

BEST IN SHOW

It seems like every time we call someone about an insurance defense case, only one name rolls off the tongue: Jon Sands. It doesn't hurt that he's one hell of a nice guy. On point, this year when the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association and the Colorado Defense Lawyers Association took up professionalism and named their favorite opposing counsel, CTLA voted overwhelmingly, and Sands was the winner. They also have great things to say about him right after they've left the courtroom.

Best insurance lawyer — plaintiffs

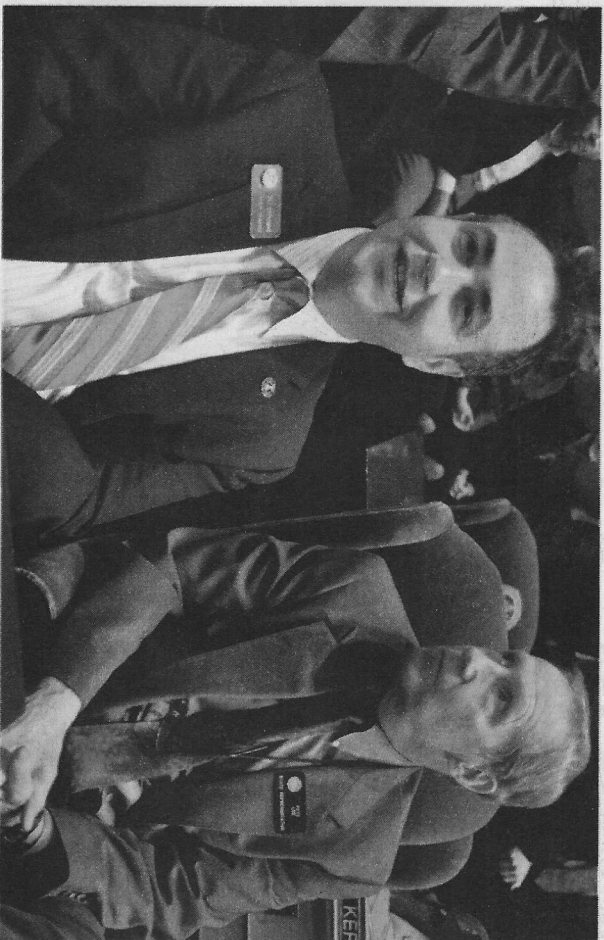
Barrister's Best: Steve Wahlberg, Hillyard Wahlberg Kudla Sloane & Woodruff

People's Choice: Thomas Henderson, Burg Simpson Eldredge Hersh & Jardine

Steve Wahlberg is listed twice in this year's Barrister's Best, here and as overall best litigator. We're impressed by the laid-back but focused attitude he takes with all cases. And considering his streak of wins, we think his partners and clients may be applauding him as well.

Best intellectual property attorney (non-litigator)

Barrister's Best: Doug Swartz, Sheridan Ross



Colorado State Sen. Pat Steadman, Barrister's Best lawyer-turned-litigator and State Rep. Pete Lee | LWC PHOTO

People's Choice: David London, Hogan Lovells,

Doug Swartz is equal parts dynamo and magnetic leader, said one of his fellow partners at Sheridan Ross. And that combo has helped Swartz land some amazing clients as well as create an amazing team of attorneys to work for those clients. What puts the intellectual property attorney above all others though, is his ability to trust his team, said the partner. And he's just a really nice guy to boot. All in all, it's a formula we can't resist.

Best intellectual property

litigator

Barrister's Best: Jon Trembath, Lathrop & Gage

People's Choice: David Siptora, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Jon Trembath made a big move this year — from Merchant & Gould to Lathrop & Gage — all in the midst of a fairly significant case for one of his clients. The move down 17th Street didn't put a hitch in Trembath's stride though, this intellectual property litigator managed to secure a \$50

million defense verdict for his client — a result we're sure they're pleased with. We're not surprised he could handle all the commotion, given he once litigated a case that had 37 different patents at issue. He's the type of multi-tasker we envy!

Best lawyer turned litigator

Barrister's Best: Pat Steadman
People's Choice: Morgan Carroll

You shouldn't be surprised by this pick. Steadman had a stream of victories this past legislative session. Steadman finally passed the civil unions bill he'd introduced in the previous two sessions, and he also chaired the Joint Budget Committee, which juggled a number of big issues this term. Steadman was able to work across the aisle with Republican lawmakers on more than one occasion, and we think that alone deserves praise.

Best mediator

Barrister's Best: Rob Crane, Crane Leake Ehlers Bruzese & Ehlers
People's Choice: Jim Burghardt, Moyer White

We'll admit that sometimes our focus is a little too centered on the Denver Metro area. We neglect those other parts of the state and the thousands of practitioners who are helping the state's smaller communities. Recognizing Rob Crane for his