



COLORADO
WATER CONGRESS
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Legal Ethics Workshop

Co-sponsored by the Water Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association

November 20, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Hybrid Event

1580 Logan Street
Suite 810
Denver, CO 80203

Remote Connection: Zoom Link will be Provided to Registered Attendees

General Description: *Water lawyers, join the Colorado Water Congress for our annual Legal Ethics Workshop! You will learn about the Rules of Professional Conduct and recent CBA Ethics Opinions affecting water court practice, recent changes to the rules governing lawyer discipline and disability, and ethical considerations regarding equity, diversity and inclusion.*

Speakers:

- April Hendricks, Attorney, Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.
- Sheela Stack, Attorney, Nazareus Stack & Wombacher, LLC
- Janie Cox, Attorney, Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.
- Emily Halvorsen, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Federal and Interstate Water Unit, Colorado Attorney General's Office
- Karen Steinhauser, Adjunct Law Professor, Judge, Attorney, The Law Office of Karen Steinhauser LLC

Workshop Agenda

9:00 a.m. Introductions and Overview

April Hendricks and Sheela Stack will kick off the workshop with an overview of the program. They will also provide brief introductions for each of the speakers. CWC staff will provide basic instructions on participation for both virtual and in-person attendees.

9:15 a.m. Implicit Bias

Karen Steinhauser, The Law Office of Karen Steinhauser LLC

Having a bias doesn't make a person "bad," and not every bias is negative. However, the inability to recognize and interrupt the biases in ourselves and others can lead to bad decisions in our work, in our relationships and in life.

The reality is that each of us, no matter how open-minded we think we are, possess hidden prejudgments that influence our behavior and cause us to make decisions about cases, people and situations based on what we think we know, versus what we really know as facts. Implicit bias is widespread and can be found in every discipline. In business, it can affect how decisions are made about hiring, firing, discipline, promotions and job assignments. As we deal with our cases, our biases, can influence how we perceive our own clients and other individuals, how we assemble the team, how we think about negotiations and outcomes, how we select a jury and how a case is put together.

This discussion will focus on how we can recognize and interrupt our own biases as well as recognizing and interrupting biases in others

10:30 a.m. Ethics Trends in the Post-Pandemic Practice of Law

Janie Cox, Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.

This presentation focuses on general and relevant trends, including the ethical issues implicated by remote working, the rise in the use of social media in the practice of law, and post-pandemic trends in attorney regulation matters.

11:30 a.m. Break

11:40 a.m. Ethical Responsibilities in Working with Expert Witnesses

Emily Halvorsen, Colorado Attorney General's Office

This presentation will consider a lawyer's ethical responsibilities and considerations in addressing the reliability and credibility of sources and experts used by the lawyer to advocate for their client's position. Our discussion will touch on rules of competency, diligence, meritorious claims, and candor to the tribunal.

12:40 p.m. Q&A / Open Discussion

1:00 p.m. Adjourn, Lunch and Networking