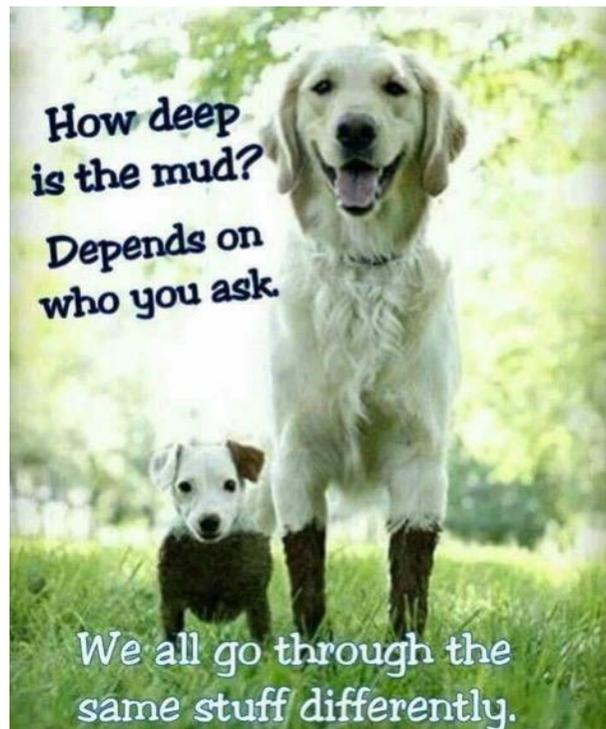


Happy New Year to the Weld County Bar Association members. I believe we are all glad to have 2020 in our rear view mirrors, or is it rear view cameras? The past year was filled with a multitude of things we could not imagine happening: washing hands dozens of time a day, wearing masks whenever we were in public, video meetings, (how many had really used any of the video meeting services before, court hearings via WEBEX, the stay at home orders, working at home via the internet, closure of most government buildings and commercial businesses, evictions suspended and a slowdown in nearly every walk of life. I had never envisioned that toilet paper would become a major item of concern and even rationing. Some of us were in a position to better weather the events of 2020 than others, since layoff were prevalent with the economy tanking. Unemployment soared and trillions of dollars in government subsidies. There is a ray of light on the horizon with the vaccine and distribution plans, but we are not totally out of it yet.



Many are still struggling and may need help in the weeks to come. We as the local bar association have many opportunities to help those who are still fighting their way through the “mud” of 2020. Please consider accepting cases from Weld County Legal Services. These cases are help those who need help the most. Additionally, consider making referrals to our solo practitioners who have seen a marked drop in legal work with the pandemic restrictions. They too have to struggle to keep the lights burning and the staff employed – at least at a minimal level.

In any event, we have a new year to try and make things better. Each of us need to look at our circumstances to try and help those around us. After all like the motto of our nation, “E pluribus unum” – which is Latin for out of many, one or in a more relatable context, “we are all in this together” – Let us therefore help those we can and come through the mud stronger than we were before.

-- Joseph Bodine, WCBA President