

ESTABLISHING BAR RELATIONS WITH YOUR CHAPTER

11 Reasons why a Bar Liaison Committee is Important for your Chapter

Mile High Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators
Bar Liaison Committee: Doug Striker, Chair. Brandie Rome, co-chair

1. Establish and maintain rapport with the bar
2. Reinforce the value of membership to ALA and Bar through joint benefit links and e-mail blasts.
3. Transfer of knowledge between legal administrators and the bar association allowing both to be current with development in their respective communities.
4. Introduce ALA chapter members to existing, current, and future authors of Law Practice Management columns
5. Provide the opportunity for ALA members to present have a voice at Bar CLE's and author LPM articles in the Colorado Lawyer.
6. Build a shared community through education and communication.
7. Build referral network with the ALA Newsletter Committee to increase author resource pool.
8. Leverage ALA resources to assist in the day to day operations of solo's and small firms who don't have an administrator. Provide exceptional resources for administrative tasks to firms of all shapes and sizes through ALA and Bar libraries.
9. Help create a list of topics for articles based on the questions and needs discussed in the email list servers.
10. Promote the professionalism and good will of the ALA Chapter and increase the visibility of the ALA with the legal community.
11. Meet people! Attend Bar and ALA events to network and expand author pool.

Of the many excellent volunteer-driven committees that fall under the umbrella of the Chapter, the Bar Liaison committee has historically been a challenge to grow, sustain, and succeed. The key motivation of the Bar Liaison committee is to create a positive commu-

nication based on shared interest between the local chapter and the local bar association. In our case, it is developing shared goals between the Mile High Chapter and the Denver and Colorado Bar Association, along with the ability to create visibility through the Law Practice Management Section of the American Bar Association. As with any organization that has turnover in its ranks, the ability to sustain a relationship is tempered by the changing dynamics inside that relationship. That is, the Chapter has no dedicated staff person with which to pursue its annual goals.

With that being said, the main goals of the committee are:

- create and sustain dialogue with the bar association
- Find ways to enhance our common interests to the benefit of both our memberships. Create goals to enhance common interests.
- Participate in the publication of the Colorado Lawyer and be contributing editors for the quarterly Law Practice Management section.

Dialogue: Our committee meets 3-4 times a year with the bar association, additionally we communicate frequently via email and telephone conferences regarding issues that concern our respective organizations. It is important that all communication is always respectful of others time and commitments and tactful. We have also found it is very helpful to discuss roles and responsibilities anytime new committee members are enlisted. It is a great

review for returning members and clarification for new members. This also helps avoid stepping on each other's toes as much as possible. This discussion can also include strengths and weaknesses of the committee members. This is helpful in establishing roles and responsibilities inside the committee like follow up person, lead contact and others as needed.

Common Interests: over the last several years, the Chapter and the Bar have found significant common interests to pursue.

- Online forms library
- Reference library
- Document storage
- Speakers for Continuing Legal Education events
- Marketing venue for ALA events that may be attractive to solo & small firm practitioners

Colorado Lawyer: find ways to shepherd through articles under the umbrella of Law Practice Management that will be of interest to solo and small firm practitioners as well as topics that are of concern to larger firms.