

President's Message

By Brandi Lynn Nieto

The flood of September 2013 was devastating to many of those in our community. Some people lost all of their belongings, their family pets and their homes. After the flood, many agencies stepped in to help those in need. The Colorado Bar Association was one of those agencies.

Did you know that after the flood the Colorado Bar Association:

- Set up a legal helpline, and more than 300 volunteers provided legal information and assistance in 450 cases. The major areas that these volunteers answered questions about were landlord/tenant issues, mobile home leases, FEMA appeals, real estate/mortgage, insurance and contract/contractor issues.
- Established a website www.colofloodlegalrelief.org which provided basic information for those in need and also ways in which victims could obtain legal assistance.
- The Colorado Department of Local Affairs contacted the CBA to find real estate/land use planning lawyers who would volunteer to assist several of the communities to determine the legal issues and parameters of rebuilding the communities.
- Is working with FEMA and the Governor's Office to assist mobile home owners whose homes were destroyed and declared uninhabitable.

Now, they need our help.

The CBA is working with local bar associations, local access to justice committees, pro bono programs and Colorado Legal Services to transition the disaster flood relief to local attorneys. The CBA is meeting with these individuals in Boulder, Larimer and Weld counties within the next month. The cases that remain are becoming more complicated, ***many are fee generating***, and need some representation by lawyers.

With this in mind, we at the Weld County Bar Association are working together with the CBA to provide help to those remaining victims.

We are putting together a list of attorneys for the CBA. This list will include attorneys that are interested in cases representing flood victims, many fee generating. We are looking for attorneys that practice in the following areas:

- ✓ Contract/Contractor Problems
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Landlord/Tenant
- ✓ Real Estate/Mortgage

- ✓ Bankruptcy
- ✓ Civil Rights
- ✓ Criminal
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Federal Assistance Rights
- ✓ FEMA
- ✓ Immigration
- ✓ Succession/Wills/POA
- ✓ Other

The CBA will continue to field victim requests and then will use the list of attorneys we provide to refer people to attorneys in the area that can help them. The CBA will support these attorneys by continuing to manage a list serve available to those on the list and the CBA will make training resources available for free on the CBA website as well.

If you want to have your name included on the list of attorneys that would like to accept any of these cases representing flood victims please contact Jody Pic at (970) 310-8367 by the close of business on Friday, February, 21, 2014.

I would encourage everyone that is able, to sign up with Jody. And although many of these will be fee generating cases, please keep in mind, when discussing your fee schedule, that you may still be representing people who have lost everything.

Thank you in advance.

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

Brandi Lynn Nieto, WCBA President