

Dear Members:

I want to express my appreciation for your participation with and service to the Commission on the Legal Profession, whose overarching goal is to foster improved communication among the profession's three major groups: the academy, the bar, and the judiciary.

The Commission consists of four working groups, each of which focuses on a set of particular issues related to the legal profession. Each working group has been tasked with discussing these issues, and proposing possible policy changes or implementable action plans to address such issues. All Commission members, including liaison members, should attend and participate in a working group. If you have not already joined a working group, please do so by contacting that working group's chair.

When the Commission meets as a whole, our role is to further discuss and debate the issues, policy changes, and action plans brought to the Commission by the working groups. Although the Commission lacks the funding or personnel necessary to implement or support policy changes and action plans on its own, we as members can draw on our influence and leadership in the legal profession to carry out our ideas through existing structures and organizations.

Most importantly, we can continue the Commission's conversations among our peers to achieve our goal of improved communication and understanding about what it means to be a lawyer. Nonetheless, the issue of funding and personnel certainly underlies our conversation.

Our next large-group goal is to identify the issues, policy changes, and action plans to be discussed, pursued, and maybe even accomplished in the next 12 to 18 months (e.g., launch "This We Believe" no later than February 2012; obtain commitments by December 31, 2011, from at least five judicial districts to conduct local bench-bar roundtables; etc.). Based on the working groups' May reports, the following objectives have been identified for the Commission's consideration:

**Working Group A** (chaired by Lorenzo Trujillo and focused on the development of professional identity, social responsibility, and practice skills in law school, as well as the involvement of judges and leaders in the legal profession in law school):

1. Develop curriculum for the "This We Believe Orientation Program;"
2. Increase experiential educational opportunities for law students;
3. Create a program for students at CU and DU addressing: "The Evolving History of Colorado Law and Its Lawyers";
4. Increase the presence of lawyers and judges in the law school;
5. Design a mentorship program for law students and develop criteria for awarding CLE credit to lawyers who mentor law students; and
6. Develop a series of "case studies" to instill in students a sense of professional identity and educate them in context about the meaning of social responsibility and practice skills.

**Working Group B** (chaired by Mark Fogg and focused on the development of professional identity and social responsibility for new attorneys, as well as maintenance and advancement of these values thereafter):

7. Add a “History of the Law” component to the mandatory new lawyer ethics class;
8. Provide CLE credit to lawyers who mentor young lawyers;
9. Develop electronic training videos;
10. Examine the viability of a meaningful mentoring program; and
11. Increase young lawyers’ involvement in the CBA.

**Working Group C** (chaired by Judge Russell Carparelli and focuses on communication and professionalism between and among judges and attorneys):

12. Provide guidance to judges regarding the ethics of communication outside the courtroom;
13. Educate lawyers regarding opportunities to communicate with judges and other lawyers;
14. Increase judicial-initiated communication with other judges and lawyers and law students;
15. Increase the number of judicial district annual bench-bar roundtable CLEs; and
16. Increase lawyer involvement in organizations such as Inns of Court.

**Working Group D** (chaired by David Stark and focuses on the relationship between the legal profession and the community, as well as access to justice, delivery of justice, and education of the public):

17. Increase lawyer and judge participation in programs such as “Our Courts”;
18. Redefine definition of “pro bono”;
19. Increase the number of attorneys doing pro bono work;
20. Enhance self-help programs administered by the branch and local districts; and
21. Encourage education efforts regarding the local history of courts and the rule of law.

Prior to our next meeting—which is scheduled for September 22, 2011 at 3:00 PM—you will receive an electronic survey that will allow you to select and prioritize these objectives, as well as to suggest other objectives. The results of this survey will facilitate the dialogue at our September meeting, and we, as a Commission, will consider, refine, and select our top objectives.

I thank you again for your participation and service, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

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