

President's Message

By Brandi Lynn Nieto

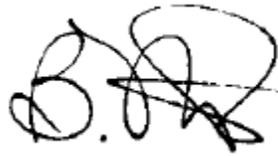
October has been declared Professionalism Month by the Colorado Supreme Court. According to the [Colorado Bar Association](#), *“The aim of the month is to encourage members of the legal profession, professional entities, and judicial officers and staff to rededicate themselves to demonstrating the highest standards of professionalism and integrity and promote public confidence in the profession and the court system.”*

How do we do this? I think in two very interrelated ways. One, as members of the bar we need to constantly continue to educate ourselves in the law. We all know that we have to earn 45 general CLE credits every three years, seven of which must be in legal ethics. But what else should we be doing to dedicate ourselves to demonstrating the highest standards of professionalism? Are you taking advantage of all the legal resources available to you in this pursuit? Do you subscribe to the CBA's opinion summaries from the [Court of Appeals](#), the [Colorado Supreme Court](#) or the [Tenth Circuit](#)? If so, do you read them? Are you getting updates from the [CBA CLE Legal Connection](#) which details recent decisions and issues facing the bar? Do you read [Law Week Colorado](#) to stay up to date on the comings and goings of our colleagues as well as articles discussing things of note in the state related to the bar? And what about the [Colorado Lawyer](#), do you receive it in print or online? Not only did this month's edition feature an article on our 100th Annual Weld County Bar Association Dinner it also included a number of articles on professionalism in the legal profession and this month by reading the required articles it allowed you to receive up to six CLE credits (including two in ethics) just for reading those nine required articles and answering some brief follow up questions, all at no charge to you. How cool is that? Free CLE's for everyone!

We, at your local Weld County Bar Association, also regularly sponsor CLE's for a low cost. In the coming months we will be sponsoring a CLE presented by the [Peer Professionalism Assistance Group](#) at the CBA, an ethics update presented by the [Office of Attorney Regulation](#), a presentation on “Ethics and Social Media” by [Jabez LaBret](#) and on December 13, 2013 we will sponsor our Annual [NUTS & BOLTS](#) at the Island Grove Event Center. What's my point? My point is, there are hundreds of ways to educate yourself in the law whether you get “credit” for them or not, and continuing to educate ourselves shows our dedication to demonstrating the highest standards of professionalism.

What's the second way to meet the professionalism goal outlined by the Colorado Supreme Court? In my opinion, it is through service, service to our community. In order to promote public confidence in the profession and the court system we have to strive to continually show the public our positive impact on the community. How do we do this? We do this by taking part in community projects. A perfect opportunity is coming up on Friday, October 18, 2013 when neighbors help neighbors at [Weld Project Connect](#). Weld Project Connect is a one day event during which a number of local service providers come together to help others in their community meet their needs. Last year, I saw lawyers, doctors, judges, dentists, financial consultants, veterinarians and more donating their time and energy to this cause. It is expected that this year, especially in light of the recent natural disasters that have affected our community,

there will be even more people to help than in years past. What can you do to help? Contact [Jody Pic](#), the Executive Director of Weld County Legal Services at 970-356-9770 and volunteer! Whether you are versed in criminal, civil or domestic law Weld Project Connect needs your help. Help promote public confidence in our profession by taking part in your community, by volunteering your time, by helping your neighbor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Nieto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandi Lynn Nieto, WCBA President