



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice  
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## **Chief Justice Bender proclaims October 2012 as Legal Professionalism Month** *Professionalism events scheduled throughout October*

DENVER – Furthering the mission of the Chief Justice’s Commission on the Legal Profession, Chief Justice Michael L. Bender has declared October to be Legal Professionalism Month in Colorado.

More than 30 bar associations across the state have committed to celebrating Legal Professionalism Month and will be holding events throughout October. The events will culminate with the Assembly of Lawyers on Oct. 29, 2012, from 2 to 4:15 p.m. at Boettcher Concert Hall when a special session of the Colorado Supreme Court will be held to administer the oath to Colorado’s newest lawyers. More than 300 legal professionals have already committed to attending the Oct. 29 court session.

The Assembly of Lawyers event will also feature a video tribute to Governor Ralph L. Carr (1939-1943) and his commitment to equal protection under the law during World War II, as well as a discussion with Attorney General John Suthers and Denver County Judge-designate Gary Jackson about what professionalism in the legal community means.

“While I believe that our profession has been and continues to be a positive force for society, it is clear that we have, at times, lost our way in the face of economic and professional pressures,” Chief Justice Bender said. “Accordingly, I believe that now is the time for each of us to renew our efforts to the legal profession through increased civility for one another and a focus on instilling these values in law students and new lawyers.”

Formed in Feb. 2011, the Chief Justice’s Commission on the Legal Profession set out to improve the training of law students to help them better appreciate the vital role that attorneys play in our society; increase the training of and support for new lawyers in Colorado; facilitate

communication and cooperation between judges, attorneys and the state's two law schools; and encourage the entire bar to recognize the broad legal needs of our community and improve public attitudes towards the profession through a renewed dedication to pro bono service.

“When I became Chief Justice in December 2010, I wanted to bring together the three major groups of the legal profession – the judiciary, bar and legal training academy – to better understand the needs of new attorneys and the community in which we all serve,” he said. “It is the duty of the state's legal professionals to maintain a tight focus on our professional responsibilities and to educate new attorneys about their new found responsibilities in preserving the rule of law.”

A complete listing of events for Legal Professionalism Month can be found at:

<http://www.cobar.org/index.cfm/ID/22250/DPCOM/Professionalism/>

More information about the Chief Justice's Commission on the Legal Profession is available at:

[http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme\\_Court/Committees/Committee.cfm?Committee\\_ID=35](http://www.courts.state.co.us/Courts/Supreme_Court/Committees/Committee.cfm?Committee_ID=35)

**Editor's Note:** A copy of the original proclamation signed by Chief Justice Bender and David L. Masters, president of the Colorado Bar Association, has been attached as a separate document.