



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COLORADO DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION RAISES \$10,000 FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL DURING RECORD-BREAKING ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SNOWMASS; LAWPROSE AUTHOR BRYAN GARNER GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Over 200 of the most elite defense attorneys in Colorado gathered at Snowmass Village recently for the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (CDLA) Annual Conference. CDLA is the premier civil defense organization in Colorado, with nearly 800 attorney members who practice throughout the state. More than 60 speakers appeared at the conference, which offered cutting-edge legal seminars and raised more than \$9,000 for the nonprofit CDLA Foundation over the course of the weekend.

CDLA just completed its 50th Anniversary year, and has focused efforts on the quality and value of its Annual Conference over the last several years, hosting conferences in Crested Butte, Beaver Creek, Telluride and Steamboat Springs. This year, many members expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to see former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia give the keynote address at a previous CDLA conference in Telluride. Justice Scalia's death earlier this year created a hotly-contested vacancy on the Court.

Membership at the Conference has increased steadily over the past several years, with record-breaking attendance in 2016, according to CDLA Conference Chair Gregg Rich. More than 400 people, including members, family and vendors, attended this year's conference. "We had a great lineup of speakers this year," Rich said, "and the hard work of our members, the Board, and our staff have been instrumental in growing the CDLA Annual Conference into the association's flagship event."

Leading legal writing authority Bryan Garner of LawProse and a co-author with former Justice Scalia delivered the Keynote Address to attendees, offering advice on written and oral advocacy. United States District Court Magistrate Kristen Mix discussed crises facing the federal judicial system, offering several practice tips for zealous but respectful advocacy in the federal courts. More than 60 other speakers volunteered their time and expertise to offer practice-focused legal seminars totaling over 15 CLE credits hours and 2.5 hours of Ethics CLE in just 2 days.

The highlight of the Conference was "Hub's Pub," a fundraising social event honoring Daniel M. Hubbard, a former CDLA member and equity partner at Messner & Reeves who suffered a fatal cardiac event while cycling home from work in 2011. The Foundation has raised more than \$32,000 over the past four years and uses those funds to donate bicycles to patients being treated for terminal illnesses at Children's Hospital as part of the hospital's annual "Snow Pile" event in December.

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CDLA's Diversity/Outreach Director Kevin Ripplinger led this year's efforts to collect donation items, which included various gift certificates, a Never Summer snowboard and skateboards, a "bar cart" with over \$500 of donated premium wine and spirits, and a highly coveted Grateful Dead lithograph signed by Phil Lesh.

This year's Hub's Pub raised \$10,000, bringing to \$42,000 the total amount raised by CDLA over the last five years. Donations to Hub's Pub are accepted year-round – check out CDLA's webpage at <https://www.codla.org/hubspub.php> for donation options.

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The Colorado Defense Lawyers Association is a nonprofit association of nearly 800 members that supports and serves the interests of lawyers principally involved in the defense of civil litigation. CDLA works to enhance the skills of the state's civil defense lawyers, promote professionalism and civility among all lawyers, and to improve the civil justice system.

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