



Primary Election for Treasurer

CTLA has four members running for treasurer. They are **Sam Cannon** of Cannon Law, **Keith Fuicelli** of Fuicelli & Lee PC, **Marc Harden** of Zaner Harden Law LLP, and **Jason Wesoky** of Darling Milligan PC.

Their names will appear on a contested primary ballot that will go out along with the ballots for the board of directors. The two candidates with the most votes will advance to a general election taking place at the membership meeting during the **VIRTUAL** Convention. Only members attending the membership meeting may vote in the general election. You do not have to register for Convention to attend the membership meeting. Call CTLA at (303) 831-1192 or email info@ctlanet.org.

Electronic ballots for the board of directors and treasurer primary elections will be distributed by email to all attorney members on July 10 at 9 a.m. The elections close on July 20 at 5 p.m.

***Indicates current board member.**



Sam Cannon*

Cannon Law

sam@cannonlaw.com — www.cannonlaw.com

I want to serve as CTLA treasurer for a single simple reason: joining CTLA was the best decision I made in my career, and I want to extend the opportunities I enjoyed to more people. Key to this is making CTLA more inclusive. It's the right thing to do; and it will strengthen CTLA. The diversity committee has been exceptional. And we must expand the effort to bring members of different backgrounds into the CTLA community. I also see opportunities for CTLA to serve those outside the Denver area and younger lawyers better. I spearheaded the effort to use video conferencing for Case Assistance Roundtables. This allowed people to join the meetings from Summit, Eagle, Larimer, El Paso, and Pueblo counties. And we had better attendance from associates who don't have the ability to leave the office in the middle of the day like partners do. The effort to bring more members and more diversity to CTLA helps our political goals. Broader and larger membership brings more strength to the Capitol. And more success in expanding access to civil justice at the Capitol will strengthen our membership's commitment to CTLA. I've been a CTLA member since I watched Natalie Brown try a medical malpractice case as a law clerk, I've been a board member for three years, I've chaired the Case Assistance Committee for two, and I've served on the nominating and legislative committees. I understand the commitment this position involves. And I would be honored to undertake it.



Keith Fuicelli*

Fuicelli & Lee, PC

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I seek to serve as CTLA's Treasurer for two reasons; improve the functionality of CTLA to better assist its members and expend its Mission to include service to others.

In the years I have been involved with the CTLA, it has always felt like being part of a large team; akin to a large law firm whose interests are aligned. In this vein, I envision ways we can greatly improve how the CTLA assists its members to achieve justice. For example, a centralized brief bank where common pleadings are obtained and organized in a way that allows easy and efficient access. The same could be done, or improved, for depositions and expert reports. I would also like to see the CTLA take the lead in compiling expert bias information as well as expert reports.

Further, I would propose amending the CTLA's mission to include service to others. We can take the lead from AAJ and others that sponsor days of service. I also could envision a competition amongst member firms to see who can give back the most and effectuate the most good. In addition to helping our Colorado community, this will help combat the negative perception of trial lawyers held by so many of our potential jurors.

Ultimately serving as CTLA's Treasurer is about service...service to the organization from which I have benefited so much from and service to the citizens of Colorado that we all represent. I respectfully seek the honor of serving as your Treasurer.



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Marc Harden*

Zaner Harden Law LLP

mh@zanerhardenlaw.com — www.zanerhardenlaw.com

It goes without saying that these are unprecedented and challenging times for all of us. CTLA's leadership - more than ever - must dig-in, stand-up, and do whatever is necessary to fight for our clients and practices. I am prepared to do whatever it takes to protect our deserving clients and membership.

I am uniquely qualified to serve as CTLA's next Treasurer. I am a trial lawyer first that has tried over 20 personal injury cases to verdict. I proudly co-manage a practice that not only regularly tries cases and shapes law, but also openly shares with our community of warriors, the people we draw strength from every day.

I have spent much of the last fifteen years serving CTLA and am acutely aware of what works well for our organization. I have advocated for our membership on the Board (2012-present), Lobby Council, Executive Committee, and EAGLE Committee (2011-present). That said, I know that there are ways we can improve and changes we must make to elevate our organization to the high expectations of its membership. I look forward to providing a passionate, courageous, and ambitious voice for CTLA as an officer.

This is a tough time for our membership. Tough times make tough people. That saying is corny but it's true. We will come out of this better if we choose to. It's time for us to give whatever we can and become stronger than ever. I believe that we will win and look forward to finding a way to hone victory at every turn.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



Jason Wesoky*

Darling Milligan PC

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Society is programmed to deny our clients justice. It's baked into our language ("accident"), laws (tort reform and ADR), and courts (limited voir dire). Currently, it takes a Herculean effort to log the occasional legislative or courtroom victory. This anti-plaintiff world didn't always exist, and it only exists now because insurance companies and corporations employed a decades' long strategy to turn the tide against justice.

CTLA often stands alone against this tide of anti-justice. My goal is to demonstrate through words and actions to the judiciary, our legislators, and - most importantly - the public that our clients deserve justice and those who deny them justice are the reason why so much injustice and inequity exists.

My career began at big firms and clerking on the Tenth Circuit. But when I began helping real people in 2009, I never looked back. I will not shy away from hard fights and hard work, and I know that accomplishing this goal requires one to speak softly *and* carry a big stick.

Our cause is righteous, but change only comes with persistent, long-term planning; nurturing strategic alliances; and creating advantages whenever we can. That's why I helped create CTLA's Judiciary Committee to get better judges, I author briefs for the Amicus Committee, I'm a Board Member, I've tried nearly 30 cases to a jury, and I stepped into the fire of 2016 to represent several of Colorado's Electoral College members. I will bring that same tenacity and courage to CTLA as treasurer with your support.



2020 Board Candidate Statements

You may vote for up to 18 candidates **REGARDLESS** of congressional district. *Indicates current board member.
See the bylaws of CTLA, Article V, Section 2.

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Danielle Beem, 1st Congressional District
Beem & Isley, P.C.
dcbeem@beemlaw.net — www.beemlaw.net

In working with my father before law school I learned that fighting for victims was my passion. I wanted to help those in need regardless if it was due to a car crash, police misconduct, or corporate greed. After law school, I was given the great opportunity to practice as a plaintiff's attorney alongside my father and one of the lessons I learned from him early on was the value and importance of CTLA. I make a point to try and attend every convention, blockbuster, and CTLA event that I can. Through this involvement CTLA has helped me grow into the trial attorney I am today, and I know it will help me grow into the trial attorney I wish to become. I am constantly inspired by CTLA and its members- by their support, guidance, and dedication. I love that this organization's entire focus is on supporting individuals, from training the lawyers who fight for them, to working for fair legislation and being a strong voice for the community we serve. CTLA has given me so much. It energizes me when I am feeling beaten down, supports me with information and ideas, and motivates me to be better every day. Because of everything CTLA has given me, I would be honored to serve on the board in order to give back and help this amazing organization continue to do the incredible work it does. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Board of Directors.



Jerry Bowman,* 1st Congressional District
Bowman & Chamberlain, LLC
bowman@copihelp.com — www.coloradopersonalinjuryhelp.com

The CTLA has been an instrumental resource in my practice of law. From developing practice policies to employing trial strategies, countless CTLA members have devoted their time and energy to helping lawyers such as myself become more confident and able. I can say with confidence I would not be where I am today without the CTLA. As the CTLA has given me so much in eight years of practice, I would like to give back by becoming an elected member of the Board of Directors. I have served on various boards in the past, including the CBA Young Lawyers Division and the CBA SSF Section. I also sat as a member of the Social Committee of the CTLA for several years. Last year, I was honored and privileged to be appointed to the Board of Directors. I would like to continue being involved and working with fellow trial lawyers to support the continued success of the CTLA and its members. I am committed to the mission of the CTLA and pledge to work to strengthen and support this organization. I would be greatly honored to serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors.



Laura Browne, 1st Congressional District
The Sawaya Law Firm
lbrowne@sawayalaw.com — www.sawayalaw.com

I want to serve on the CTLA Board of Directors in order to give back to the organization and take a more active role in the important work CTLA does. I have been a member of CTLA since beginning my legal career in Denver in 2014 and have enjoyed learning from its members and resources since then. CTLA's programming, and the list-serv, have been invaluable to my growth as an attorney in the realm of personal injury. I have also thoroughly benefitted from the networking and social aspects of CTLA, and have gained inspiring mentors and peers through these opportunities. I realize everything I have gained from being a part of CTLA and have a great desire to give back to the organization and its members through service. I have a strong interest in furthering the CTLA legislative agenda, and participating in the behind-the-scenes work CTLA does all year. I have strong leadership skills, as well as an aptitude in working with others. These skills will make me an asset to the CTLA Board of Directors.



Jacob Burg, 4th Congressional District
Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine PC
jburg@burgsimpson.com — www.burgsimpson.com

I have been a member of CTLA since I started practicing law in 2014. As Plaintiff lawyers, we all have a unique opportunity to help people in their greatest time of need. In my five years of practice, I have had the privilege of representing individuals who have suffered catastrophic injuries or the wrongful death of a loved one. I have learned firsthand the importance of protecting the rights of these individuals. I have been involved in advancing several bills and working with members of the Colorado General Assembly to protect Plaintiff's rights. I am passionate about the work CTLA does to protect the rights of individuals and consumers, which are constantly under siege. If I am fortunate enough to become a member of the CTLA board, I will continue to dedicate my time to advancing CTLA's mission of protecting the rights of individuals and consumers.

I also greatly enjoy the educational programs CTLA puts together to make us all better lawyers and help us obtain justice for our clients. One of the greatest components of CTLA is that it connects us all as Plaintiff lawyers and provides excellent resources to make us all better lawyers. If I have the privilege to become a member of the CTLA board, I will work hard to continue to promote and advance CTLA's educational resources and programs and ensure that CTLA continues to be a place that mentors young lawyers and offers guidance and resources to all members of the Colorado Plaintiff Bar.



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Kevin Cheney, 1st Congressional District
Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC
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I want to serve on the CTLA's Board of Directors because I believe that what we give to an organization is as important, if not more important, than what we get from it. During my time working with CTLA, I have served as the Co-Chair of the New Lawyer's Committee where I have helped plan and execute the New Lawyer's Bootcamp along with helping launch a CTLA chapter at CU-Law. I have served one year on the Executive Committee. Finally, I have served three years on Lobby Council/Legislative Committee including chairing the subcommittee responsible for our "Failure to Cooperate" bill this session.

In addition, I have donated to EAGLE and 7th Amendment Advocates every year since becoming a lawyer and launching my firm. I give a lot of time, energy, and bandwidth to CTLA because our mission matters. And if we don't fight insurance companies in places outside of the courtroom, we will find the deck stacked against us when we do go to trial.

If elected to the Board this year, I will push CTLA to focus more time and resources on recruiting new members, specifically by targeting the law schools. I also want to make sure that young lawyers feel welcome, respected, and valued in all levels of our organization. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to continuing to work with CTLA regardless of the results of the Board election.



Phillip Chupik, 2nd Congressional District
Metier Law Firm LLC
phil@metierlaw.com — www.metierlaw.com

I would appreciate your vote. I want to help CTLA serve its member/lawyers in order to assist in our organization's goal to become the best lawyers we can be and to maximize opportunities to be successful for our clients. I am committed to helping the injured people of Colorado and proudly represent the voiceless against the powerful forces seeking to deny them justice. I feel strongly about CTLA as an organization of change, including changing our laws to help regular people fight for what is right.

I have an active plaintiff's trial practice focused on catastrophic injuries from trucking cases, brain and spine injuries, insurance bad faith, products liability, auto and motorcycle accidents. I practice and am licensed in Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Washington, and am very active in CTLA and AAJ, which will bring broad and new perspectives to our organization. I have presented at numerous seminars including CTLA and others organizations. I am an EAGLE Benefactor (individually) and our firm is an EAGLE Champion.

I have been practicing law since 1997, trying criminal cases then moving into civil practice in 1999. I will bring substantial experience and excitement to try and help and learn from others. I have served on volunteer boards in the past and understand the commitment required to effectively help CTLA. I hope to further contribute to this organization by serving on the CTLA Board. I hope you will vote for me and allow me to continue to contribute.



Frank Cristiano, * 4th Congressional District
Cristiano Law LLC
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I'm delighted to be nominated for another term as a member of the board of directors for my absolute favorite professional organization, CTLA, which embodies and aspires towards everything that is good about us as lawyers - access to justice not just for the rich and powerful, but for all of us.

I have been an active participant in CTLA since early in my career, including being an Eagle contributor and ultimately becoming a very proud member of its Board of Directors since 2003. My emphasis has always been to promote CTLA's core goals, values, and functions, which include the mutual support of its members through education, communication, advise, and support; but also to vigorously and effectively engage in efforts that enhance our ability to function on a level playing field. These include a relentless and proactive pursuit of enabling and favorable legislation, as well as a vigilant resistance of unfavorable legislation.

Of perhaps greatest significance, within the organization I have been and will always be a strong advocate of two core values: inclusiveness and transparency, and recently was at the forefront of a successful movement to open up officer elections to more than two candidates through a more open and transparent nominating and election process, as well as to create expanded participation and transparency in our legislative proposals and efforts.

I would be honored to have your support in this year's election.



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Matthew Cron, 1st Congressional District
Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC
mc@rmlawyers.com — www.rmlawyers.com

I am a partner at Rathod Mohamedbhai whose practice consists of litigating civil rights, education, and employment claims on behalf of individuals.

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the CTLA Board. I joined CTLA soon after being admitted to the Colorado bar and no organization has been as instrumental in my professional growth. As a CTLA member, I have taught numerous CLE's, wrote an amicus brief on behalf of CTLA, and will be presenting at this year's convention. In addition, I served for two years as the Chair of the CBA's Civil Rights Section.

It is always incredibly hard to be a plaintiffs-side attorney, and that is especially true with all the uncertainty caused by COVID-19. Today, more than ever, it is so crucial to have strong organizations like CTLA leading the way. It is no small comfort to have the support of a vibrant CTLA as we together navigate these difficult times. I know that I will continue to benefit from CTLA and would like the opportunity to contribute even more by serving on the Board. Thank you for your consideration.



Tessa DeVault, 3rd Congressional District
Johnson Law
tessa@chadjohnsonlaw.com — www.chadjohnsonlaw.com

I am excited by the invitation to run for CTLA's Board of Directors and thank you for considering me. As a natural leader, I look forward to promoting CTLA's mission and connecting with more organizational members. My undergraduate degree in political science ingrained in me the passion and obligation to give back to my community by utilizing my strengths for the greater good. This opportunity will allow me to promote the interests of my clients, other CTLA members, and all of Colorado.

As a full-time resident in the mountains, my practice takes me all across our beautiful state. This affords me a unique perspective that is representative of our fellow attorneys who are not located in the Denver metro area. My litigation practice focuses on construction defects and protecting the rights of homeowners who have suffered damage to their single-largest investment - their home. I am an active member of the WTLN, which has proven to be an invaluable resource for me as a lady lawyer.

These experiences coupled with my desire to give back to the CTLA community provide me a strong foundation to join the Board of Directors. I would be honored and ready to serve if elected. I look forward to getting more involved in CTLA's leadership and continuing to promote the individual rights of all Coloradans.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.



Jennifer Donaldson, * 7th Congressional District
The Law Office of Jennifer L. Donaldson
jennifer@donaldsonlaw.com — www.donaldsonlaw.com

My name is Jennifer Donaldson and I have been practicing personal injury law for 32 years - the past 27 running the Law Office of Jennifer L. Donaldson. I currently serve on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

I joined CTLA shortly after being admitted to the bar in 1988. Over the years, I have served on countless committees and have held various leadership positions in CTLA, including board member, executive committee member and chair of various committees. I am an Eagle Patron, a frequent contributor to Colorado Trial Lawyers Care (CTLC) and was honored to receive the Outstanding Young Trial Lawyer award in 1998. I am involved in the Women's Trial Lawyers Network and enjoy mentoring younger lawyers, through CTLA and independently.

It has been exciting to witness the infusion of new, innovative and diverse members, leadership and staff into our organization. This has energized CTLA and created a more active and diverse membership. I believe deeply in the mission of CTLA and would apply my experience, energy and institutional memory to help the organization continue to serve all of its members and promote the rights of our clients. I am grateful for your consideration when selecting CTLA Board Members.



Keith Fuicelli, * 1st Congressional District
Fuicelli & Lee, PC
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I ask my current Board position be renewed because of the love I feel towards the CTLA and its mission. Combining forces to help our clients fight behemoths armed with unlimited resources allows us to achieve fair and just results for our clients, something I have witnessed many times. It has been my honor to sit on the Board and ask the privilege to continue to do so.



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Timothy Garvey,* 1st Congressional District
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I'm proud of CTLA's accomplishments during my past two terms as a CTLA Board Member, and I'd be proud to continue contributing to that work by serving another term.



Marlo Greer, 1st Congressional District
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I would be honored to serve as a CTLA board member. I remember when I first became a member and logged into CTLA for the first time. I was amazed at all of the resources and support provided by members of the organization. I would not be the lawyer that I am without CTLA. My commitment to plaintiffs and our cause is not only local but extends to our national organization as well. I became an AAJ member at the same time I became a CTLA member and continue to support the organization as a member of the Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus and the Voter Protection Committee. I am committed to fighting for justice for our clients and all the lawyers that serve them. Justice is not just a concept; it is a way of life.



Natacha Hutchinson Gutierrez, 1st Congressional District
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natacha@nmgutierrezlaw.com — www.colorado-justice.com

The CTLA is an integral voice in the legal community that represents the diverse interests of Colorado. It is important that the leaders of the CTLA also represent the diversity of its members. I would like to be a part of the Board to lend my voice to the important conversations that need to be had for CTLA, the legal community and Coloradans in general. I believe it is important to be a part of the process and becoming a leader is the best way to do so.



Melissa Hailey, 4th Congressional District
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I am running to be CTLA board member because diversifying our organization is paramount to the health and efficacy of the plaintiff's bar. People of color, women, LGBTQ persons, and young lawyers bring perspective, wisdom, and integrity to the legal profession. Their voices need to be heard; they want and should have a seat at the table. The CTLA board of directors must reflect the diversity we hope to see in the organization's membership and in the broader legal community. For my small part, I will bring to the board my unique skill set as a woman, my 14 years of experience as a litigator, my 10 years of experience as a member/officer of non-profit boards, a lifetime of curiosity and empathy for others, and a desire to inject modern approaches into the traditional practice of law.



Marc Harden,* 1st Congressional District
Zaner Harden Law LLP
mh@zanerhardenlaw.com — www.zanerhardenlaw.com

I'm so proud to be a member of CTLA and would be honored to continue to serve our membership with another term on the Board. I'm confident that that our organization can become the inspiration for all other trial lawyer organizations - the beacon of what is possible in a community, legislature, and beyond.

Throughout my career, I have poured my heart, time, and money into our organization. In addition to serving on the Board for the past eight years, I have served as Co-Chair for the EAGLE committee for the past nine years, during which time pledges and collections have dramatically increased. I have also served on Lobby Council and CTLA's Long Range Planning Committee. I've been privileged to share my legal perspectives and strategies as a guest speaker at Blockbuster, New Trial Lawyers Bootcamps, and Case Assistance Roundtables. I also helped create, schedule and moderate multiple full-day CLE seminars. I do all of this because I truly enjoy every the opportunity to be with our membership, learn from each other, and work as a group to make Colorado a better trial lawyer community.

It is my duty to ensure that the membership is heard and fully represented at the Board. I take that obligation seriously and I am deeply committed to a lofty future for this organization. I would be grateful for your vote. Thank you for your consideration.



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Robert Hoover, * 2nd Congressional District
Sloat, Nicholson & Hoover, P.C.
robert@sloatlaw.com — www.sloatlaw.com

I am proud to be a member of CTLA and would be honored to serve another term on the Board. I spent the first half of my career trying cases in Illinois, and I have had the privilege of being a member of CTLA since I joined the Colorado Bar in 2004. My membership in CTLA made the transition into the Colorado legal system much easier, and I am grateful for the mentoring and professional relationships I've had as a member of CTLA. I am dedicated to furthering the rights of the injured in our legal system, and strongly believe CTLA is the best organization to continue that work. Our outstanding CLE programs, EAGLE, legislative outreach and attorney networking are second to none. As a member of the Board I want to continue to develop and guide CTLA's future.



Jessica Jackson, 1st Congressional District
Law Office of Jessica Jackson-Barrows, LLC
jjacksonbarrowslaw@gmail.com

Joining the CTLA Board of Directors would give me the opportunity to give back some of what it has given me.

In 2009, at the urging of a friend, I decided to take my first personal injury case. Because I had no earthly idea of what I was doing, I would call him a lot. On several occasions he suggested that I join CTLA. I was reluctant to join for two reasons, first, membership cost a bit of money, and I was a struggling solo practitioner at the time, but second, and more important was my prior experience of law associations. It seemed that the big draw to them was the whole "networking" thing, which felt artificial.

My experience at CTLA was different which is why I have been an Eagle member since about 2014. One of the first emails I received was one inviting me to bring my problems about cases to the case assistance roundtable. There I found attorneys who were not only willing to share their experiences and knowledge but who were also willing to accept a telephone call. In addition, the CLEs were invaluable in helping me catch up on the latest law, rules, and tools to use in my practice. These experiences allowed me to organically develop real relationships as well as grow my firm. If other attorneys like me understood what this organization had to offer, they would come in droves. I could help with that.



David Klibaner, 1st Congressional District
Klibaner Law Firm PC
david@dklawfirm.com — www.daklawfirm.com

I have been a member of CTLA for over thirty years, have previously served on the Board of Directors and was selected years ago to serve for a year on the Executive Committee. I founded the Premises Liability Committee and now co-chair it with Bill Babich and Liz Hart. I am an active member of the Amicus Committee. I took a hiatus from running for a Board of Directors position. Now, I am ready to return if fellow CTLA members feel I should be elected to a position on the Board. My priorities have not changed. CTLA must continue to strive to be more inclusive, assist its members in their practices through the listserv, legal education programs and committees. CTLA must continue its highly effective lobbying efforts. I strongly support CTLA's efforts to engage more young attorneys to participate actively as officers, Board members, and committee chairs. CTLA continues to improve. It is a great organization. I want to help CTLA continue on its path. I pledge I will be available if elected (and even if not) to listen to anyone who has suggestions on how to make CTLA even better.



Ben Lebsack, * 1st Congressional District
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I encourage everyone to take a close look at and consider voting for the candidates who have not previously served on the board. There are many fantastic new candidates this year. CTLA would benefit tremendously by having these new voices and perspectives on the board.

If you vote for me, I will continue to do everything I can as a board member to improve this already great organization. Over the last two years, I organized two seminars, several single-hour CLEs, and the Friday afternoon fireside chat series, wrote two articles for Trial Talk, presented at the 2018 and 2019 Conventions and other seminars, co-wrote an amicus brief, participated heavily in the Diversity Committee, Employment Law Committee, Seminars Committee, Legislative Committee, and several ad-hoc committees tasked with by-laws and policy changes. This past legislative session, I spent over 60 hours working on behalf of CTLA on legislation. I donate to Eagle, attend events, and answer questions on the listserv. I'm passionate about CTLA and the people in this organization. If we need to do something different, tell me. If you want me to do something, ask me. I'll still do this work if I'm not elected, but having a seat on the board makes it easier for me to do this work and allows me to vote on CTLA matters. It means a lot to me to serve on CTLA's board, and I hope you'll put me back on the board for another two years.



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Pamela Maass, * 6th Congressional District
Maass Law
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Please consider my interest in renomination to the Board.

For your consideration, I have participated in the following activities:

- In 2019-2020, I co-chaired the #MeToo Seminar
- In 2018-2020 I presented and attended: Blockbuster, the medical school for lawyers seminar and attended convention.
- I contributed an article to Trial Talk
- I have attended committee meetings for the #MeToo Seminar and the Sexual Harassment Adhoc Committee and Legislative Committee
- I testified on behalf of CTLA with regard to Peer review and was active in legislative committee
- I was recognized with Access to Justice Award

Passions:

- Education, as a new law firm owner I am passionate about helping other members start and grow their firm. I am also passionate about educating on representing sexual assault victims.
- Legislation, I serve on the policy committee for CCASA and Colorado Women’s Bar association and I am passionate about continuing to support CTLA’s policy initiatives in creative ways.
- Mentoring Younger Attorneys and Law Students - as part of the #MeToo seminar we had happy hour with DU Law students.
- Networking

I am available to attend the board meetings, and serve on a committee.

I would like to help with all four roles, governance, ambassador, advocate and fundraiser. I would especially like to help with law students, women attorneys and solo law firm owners.



Porya Mansorian, * 2nd Congressional District
Mansorian Law Group
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This year, we’re not worried about vacations, money earned, or future plans; we’re concerned with survival, keeping businesses afloat, the health and safety of those whose faces we may not know, and weathering isolation. It’s surely not a year that we predicted, yet it is one I have faith we will endure.

As humans, we are social creatures, which means we rely on companionship, comfort, and communication to advance as a whole. Over the years, it has been CTLA who provided me with that social support and caused me to want to give back.

The challenges of COVID-19 and renewed calls for change to address systemic injustice are not the first time we have been forced to dig deep and find meaning in our lives. It’s forcing us to see beyond the normal and find new ways to survive. We’re all in survivalist mode right now, and as we eye more months of social distancing and nationwide shutdown, we know that we can make it.

So my promise to you is this: As your re-elected CTLA board member, I will not only continue to fulfill all of my duties as I have in the past, but I promise to give and do what I can to help ensure that we will come out of this crisis stronger than before. The human race is something to marvel at and I believe that trial attorneys, with their passionate efforts to provide justice for all, represent some of the best parts of the human race. Together, we will get through these storms.



Lisandra Matos, 7th Congressional District
The Matos Law Firm
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The CTLA is more than a place to find support as a personal injury lawyer. This organization amplifies the voices of personal injury attorneys in Colorado. And in turn, we amplify the voice of our clients as they go up against powerful businesses and insurance companies that often put profits over people. I want to be a Board member because it is my responsibility to my clients and every underdog in the same situation to contribute to the place that makes us better every day. As an immigrant who serves the immigrant community in Colorado, I understand the importance of rolling up my sleeves and fighting for what is right, even when all the odds are against me and my client. I also know that my job would be a lot harder if it had not been because of the people who came before me and worked hard to give us better tools to represent our clients in the worst situations. I want to serve this organization because it gives me the opportunity to contribute to something bigger than myself that will not just help the attorneys of today, but will also help future generations in the fight against injustice. One of my favorite phrases is, “A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.” The CTLA is like the water that cuts through a rock because of members that are willing to contribute and persist. I want to be one of those members.



2020 Board Candidate Statements

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See the bylaws of CTLA, Article V, Section 2.



Megan Matthews,* 1st Congressional District

The Denver Trial Lawyers

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CTLA's mission to protect and advance individual rights and trial advocacy skills cannot be accomplished without an engaged membership. As co-chair of the Diversity Committee and a member of the Nominating Committee this past year, I assisted in enhancing CTLA's mission through a diverse and informed membership. Our goals in increasing a new and diverse attorney membership by recruiting directly out of law schools have not yet been met and the Diversity Committee has mapped out a plan for future years, which I am excited to continue. I am currently writing an amicus brief for the Amicus Committee and hope to participate further in amicus activities next year if re-elected. As an active member of the Auto Litigators and Medical Malpractice committees, I strive to attend every committee meeting and event, as well as contribute in any way I can in supporting my fellow members. If re-elected to the CTLA Board of Directors, I will continue to be relentless in making CTLA a more inclusive, informative, and fun organization for all of our members and ensuring our programs help us in our fight to protect our clients' rights.

The chance to be re-elected to the CTLA Board of Directors would truly be a tremendous honor. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Alessandra Morales, 7th Congressional District

Morales Law Firm, LLC

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My name is Alessandra Morales. I respectfully ask you to vote for me for this year's CTLA Board. I want to serve as your board member to learn, grow and further flourish the organization in any way that I can. I am thankful for CTLA and all that it provides for young attorneys like myself. I want to give back and contribute to CTLA as it has to me.

I've recently started my own practice. Prior to this, I worked as a Personal Injury Attorney handling anywhere from 200 pre litigation cases to 60 litigation cases at a time.

I've always wanted to be a trial lawyer. I believe it is my calling to advocate for those who may otherwise be powerless. I am very passionate, I work very hard and I consider myself very blessed to do this work.

In my six humble years of practice, I've participated in the Woman's Branch of CTLA. I've gotten the opportunity to argue before the Colorado Court of Appeals, and done two jury trials. I've received the AVVO Client's Choice Award, the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40 Award, and the A.I.L.A. Rising Star Award.

Together we are more powerful and that is why I believe there is great strength in organizations like this one. Please vote for me so that together, we can continue to rise.



Mark Nelson, 1st Congressional District

The Nelson Law Firm LLC

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I am (almost) a 30-year attorney. I spent the first 15 years or so of my career working on the "dark side" defending mostly Fortune 500 companies until I saw the light in 2005 and eventually opened my own firm to represent actual human beings who have been wronged or injured. I have greatly enjoyed the benefits of being a CTLA member, and I would love to now give back. I strongly believe that diversity in any organization makes it stronger, and one of my principal goals as a Board Member would be to increase the membership to include as many different practice areas as possible. Adding other diverse practice areas to CTLA will bring in fresh ideas and perspectives and will, in my opinion, improve the association in more ways than the obvious financial benefit of increasing the size of the membership. As a Board Member, I would also assist with CTLA's legislative efforts to abolish Colorado's more egregiously unfair statutory schemes and to ensure the protection of consumers well beyond my lifetime. Thank you for your consideration.



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Mari Newman, * 1st Congressional District
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I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve on the CTLA Board. As trial lawyers, we are at the front line fighting for our clients, starting with our clients' right to a trial by a jury of their peers, without which corporate and government interests will almost certainly always prevail. We must fight every day against a system built on economic and racial inequities. I have spent the last two decades advocating on behalf of the underdog and disenfranchised against the entrenched power of government and corporations, and I will continue to do so.

As a CTLA Board member, I have been involved in the following ways: chair of the CTLA Civil Rights Committee; CTLA speaking events; CTLA legislative testimony; *Trial Talk* contributions; and EAGLE contributor. I have been honored with the following CTLA recognitions: 2010 Access to Justice Award; 2008 Outstanding New Trial Lawyer of the Year Award; 2009 and 2003 Case of the Year Award recipient; and 2017, 2014, 2010, 2008 and 2007 Case of the Year Award finalist.

Looking to the future, if reelected to the Board, I would like to continue chairing the Civil Rights Committee and continuing the brown bag series. I will continue to speak at CLEs, particularly on issues relevant to civil rights and employment law. I will continue my involvement in CTLA's legislative and political work.

We have reached tipping point. The veil has finally been lifted on the profound injustices that have stood in the way of equality for so long. We must fight for change.



Jennifer O'Connell, 1st Congressional District
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I have really enjoyed being a CTLA member these several years and gradually increasing my involvement. This past year, I served as Co-Chair of Blockbuster and Co-Chair of WTLN's Open Forum. Both were incredible ways of getting to further develop my own practice, of course, but also to hear what other members are looking for to further their practices. Organizations like CTLA are changing, with diversity growth, firm-size evolution, and technological developments. I have loved being able to embrace those from the inside and would like to dig in further as a member of the Board.

If allowed, I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to listen to the changing needs of the membership and talk about ways CTLA can better meet those. Ideas like virtual Open Forums to include members outside of Denver, breakout sessions at Blockbuster to allow for discussion topics outside of auto and premises, and diversity of leadership in terms of gender, race, and firm-size inclusiveness are some jumping off points I'd be anxious to work on with my fellow Board members. I love the direction CTLA has been heading in the years I have been privileged to experience and would appreciate the opportunity to play a bigger role.

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Elisabeth (Lisi) Owen, 1st Congressional District
Franklin D. Azar & Associates, P.C.
owen@fdazar.com — www.fdazar.com

I am excited at the opportunity to serve on the CTLA Board of Directors. As a lawyer who represents individuals who have been mistreated and harmed by the forces of powerful institutions, I am well familiar with the importance of an underdog support network. CTLA is that network. I owe enormous debts of gratitude to others who have supported me in my work and cannot think of a better way to spend my time than repaying the favor to CTLA's membership. Some of my proudest accomplishments include working at, presently, Franklin D. Azar & Associates and, in the past, Levin Sitcoff (and Roberts Levin Rosenberg). I am also intimately familiar with the toils of running a solo practice, having spent many years doing so myself, litigating governmental abuse of power cases and fighting for the oppressed. I would be honored to add Member of the CTLA Board of Directors to that list of accomplishments. Thank you for your consideration.



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Lorraine Parker,* 1st Congressional District

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CTLA, the organization, its mission, our members are all of critical importance to the success of my practice, and that of every other lawyer in this state trying to achieve justice for our clients. I have a special interest in advancing CTLA's interests in the legislature, and in learning how we can increase our effectiveness in that endeavor. I am a longtime Eagle contributor; I have also spoken at CTLA Seminars and Boot Camp. I have testified at the Legislature, and I co-chair the Medical Malpractice Committee with Bruce Braley. I am committed to attending Board meetings and to doing everything I can to advance CTLA's goals.



Amanda Pfeil Hood, 4th Congressional District

Ogborn Mihm LLP

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Out of law school, I knew I wanted to represent personal injury victims and use my knowledge to stop insurance companies and corporations from taking advantage of the individual. It was with this intent that I completed a judicial clerkship and found my first associate position at a small plaintiff's personal injury firm. Like many fresh out of law school, I did not know the first thing about practicing law or how to piece a case together. Being in this position can be daunting and a little frightening when you don't have support from an organization like CTLA. CTLA helped me grow and learn what it means to be an attorney and to tirelessly advocate for our clients. CTLA's programs, CLEs, committee's, and Listserve have been instrumental in my growth, knowledge base, how to best fight for clients. Now, ten years later, my commitment to the individual has never wavered. It would be my honor to give back and help CTLA, its current and future members and all the clients we serve.



James Puga,* 1st Congressional District

Leventhal Puga Braley P.C.

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I have been a member of CTLA for nearly 20 years. During that time, I have attended nearly every annual convention, multiple seminars, and have been an invited speaker at both the annual convention and sponsored seminars. I am presently a member of the Lobby Council, and have, in the past, testified on behalf of CTLA in front of the Colorado legislature.

I believe that the primary role of CTLA is to advocate on behalf of our members and our clients with the primary goal to be protecting the right to trial by jury. My other principal interest is educating and mentoring young trial lawyers, as they are the future of the organization.



Nicole Quintana, 1st Congressional District

Ogborn Mihm, LLP

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Having served on the Executive Committee this past year, I have an even greater understanding of CTLA's reach, the effort and consideration put forth by our leadership, and the interconnectedness of CTLA's committees and members. I'm putting my name in the ring because I am committed to this organization, and I want to continue serving CTLA and its members.

I've served as co-chair of the WTLN Open Forum, co-chair of the Commercial Litigation Committee, and Editor of Trial Talk. I've also presented at annual conventions and Blockbuster events. Perhaps even more important than my own participation in CTLA, I rely on the collective brain power and camaraderie that CTLA offers, I believe in our mission, and I want to be a part of paying it forward by providing a voice on the Board. I appreciate your consideration.



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Dominick (Nick) Saia, 2nd Congressional District
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I have been an attorney for 35 years, the first ten years of which were in New Orleans. I have been a resident of Boulder County, an active attorney in the Denver Metro area, and active member of CTLA for almost 25 years, with a short three-year hiatus to teach middle school. The majority of my practice is personal injury. The other portion is primarily criminal defense and criminal record sealings. I have attended CTLA Conventions and am an active member of the American Association of Justice.

I have been an active member of several of the different committees of CTLA including the Auto Litigators Committee way back when they had access to the unlimited fountain Coca-Cola dispenser in that giant penthouse conference room at that big Denver firm. More recently, I have been an active member of the Premises Liability Section, as I seem to be litigating more and more of those cases lately. I am a frequent contributor of questions to the list serve, and will try to find time now that my children are getting a bit older to actually answer some questions as well.

In all honesty and candor, I see joining the Board of Directors of CTLA as an opportunity to give back and to become more involved in an organization that has provided me with so much support and guidance over so many years. I pledge to become more involved in the legislative function of CTLA. Having grown up in Louisiana, politics have always been an interest of mine, but are especially relevant in that they now always intersect, or collide as the case may be, with my clients' interests.



Kylie Schmidt, 1st Congressional District
Darling Milligan PC
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CTLA has been an integral part of my professional life since my law school years. I've grown as a person and as an attorney as a result of my involvement in the organization's committees, legislative efforts, and CLEs. I currently serve as co-chair of both the Amicus Committee and the New Lawyers Division. I have also had the honor of aiding CTLA's leadership as a member of the Executive Committee during the 2019-2020 term and as a member of the Nominating Committee the last two years. I believe strongly in continuing to drive the association forward on a path that ensures our membership is not only more diverse, but becomes a place where everyone feels welcome. I am hopeful I can continue to devote my time and effort to CTLA as member of the Board of Directors for the 2020-2022 term.



Michong Son, 6th Congressional District
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It is an honor to be considered for the CTLA's Board of Directors. CTLA has been the most valuable resource in my legal practice. I attribute much of my growth and success as an attorney to the support I have received and continue to receive through the CTLA. I learned how to be a lawyer and what it means to fight for justice from established members of the CTLA that have given so much of their time and energy to helping younger lawyers in need. I would like to give back to this organization by becoming more involved and serving on the CTLA Board.

Currently, I am serving on the CTLA Diversity Committee, am a proud member of the WTLN and an Eagle contributor. I also serve on the board of the Arapahoe County Bar Association and Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

I want to help increase the diversity of the organization and apply my experience to promote the core value and mission of the CTLA. I would be honored by the opportunity to join the board. Thank you for your consideration.



Tom Tomazin,* 6th Congressional District
Tomazin Hillyard & Clor LLP
tom@thedenverinjurylawfirm.com — www.thedenverinjurylawfirm.com

I have been a member of CTLA since 1978. I have been a Board Member since 2002. I have contributed to Eagle since its inception. I have also been a long-time 7th Amendment Advocate. I attended the very first Blockbuster seminar in 1999 and have only missed one or two over the years due to health reasons. Similarly, I have attended most if not all Annual Conventions since approximately 1985, the few exceptions being for health reasons. I have been honored to be a speaker for the Blockbuster, Annual Conventions and Subrogation seminars on more than one occasion. I was one of the original members of the Auto Litigators Committee. I have been an active member of the CTLA Med Mal Committee and the Bad Faith Committee. I have been a regular contributor to discussions on the List Serve and have shared many pleadings and thoughts regarding litigation and how we should conduct ourselves as members of our profession. I was honored to receive the CTLA Kenneth Norman Kripke Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. I was honored to receive the Arapahoe County Bar Association Martin P. Miller Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 which has only been awarded five times in the 62-year history of the Association.

So, after 46 years of practicing law, why do I want to continue to be a Board Member? I love what I am doing. We need to impress upon more of our membership the importance of being Eagle contributors. I love being involved in litigation, legislation, education, and particularly social activities involving the mentoring of younger attorneys. I hope to be of value, guidance, to share and pass on what I have had the fortune of learning over the years.



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Jason Wesoky,* 1st Congressional District
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Society is programed to deny our clients justice. It's baked into our language ("accident"), laws (tort reform and ADR), and courts (limited voir dire). Currently, it takes a Herculean effort to log the occasional legislative or courtroom victory. This anti-plaintiff world didn't always exist, and it only exists now because insurance companies and corporations employed a decades' long strategy to turn the tide against justice. CTLA often stands alone against this tide of anti-justice. As a board member for the past several years, my goal has been to do everything I can to help our clients achieve justice, whether as a member of the Amicus Committee drafting briefs for the higher courts (including SCOTUS) on jury issues, founding and helping head the Judiciary Committee to help get better judges on the bench, or contributing to the listserv. Our cause is righteous, but change only comes with persistent, long-term planning; nurturing strategic alliances; and creating advantages whenever we can. As a CTLA board member I have and will continue to put in the same hard work to make sure our clients get full justice. Thank you for supporting and voting for me to continue my service as a board member in 2020 and beyond.



David Woodruff,* 1st Congressional District
The Denver Trial Lawyers
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I have faithfully served on the CTLA Board for the past 12 years. CTLA is very important to me, and to all of us. I would be honored to continue to serve. As a Board Member, I have been very active in the Medical Malpractice arena. I want to make Med Mal more accessible to our membership! Last summer, I helped write -and testified in support of--the *Colorado Candor Bill*, a new way for all CTLA members to possibly settle medical malpractice cases without litigation. I have also been involved in new legislation to ease the Governmental Immunity Act for claims against University. My firm and I have always been one of the largest Eagle contributors. I have attended every annual convention for the past 14 years, and I have been a speaker at the convention and at Blockbuster. I have served on the Executive Committee under several different presidents, including currently under my partner, Michael Nimmo. In short, CTLA is my lifeblood. I enjoy working with Julie and Adam and Will and our leaders in improving things for all CTLA members. It would be an honor and a privilege to continue to serve CTLA as a Board Member. Thank you!



Kurt Zaner,* 1st Congressional District
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We are the Legal Knights that Guard the Realm! The women and men fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves, standing up to bullies, and pouring our hearts and souls into our clients' fights. We do this with our pen, our oral advocacy, and our compassion.

History gives us no shortage of warriors of all gender fighting bravely and ferociously for something they believed in. Some of my heroes, real and imaginary, are William Wallace, Private Silas Trip, Jon Snow, Salahadin, Hannibal of Carthage, and Sir Tristan (an Arthurian dragon slayer whom I named my son after). I am inspired by female warriors and knights as well - Joan of Arc, the Viking Shield Maidens, the *Orden de la Hacha*, and the very real Scythian warriors who hailed from the Black Sea and fought on horseback in the 7th century BC. These Scythians, known to history as the Amazons, inspired both the Greeks (Achilles fought one hand to hand in the *Iliad* outside the gates of Troy) and inspired a very well-known Marvel superhero that broke the superhero origin story box office record.

But of course we aren't physical warriors, but legal warriors. We all metaphorically ride into legal battles and fight for our clients with all the weapons we possess: our wit, passion, and our legal skills. I am proud to stand next to each and every one of you - every Jamie Lannister and Brienne of Tarth - and hope to continue my valiant service on the Board in our endless quest to fight the injustice that is constantly inflicted by insurance companies and corporations in these dark times.