,647.36

Liabilities and Membership Equity (continued)

	2018	2017	*2016	2015	2014
Membership Equity					
Unrestricted	\$1,654,127	\$1,674,863	\$1,620,612	\$1,625,661	\$1,622,477
Restricted for special projects	\$25,363	\$22,020	\$34,901	\$32,210	\$24,686
Total Membership Equity	\$1,679,759	\$1,696,883	\$1,655,513	\$1,657,871	\$1,647,163
Total Liabilities & Membership Equity	\$2,378,362	\$2,209,518	\$2,141,499	\$2,092,475	\$2,013,475

Revenues

	2018	2017	*2016	2015	2014
Dues	\$1,168,522	\$1,106,524	\$1,004,791	\$919,287	\$927,850
Member Programs	\$4,805	\$166,986	\$226,059	\$288,235	\$336,018
Metro Volunteer Lawyers/TNB	\$130,805	\$149,442	\$136,592	\$164,207	\$132,784
Misc. Income	\$58,340	\$66,967	\$49,407	\$72,468	\$79,363
Total Revenues	\$1,362,472	\$1,489,919	\$1,416,848.56	\$1,444,197.47	\$1,476,014.94

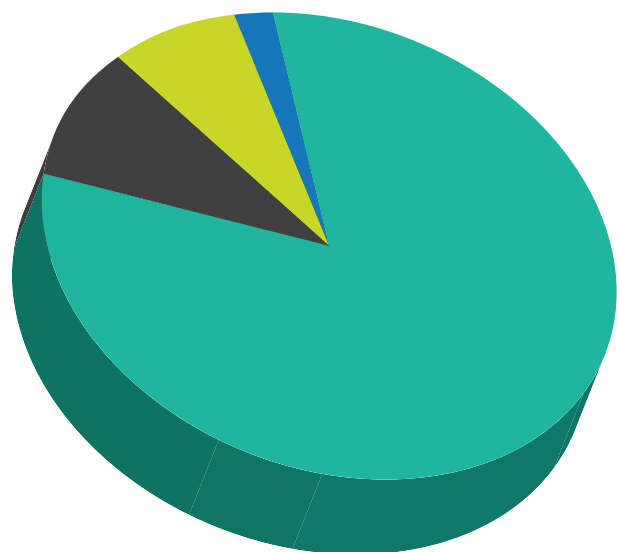
Expenses

	2018	2017	*2016	2015	2014
Programs, committees & departments	\$477,814	\$625,775	\$612,318	\$596,027	\$597,003
Metro Volunteer Lawyers/TNB	\$314,361	\$271,232	\$265,285	\$278,917	\$251,358
G&A Human Resources	\$283,349	\$261,912	\$249,894	\$293,144	\$282,519
Building, Equipment & Operations	\$276,207	\$246,403	\$265,526	\$259,084	\$242,508
Governance and meetings	\$31,479	\$30,347	\$28,875	\$13,841	\$21,678
Total Expenses	\$1,383,210	\$1,435,669	\$1,421,897	\$1,441,013	\$1,395,066

Surplus (deficit)	\$-20,738	\$54,250	\$-5,049	\$3,184	\$80,949
--------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------

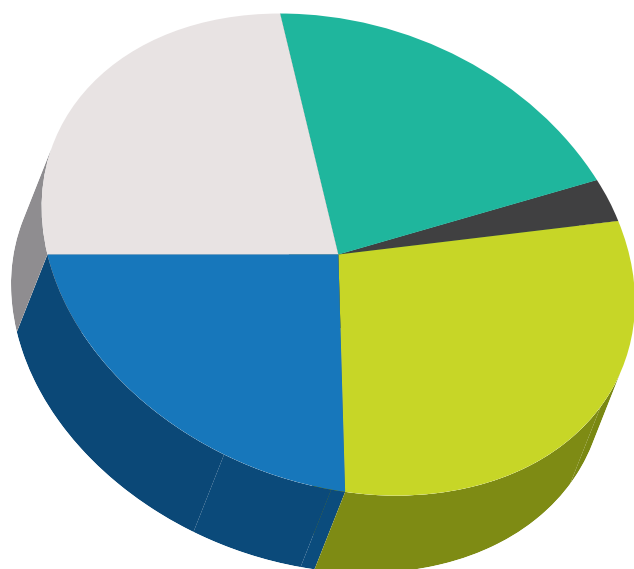
*2016 figures are unaudited

2018 Revenues



- Dues
- Misc. Income
- Metro Volunteer Lawyer/TNB
- Member Programs

2018 Expenses



- Programs, Committees, and Departments
- Metro Volunteer Lawyer/TNB
- General and Administrative
- Governance and Meetings
- Building, Equipment & Operations