



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Denver Bar Association Announces 2016 Award Winners

DENVER—In recognition of the immense talent and illustrious careers prevalent in the local legal community, the Denver Bar Association gives out annual awards at a celebration honoring lawyers and judges. These awards include: Award of Merit, Judicial Excellence, Young Lawyer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Projects/Programs. They are described in further detail below, along with a brief overview of the award recipients.

2016 marks the 125th anniversary of the Denver Bar Association (DBA), as well as the 50th anniversary of Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL), which provides free and low-cost legal services for civil matters to those in need in the Denver area. MVL's founders (Jerry Conover and Howard Rosenberg) and outstanding sustained volunteers (Norman Campbell, Barbara Chamberlain, Lucy Marsh, Jon Nicholls and Anthony Yuthas) will also be honored.



2016 Award of Merit: William E. Walters III. The Award of Merit recognizes outstanding leadership, ethics, competency, professionalism, community service and contributions to the DBA and legal profession. During his 40-year career, he worked on cases referred by Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL) and served as a chair and trustee of MVL and the Legal Aid Foundation. The mark that he has made on the Denver legal community is destined to inspire future generations of lawyers who seek to make the world a more equitable place.



2016 Judicial Excellence: Hon. Shelley I. Gilman. The Judicial Excellence award is defined as “extraordinary service and exceptional contributions to the improvement of the judicial system.” Judge Gilman, who is a 2nd Judicial District Court judge, embodies the ideals of the judiciary in terms of ethics, professionalism and community service. In 1998, Governor Roy Romer appointed her to the Denver District Court, and she has been a mentor to new judges ever since.



2016 Volunteer of the Year: Gerald D. Pratt. A clear stand-out in terms of “performing extraordinary voluntary legal services,” Pratt has worked tirelessly on numerous cases through MVL, coached mock trial teams and taught in local schools on Constitution Day. In his view, “volunteering reminds us of the ideals that inspired us to become lawyers in the first place.”



2016 Young Lawyer of the Year: Maureen R. Watson. Honoring a lawyer under the age of 37, this award focuses on outstanding service and contribution to the DBA, the legal profession and the community. Watson, who is currently General Counsel for CQG, Inc., a Colorado-based software company providing global solutions for the financial trading industry, is already an impressive force in our legal community. She was chair of the DBA Young Lawyers’ Division’s Executive Council this past year.



2016 Outstanding Program of the Year: MVL’s Power of Attorney Clinic. At MVL’s Power of Attorney Clinic, volunteer attorneys assist low-income seniors with completing advance planning documents. By completing these documents for free at the clinic, low-income clients no longer endure the burden of this worry. The clinic was founded by MVL Rovira Scholar Joey Scott.

Winners will be honored at the awards ceremony and reception on Wednesday, June 29 at the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center. The awards ceremony and passing of the gavel to incoming DBA President Nancy L. Cohen will be held in the Supreme Court Courtroom, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event will conclude with a reception in the atrium. Drinks and appetizers will be provided. [Learn more here.](#)

About the Denver Bar Association

The Denver Bar Association was founded in 1891 with the commitment to promote justice, support and assist member attorneys in delivering legal service and uphold the honor and dignity of the bar. The association likewise works to foster respect for the legal profession, encourage ongoing legal education and offers resources for the media and the public on legal issues. For more information, visit denbar.org.

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