





















Photos on cover taken by our wonderful pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC except those indicated in black on this graphic.

Photos on this page courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC except \*.

# CONTENTS

2	Executive Committee & Staff
3	About Us
5	Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors
6	Young Lawyers Division
8	2021 Honorees
10	2021 Awards Luncheon
12	Chair's Roundtable
14	Task Forces
16	Children's Rights & Education
23	Civil Rights & Criminal Law
30	Poverty & Public Benefits
33	Community Development
39	Immigration
46	CLC Internships & Fellowships
48	Thank You

# **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **STAFF**



Richard Westfall Board Chair Westfall Law, LLC



Dave Stark
SECRETARY/TREASURER
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE
& REATH LLP



Nancy Elkind Palmer Polaski P.C. (RETIRED)



Connie Talmage
Executive Director



Iris Eytan Eytan Law LLC



Rebecca Fischer SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.



Martha Fitzgerald Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP



Carolyn Powell
Associate Director



Tess Hand-Bender Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



Liz Harding Polsinelli PC



Tim Macdonald
ARNOLD & PORTER



Kaitlynn Sartor Office Manager



Cait McHugh YLD Board Chair Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP



Mack Wilding
YLD Board Chair-Elect
Fortis Law Partners LLC



Maureen Witt HOLLAND & HART LLP



Alicia Drury

Database Manager and
Legal Night

Administrator

With many thanks to Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for your amazing service on the CLC Executive Committee from 2013 to 2022 and to Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC) for your leadership and service on the Executive Committee during 2021.

With thanks to Kathleen McCrohan for your service as the CLC Associate Director from 2016-2022.

# **COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE**

# **Pandemic Update:**

We are happy to present this Colorado Lawyers Committee 2022 Annual Report. COVID-19 has complicated all our lives, but has not slowed down our staff and volunteers. Thank you all.



### **About Us:**

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of almost 80 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 44 years, Lawyers Committee volunteers have focused on major policy issues and systemic change through legal advocacy, negotiation, and litigation, using the unique skills of lawyers in service of others. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is affiliated with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington D.C. and similar organizations in seven other cities throughout the country.

### **Our Work:**

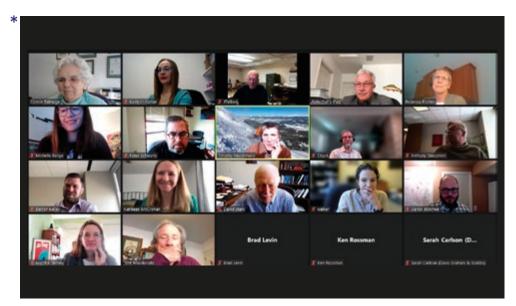
The Colorado Lawyers Committee has more than 25 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil Rights & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, more than 930 volunteers contributed more than 6,700 hours and \$3.02 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. In addition, the CLC Young Lawyers Division has engaged more than 325 young (or recently admitted) lawyers and law students who are making a difference on Colorado Lawyers Committee projects and on six YLD teams. The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers, supporting law firms, and staff. Thank you to the many individuals who have committed their time and expertise to improving the lives of others through the law for the past 44 years.



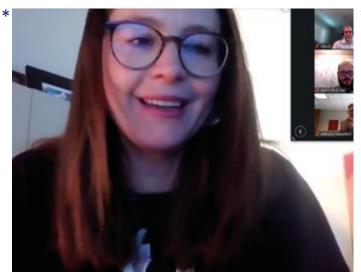


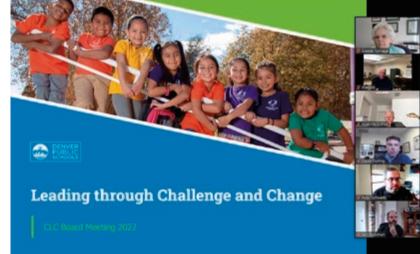


**HOURS** 













# CONTRIBUTING LAW FIRMS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (INCLUDING SPECIALTY BAR REPRESENTATIVES)

Achieve Law Group, LLC Aaron A. Boschee

Anderson Hemmat, LLC Julie E. Anderson

Antonio Bates Bernard PC Howard M. Haenel

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ISURI M. Lawson

ARNOLD & PORTER
Timothy R. Macdonald

BAKERHOSTETLER Laurin D. Quiat

BALLARD SPAHR LLP Sarah B. Wallace

BARTLIT BECK LLP Julie F. Kaptur

BLAIN MYHRE LLC Blain D. Myhre

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP Martha L. Fitzgerald David B. Meschke

Butler Snow LLP Dalton L. Kelley

CALVIN LAW FIRM LLC Charles D. Calvin

CHAN LAW FIRM Catherine A. Chan

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

Sarah R. Carlson

Colorado Indian Bar Association Jennifer H. Weddle

Colorado LGBT Bar Association John M. McHugh

COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION Deborah Yim

CONNELLY LAW LLC Sean Connelly

COOLEY LLP Jonathan Rivinus

COOPER RAMP CAGE BUCAR LEWIS, LLC Steven C. Lass

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP Tess Hand-Bender Kenzo Kawanabe

**DENTONS** 

DeVoe Law, LLC Adam T. DeVoe

Dorsey & Whitney LLP Gregory S. Tamkin

Epstein Patierno, LLP John H. Tatlock

EYTAN LAW LLC Iris Eytan

FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP Sarah Kellner David W. Stark

FENNEMORE.
Bruce E. Dahl

Foley & Lardner LLP Timothy C. Mohan

FORTIS LAW PARTNERS LLC Cara Thornton

Fox Rothschild LLP Caleb Durling

H&K Law, LLC Laura J. Hazen

Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C. Adam Mueller

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP Daniel P. Malone, Jr.

HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Arnulfo D. Hernandez

HILL & ROBBINS, P.C. Matthew A. Montgomery

HOFFMAN NIES DAVE & MEYER LLP Denise D. Hoffman White

HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP Jessica Black Livingston

HOLLAND & HART LLP Craig E. Stewart Maureen Reidy Witt HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP Shawn M. Turner

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP Andrew K. Glenn

HUTCHINSON BLACK AND COOK, LLC Lucy K. Walker

ILENE LIN BLOOM, P.C. Ilene Lin Bloom

IRELAND STAPLETON
PRYOR & PASCOE, PC
Sarah W. Benedict

JACKSON KELLY PLLC John S. Zakhem

Kamlet LLP Jay F. Kamlet

KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL LLP Stephen H. Kaplan

Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C. Kathleen J. Gebhardt

KNUDSON & ASSOCIATES LLC Kristin A. Knudson

Law Office of T.A. Taylor-HUNT, LLC T. A. Taylor-Hunt

LEVIN SITCOFF, PC Bradley A. Levin

Lewis Brisbois
Bisgaard & Smith LLP
John Cardinal Parks

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP Kenneth F. Rossman, IV

McDermott Stuart & Ward, LLP Thomas R. Ward

Morrison & Foerster LLP Scott F. Llewellyn

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH, SMOAK & STEWART, P.C. Ceridwen J. Koski

OTTEN JOHNSON ROBINSON NEFF + RAGONETTI PC J. Thomas Macdonald

PALMER POLASKI P.C. Nancy B. Elkind Camila S. Palmer

PERKINS COIE LLP W. Matthew Pierce

POLSINELLI PC Sean R. Gallagher Elizabeth E. Harding

RECHT KORNFELD PC Marnie Adams

RICHARDS CARRINGTON LLC Chris Carrington

Sam Cary Bar Association Nicole Gorham

Schunk Law Firm P.C. Pascal C. Schunk

SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C. Rebecca Anderson Fischer Tamir I. Goldstein

SNELL & WILMER James D. Kilroy

South Asian Bar Association of Colorado

Katayoun A. Donnelly

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP Peter S. Gould

Stinson LLP Jeffrey D. Harrison

THE HARRIS LAW FIRM Richard A. Harris

THE WITT LAW FIRM Jesse H. Witt

TIERNEY LAWRENCE LLC Martha M. Tierney

Westfall Law, LLC Richard A. Westfall

WILKINSON BARKER KNAUER, LLP Matthew S. Larson

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

Mary V. Sooter Yuri Bazan Law Firm

Yuri Bazan Law Firi Yuridia Bazan

### THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

In 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a Young Lawyers Division to "empower passionate young lawyers to make a difference for children and the underserved through education, advocacy, and systemic change." The CLC YLD is led by a Board comprised of young lawyers (under 40) or new attorneys (in practice less than 8 years) from law firms that contribute to the Lawyers Committee. General Membership in the CLC YLD is open (without charge) to young and new attorneys and law students.

In its first seven years, the YLD drafted a governing charter, produced and directed two videos shown at the Awards Luncheons, expanded and strengthened the Hate Crimes Education Program, took over running Denver Legal Night, and actively supported the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the Nonpartisan Election Call Center. The YLD also held a number of fundraising events, including YLD Night at the Rockies and Casino Night as well as two virtual events (Barristers Behind the Bar and Geeks Who Drink) which helped raise over \$22,000 for future CLC projects, including the YLD Grant Program. In 2021, the YLD held the first annual **Racial Justice Summit** (via zoom) on the topic of criminal justice. The second Racial Justice Summit is scheduled for September 29, 2022 on the topic of racial justice and voting rights.

In August 2019, the YLD created a new CLE Series where YLD members learn trial advocacy skills through trainings led by distinguished Denver trial attorneys and judges. When the program was suspended in early 2020 due to the pandemic, the YLD created its **Lunches** with Legends Program where legends in the Colorado legal community answer questions from YLD members during a free, one-hour zoom meeting designed to inspire young lawyers on their path to greatness. During the series, we have been fortunate to speak with U.S. District Court Judges Brooke Jackson and Christie Arguello; Magistrate Judge Kristen Mix; U.S. Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse and Jason Crow; Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart; Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser; Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold; former Secretary of State Bernie Buescher; Colorado Public Defender Megan Ring; former U.S. Attorney John Walsh; Judges Gary Jackson and Karen Steinhauser; Denver City Attorney Kristin Bronson; and renowned trial attorney Hal Haddon. We thank all our Legends for sharing their time and wisdom

Over 330 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.



#### **CLC YLD Board**

Caitlin McHugh (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP), YLD Chair, Special Projects Team Co-Chair

Mark D. Wilding (Fortis Law Partners LLC), YLD Chair Elect, Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Edgar Barraza (Fox Rothschild LLP), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

Adrienne D. Boyd (Arnold & Porter), Strategic Planning Team Co-Chair

Therese M. Fox, (Arnold & Porter), Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

Elizabeth Froehlke (Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Jonathan M. Goldstein (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Strategic Planning Team Co-Chair

Alexis L. Hailpern (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP), Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

Alyssa L. Levy (Fisher & Phillips LLP), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

Alex Mancero (Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

**Stephen C. Robin** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

Ryan B. Thurber (Polsinelli PC), Special Projects Team Co-Chair

Whitney W. Wolfe (Merriam Law Firm, P.C.), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

In 2019, the YLD Board added law students to the Board. This year's law school representatives are:

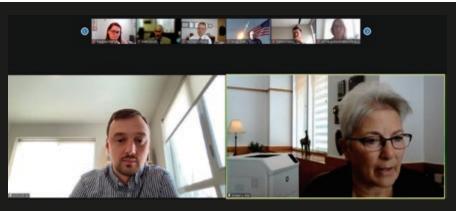
John Ellis (University of Colorado Law School)

Hannah E. Goldstein (University of Denver Sturm College of Law)









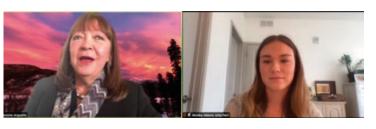
















# **2021 HONOREES**



Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient **Peter H. Schwartz** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each year. Photographs of some of our 2021 honorees are included on these pages.



Team of the Year Recipient the Hate Crimes National Team: Elizabeth Froehlke (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP), Beth Ann Lennon (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), John M. McHugh (Fennemore.), Tarek F. M. Saad (Crowell & Moring LLP), Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP), Valeria Spencer (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado), Phyllis V. Wan (Holland & Hart LLP) and Mark D. Wilding (Fortis Law Partners LLC)

Law Firm of the Year Recipient

The Harris Law Firm



# **2021 HONOREES**





Special Recognition Awards were presented to: **Michelle Berge** (Denver Public Schools) for her coordination and administration of Greeley Legal Night Clinic, and to **Paul Hartmann** (Hartmannphoto, LLC) for his photography contributions during the last ten years. His beautiful photos are displayed in our Annual Report and on our website.

Pandemic Heroes Award presented to the Colorado COVID Legal **Relief Steering Committee & Frequent Volunteers:** Roger C. Adams (Adams Law, LLC), China Califf (Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce), Katayoun A. Donnelly (Azizpour Donnelly LLC), **Howard M. Haenel** (Antonio Bates Bernard PC), **Brad** Hamilton (Jones & Keller, P.C.), Michelle L. Harden (Messner Reeves LLP), Cynthia T. Kennedy (Kennedy Law Firm), Nikki Maloney (CO Office of Economic Development and International Trade), **Nathan J.** Moore (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP), David Padrino (formerly the Office of the Colorado Attorney General). **Hester M. Parrot** (Ballard Spahr LLP), Carolyn S. Powell (MCR Development), Chalyse Robinson (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP), Chris Rodgers (Colorado SEO Pros), Peter H. Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Rodney W. Stieger (Stinson LLP), Lorri Strizich (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP), **Keith Trammell** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP), **Samuel D. Walker** (Office of the Colorado Attorney General) and **Kristin R.B. White** (Fisher & Phillips LLP)



### We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2021:

Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Polsinelli PC
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

#### **Team of the Year Nominees**

Immigration Task Force-Probation Disclosure Subcommittee Young Lawyers Division CLE Series Planning Committee Preparing Asylum Seekers for Success (PASS) Pilot Program

Pandemic Hero Award Nominees
Denver Legal Night Steering Committee & Frequent Volunteers
Hate Crimes Education Task Force
Immigration Habeas TRO Litigation Team
YLD Lunches with Legends Planning Committee



# **2021 AWARDS LUNCHEON**

After cancelling the Annual Lunch in 2020, we were delighted to return to an in-person event on October 21, 2021. It's the first time in history that luncheon tables were without the usual silverware, plates, cups, saucers and glasses. Instead, we welcomed everyone back with masks, tote bags filled with a delicious lunch and socially distanced special food tables.

















# A GRAND CELEBRATION















# 2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Julie E. Anderson Anderson Hemmat, LLC

Catharyn A. Baird ETHICSGAME, LLC

Frederick J. Baumann
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie
LLP

Michael L. Bender

William C. Berger L2S LEGAL, LLC

Nicole Marie Black COHEN BLACK LAW LLC

Joan Blaik Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Susan L. Boothby

Aaron P. Bradford SHERIDAN ROSS PC

Bernie Buescher Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

Mary Beth Buescher Attorney (RETIRED)

A. Bruce Campbell
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (RETIRED)

Russell E. Carparelli AB-Conflict Resolution Services

Nancy L. Cohen COHEN BLACK LAW LLC

Sean Connelly
CONNELLY LAW LLC

Frederic K. Conover Moye White LLP The Chair's Roundtable is composed of individuals who generously agreed to contribute \$1,000 per year for a period of five years to the Colorado Lawyers Committee. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors thank the more than 80 members of the Chair's Roundtable for their support and dedication to our mission. Thanks also to Iris Eytan (Eytan Law LLC) and Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for chairing this effort.

George B. Curtis

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP (RETIRED)

Lucy Hojo Denson Hinds and Hinds Family Law, PC

Samuel E. Edwards HOLLAND & HART LLP

Nancy B. Elkind
PALMER POLASKI P.C. (RETIRED)

Iris Eytan

Eytan | aw | | C

Rebecca Anderson Fischer SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Martha L. Fitzgerald Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Andrew A. Folkerth HOLLAND & HART LLP

C. Adam Foster Foster & Jones

Elizabeth Froehlke
BERG HILL GREENLEAF RUSCITTI,
LLP

Tamir I. Goldstein Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Sean C. Grimsley IBOTTA INC.

Harold A. Haddon Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C. (Retired)

Norman D. Haglund JAMS

Alexis L. Hailpern Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Tess Hand-Bender
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Elizabeth E. Harding Polsinelli PC

Laura J. Hazen H&K Law, LLC

Richard F. & Pamela B. Hennessey
Attorneys (Retired)

**Arnulfo D. Hernandez** Hernandez & Associates, P.C.

# 2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

Robert F. Hill

HILL & ROBBINS, P.C.

**Abigail Moss Hinchcliff** 

OFFICE OF THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Gary M. Jackson

SENIOR JUDGE, DENVER COUNTY COURT

**Clay James** 

Patricia M. Jarzobski

THE LAW OFFICE OF PATRICIA M. JARZOBSKI, P.C.

Craig D. Joyce

FAIRFIELD AND WOODS P.C.

Kenzo Kawanabe

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Bradley A. Levin

LEVIN SITCOFF, PC

Scott F. Llewellyn

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

**Ellie Lockwood** 

SNELL & WILMER

Frank Lopez

GLADE VOOGT LOPEZ SMITH, P.C.

Jason M. Lynch

FOUNDRY GROUP

J. Thomas Macdonald

OTTEN JOHNSON ROBINSON NEFF + RAGONETTI PC

Timothy R. Macdonald

ARNOLD & PORTER

Michael S. McCarthy

FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Caitlin McHugh

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

Gale T. Miller

Terry R. Miller

Kristen L. Mix

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Daphne O'Connor

ARNOLD & PORTER

Andrew J. Petrie

BALLARD SPAHR LLP

Carolyn S. Powell

Kathryn A. Reilly

WHEELER TRIGG O'DONNELL LLP

Christopher L. Richardson

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

**Chalyse Robinson** 

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

John L. Ruppert

Lauren E. Schmidt

Peter H. Schwartz

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

**Byeongsook Seo** 

SNELL & WILMER

Thomas W. Snyder

KUTAK ROCK LLP

David W. Stark

FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Stefan D. Stein

SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

C. Jean Stewart

JEAN STEWART LLC

Craig E. Stewart

HOLLAND & HART LLP

Jerome H. Sturhahn

SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Daniel A. Sweetser

COLORADO & DENVER BAR ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATIONS

Constance C. Talmage

COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Charles Y. Tanabe

Erica L. Tarpey

IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR &

PASCOE, PC

James K. Tarpey

Luis A. Toro

Samuel D. Walker

John F. Walsh

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE

AND DORR LLP

Richard A. Westfall

WESTFALL LAW, LLC

Mark W. Williams

SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Dee P. Wisor

**BUTLER SNOW LLP** 

Maureen Reidy Witt

HOLLAND & HART LLP

Elaine A. Wohlner

JAMS

# **2021 TASK FORCES**















# **2021 TASK FORCES**





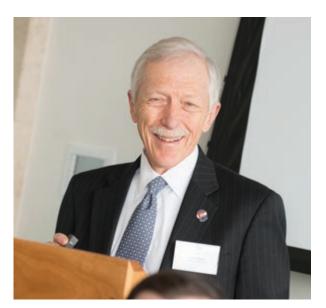








# Standing Up for Kids: CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE



Established in 2003, the Children's Task Force examines issues relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are legal problems that would benefit from advocacy of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers. In past years, task force volunteers worked to ensure that the State provides behavioral therapy services to children with autism through Medicaid as required by federal law. During 2021 the Task Force advocated for increased availability of appropriate placements and mental health services for children in foster care (see below). More recently, the efforts of the Task Force have been focused on whether (1) juvenile diversion policies are applied evenly to everyone, regardless of race or socio-economic status and (2) counties are providing children in foster care with the education services required by the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). The Task Force is working to collect and analyze data to determine if there are systemic issues where CLC advocacy could make a difference.

### Chair

Dave Stark (Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)

# Standing Up for Kids: FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE

During 2021, this group of volunteers addressed the issue of youth

involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who are being housed/treated in overly restrictive, non-integrated placements due to a lack of appropriate residential placements and community supports. These practices have resulted in youth being unnecessarily removed from the home, youth being placed far away from home in a facility that is more restrictive than necessary (often preventing family reunification), and even youth remaining in detention facilities for weeks and months awaiting placement. In addition, the Task Force was concerned that these youth are not receiving adequate mental health support. In 2018, the Subcommittee partnered with Children's Rights, a national nonprofit, which advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout the country, to explore possible litigation to assure Colorado children are protected. The Subcommittee negotiated with representatives from the State of Colorado to identify possible solutions to these issues, but suspended discussions after recent legislation required reforms that should resolve the Subcommittee's concerns.









### **CLC Litigation Team**

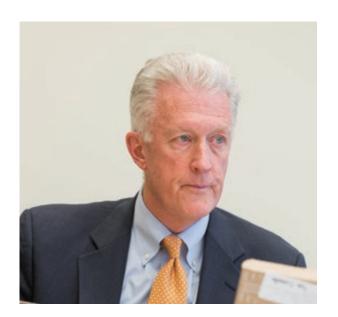
Tamir Goldstein (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

Michael McCarthy (Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)

Maureen Witt (Holland & Hart LLP)

# Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Lawyers Committee has a long history of advocating on educational issues. Much of the Task Force's work during the last eleven years focused on education funding, including several lawsuits that alleged the State's funding for education was inadequate. Most recently, the Task Force has formed several subcommittees (described below) to address educational funding, children with special needs, due process in school discipline, and charter schools.



### Chair

John Tatlock (Epstein Patierno, LLP)

# Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students:

# SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Since 2019, the Special Education Subcommittee has been examining the following issues: (1) charter school practices of not providing services to special needs kids (keeping kids through

"count day" and then announcing the charter school has no services); (2) implementation of the recent US Supreme Court decision in a Douglas County case (which requires the state to offer an "individualized education program" reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress that is appropriate in light of the child's circumstances); and (3) looking at the impact of the underfunding of special education on both the identification of students needing services and the inability of districts to provide necessary services.





### **Co-Chairs**

Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)

John Parks (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP)

# Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: CHARTER SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Formed in 2022, this Subcommittee is exploring challenges faced by charter schools in providing necessary services to special needs children and recent legislation which will impact these services.

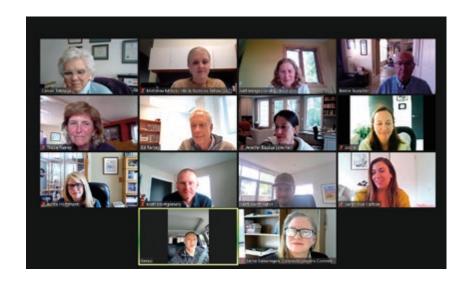


#### Chair

Tess Hand-Bender (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

# Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: SCHOOL FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has a long history of advocacy for thorough and uniform educational funding. Yet, significant problems persist both in funding of student services and capital construction. For several years, this Subcommittee has been considering possible solutions to the severe and inequitable underfunding of Colorado's schools. This group of volunteers is researching approaches that have been successful in other states and exploring whether legal advocacy can remedy the problems in Colorado's school funding.



#### Chair

Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)

# Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: SCHOOL DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

This newly created Subcommittee is examining the delicate balance between student rights and public safety concerns of schools. The Subcommittee has numerous anecdotal stories: of students being expelled for non-violent, off-campus conduct (where criminal charges were dropped), of school hearings where no evidence (or only hearsay) was offered to support a student's subsequent expulsion, and of hearings without an impartial decisionmaker. These reports suggest greater limitations may be needed on the discretion permitted to schools, including due process safeguards, to assure that students are not subject to unfair disciplinary action that will have long term impact on their future.



#### Chair

Jennie Wray (The Harris Law Firm)

# Access to the Polls ELECTION TASK FORCE

The goal of the Election Task Force is to monitor the election process and work to ensure access to the polls in Colorado's elections. This bipartisan coalition of volunteers has worked closely with the Colorado Secretary of State, the Republican and Democratic parties, the specialty bar associations, and other key constituencies to assure collaborative solutions to election



issues and changes to the law. While election procedures seem to have become an increasingly partisan issue in recent years, this bipartisan coalition continues to focus on access to the polls. Most recently, when one Colorado county cancelled a contract with a voting machine vendor, the Task Force reached out to county officials to remind them of their legal obligation to provide private and secure voting opportunities for all voters, including those with disabilities.



#### **Co-Chairs**

Martha Tierney (Tierney Lawrence LLC)
Richard Westfall (Westfall Law, LLC)

# Access to the Polls: NONPARTISAN ELECTION CALL CENTER

For 18 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has been an active participant in a coalition (Just Vote! Election Protection Colorado) which sponsors a Nonpartisan Election Call Center. In 2020, the Call Center was held in a hotel ballroom to honor pandemic





constraints. In 2022, Lawyers Committee volunteers will receive training, coordinate the call center, and answer calls from voters on Election Day and the day before Election Day. Volunteers will respond to questions from Colorado voters related to registration, voting procedures, polling places, mail ballots, and similar issues. The other Just Vote! partners are Colorado Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of Colorado, Disability Law Colorado, and Mi Familia Vota.



### **CLC Steering Committee**

Cait McHugh (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)
Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC)



# **Teaching Students** about Hate Crimes: HATE CRIMES **EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

For more than 28 years, volunteers have presented an educational program on Colorado's Hate/ Bias Motivated Crimes Statutes to schools and community groups around the state. Using a fictional trial format involving a high-school student charged with hate crimes against a Muslim teacher, a perceived LGBT student and others (including by way of a social media threat), the presentation empowers student participants to act as jurors to improve their community culture in areas concerning discrimination, stereotyping, bias and inclusion and to prevent the severe harm caused by hateful slurs and biasedmotivated actions. While the pandemic significantly reduced the number of opportunities to present the Hate Crimes Program in person, the Task Force was able to modify the program to offer it virtually in 2020 and 2021. Volunteers were delighted to return to in-person presentations at the end of 2021.

### **Leadership Team**

Jessica Allen (Denver City Attorney's Office) Liz Froehlke (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP) Beth Ann Lennon (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.) John McHugh (Fennemore.) Tarek Saad (Crowell & Moring LLP) Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP) Valeria Spencer (U.S. Attorney's Office for the **District of Colorado**) Phyllis Wan (Holland & Hart LLP) Mack Wilding (Fortis Law Partners LLC) Anjie Zhi (Ballard Spahr LLP)







# Expanding Hate Crimes Education: NATIONAL HATE CRIMES TEAM

In early 2019, the CLC received a grant from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to modify our Hate Crimes Education program so it could be presented in any school in the country. The team expanded the original curriculum by revising the script based on a "typical statute" that includes gender expression and gender identity. The team also created a number of resources for interested schools and community organizations, including separate guides for teachers, volunteers, and administrators, as well as instructional videos for teachers and volunteers. The expanded program can be offered in-person and virtually. In addition, volunteers can accommodate schools' technology needs and adapt the program to almost any interactive platform. Since finalizing the program, the CLC has received inquiries from several other states seeking to use the CLC's content to put on their own hate crimes programs.





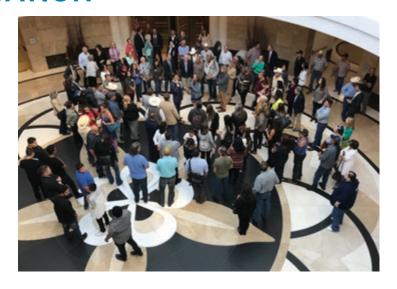


#### **Leadership Team**

Jessica Allen (Denver City Attorney's Office)
Liz Froehlke (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP)
Beth Ann Lennon (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
John McHugh (Fennemore.)
Tarek Saad (Crowell & Moring LLP)
Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)
Valeria Spencer (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado)
Phyllis Wan (Holland & Hart LLP)
Mack Wilding (Fortis Law Partners LLC)
Anjie Zhi (Ballard Spahr LLP)

# Defending Landowner Access to the Taylor Ranch: TAYLOR RANCH LITIGATION

The Taylor Ranch litigation (Lobato v. Taylor) involves the right of landowners in the San Luis Valley to access a 77,500-acre mountainous parcel known as the Taylor Ranch. This right was created in the mid-1800's when settlers on the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, then a part of Mexico, were promised access to the mountainous regions near their homes for uses necessary for their survival. More than 100 years later, Jack Taylor purchased and fenced off the land. The Lawyers Committee has been active in this litigation for the past 22 years and has successfully obtained rights for landowners entitled to access the property (after a 2003 decision by the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the rights of plaintiff property owners). To date, the District Court has examined title to thousands of parcels of land and found that



all but a few parcels are entitled to access Taylor Ranch. In 2016, the team successfully challenged an attempt by the owners of Taylor Ranch to cut off yet-to-be-identified landowners' rights through notice by publication and persuaded the Court to certify its prior rulings as final, while leaving the case open for any future landowners to make access claims. In 2018, the ranch owner filed an appeal (the third time the case was before the Colorado Court of Appeals). The Court issued a 90-page opinion rejecting the ranch owner's efforts to limit the rights of the landowners and remanded the case back to the trial court to finish identifying landowners with rights. The ranch owner decided not to appeal the Colorado Court of Appeals decision, virtually ending the legal battle over the most significant issues that have been the subject of litigation for almost 40 years. The parties subsequently began negotiations regarding management of the ranch's resources.

In 2020, a group of five volunteers from Ballard Spahr LLP agreed to join the Taylor Ranch team to address the ranch owner's recent egregious behavior toward the landowners. The team filed a motion to stop the ranch owner from intimidating the landowners by excessively tracking them, interrogating them, and treating them like trespassers. The team also challenged the ranch owner's fencing that significantly limits the landowners' access to the property. The landowners are seeking several remedies to prevent the ranch owner's use of harassment and unreasonable interference with

### **Leadership Team**

Joe Bronesky (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.) Jerome DeHerrera (Achieve Law Group) Rebecca Fischer (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

**Brent Owen** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

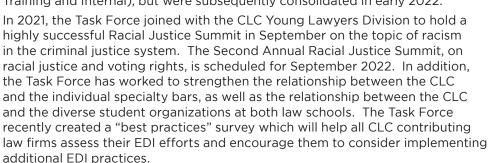
Sarah Wallace (Ballard Spahr LLP)

the landowner's easement. These remedies include removing the electrical fence, prohibiting excessive surveillance, disallowing the use of guard dogs, and implementing new procedures that will increase access to the property.

In late 2021, several lawyers from Sherman & Howard L.L.C. agreed to represent several individual landowners in actions by the ranch owner that could impact their individual rights and the easement rights established over more than 40 years.

# Racial Discrimination is Intolerable: RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In response to recent events in our country, including the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more, the Colorado Lawyers Committee formed the Racial Justice Task Force in the Summer of 2020, in order to reassess our internal and external racial justice practices. The Racial Justice Task Force initially formed three subcommittees (Advocacy, Training and Internal), but were subsequently consolidated in early 2022.





#### Chair

Christine Hernandez (Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)

With thanks to the prior leadership:

**Initial Co-Chairs:** 

Kenzo Kawanabe (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Abby Hinchcliff (Office of the Colorado Attorney General, formerly Bartlit Beck LLP).

**Subcommittee Chairs:** 

Martha Fitzgerald (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)

Christine Hernandez (Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)



# Fighting for Reform: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE**

In early 2021, the Lawyers Committee began exploring whether school districts in Colorado are sharing confidential student information, in violation of Colorado and federal law. The Task Force served multiple Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests and is now analyzing the information that was produced.

Additionally, the CLC has supported a number of efforts during the last two years to reform the criminal justice system. HB21-1280 requires a court to hold a bond setting hearing within 48 hours after an arrestee's arrival at a jail or holding center. SB21-062 would have required a mandatory summons (not jail) for individuals arrested for non-violent misdemeanors and non-violent class 5 and 6 felonies.



#### Chair

Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)



### **POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

# MENTAL HEALTH PARITY TASK FORCE

During 2021, the Lawvers Committee joined with the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Mental Health Colorado and lawyers from Polsinelli PC (Ryan Thurber and Brag Hemme) to explore what appears to be a significant lack of parity in benefit coverage available for mental and physical health for Colorado Medicaid beneficiaries. Both federal and state law require mental health and substance use disorder treatment to be covered in "parity" with treatment for physical health conditions (as further defined by these laws). Failure to comply with parity requirements can have significant repercussions for Medicaid beneficiaries. including inadequate access to care, treatment delays, beneficiary and provider frustration, and negative health outcomes. The team is now preparing CORA requests to collect information to better understand how the State of Colorado is managing its parity obligations, and whether potential challenges may be appropriate.



Chair

Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC)

### JOINT ID TASK FORCE

There are major barriers in Colorado to obtaining a state-issued identification card (ID), particularly for those with limited resources. Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has worked to address the barriers facing homeless and other individuals in obtaining Colorado IDs, without which they are unable to secure housing, employment, and other critical services. In early 2013, at the request of the Lawyers Committee, Governor Hickenlooper's office created a Joint ID Task Force. Participants include representatives from the ID Collaboration Project (housed at Colorado Legal Services), at least six staff



from the Department of Revenue (DOR) (including the Executive Directors and Deputy Directors of DOR and the Division of Motor Vehicles), and the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee. Individuals from the Department of Corrections, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, One Colorado, the ACLU, and other organizations are invited, as appropriate, to attend quarterly meetings where individual issues and systemic barriers to obtaining IDs are discussed. Over the years, the Task Force has successfully addressed and resolved barriers to obtaining IDs. Most recently, the Task Force supported efforts by the DOR to modify its regulations to permit the issuance of IDs and licenses with a gender-neutral designation (e.g., Male, Female, and X) and to create a mobile ID unit (aka DMV2Go) which allows individuals who are not mobile (e.g., in nursing homes, rehab centers, etc.) to obtain their ID or license.

### **POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

# Legal Clinics for the Underserved: DENVER LEGAL NIGHT

Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has sponsored two monthly Legal Night clinics to provide legal information and referrals for individuals and families who can't afford legal services. In pre-COVID days, clinics were held at Centro San Juan Diego, and clients were served on a first-come, first-served basis. Issues generally include immigration, criminal, family, consumer, and housing matters; volunteer interpreters are available to assist when needed. The Lawyers Committee co-sponsored a training on the ethics of pro bono service, designed to allow volunteers to become better equipped to help individuals at Legal Night. In 2020, in response to the pandemic, Denver Legal Night switched from in-person to a virtual clinic. Instead of meeting at Centro San Juan Diego, volunteer lawyers consult with clients over the phone to help determine significant legal issues, refer individuals to legal services, and answer other questions about the legal process. In July 2022, Legal Night returned to an in-person clinic at Centro San Juan Diego. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 30,880 individuals have been served! In 2021, 438 volunteers assisted almost 1,000 clients.













### **Leadership Team**

Edgar Barraza (Fox Rothschild LLP)
Erika Carter (The Harris Law Firm)
Madalia Maaliki (Richards Carrington, LLC)
Angela Reyes (retired)
Stephen Robin (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
Whitney Wolfe (Merriam Law Firm, P.C., formerly The Harris Law Firm)

With thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to make this virtual service so successful. Thanks also to Quinn Girrens (Ogborn Mihm, LLP) and Kathleen McCrohan (former Associate Director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee) for their significant contributions.

### **POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

# Legal Clinics for the Underserved: **FEDERAL PRO SE CLINIC**

In early 2018, the Judges in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado approved a two-year pilot program to create a clinic for pro se litigants in the federal courthouse. The Lawyers Committee was involved in the planning of the clinic for over a year. The Clinic is operated by the Colorado Bar Association and opened its doors in 2018. The Executive Director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee serves on the Clinic's Advisory Board. Because of the program's success, the Court in 2019 agreed to permanently continue providing the clinic for federal pro se litigants. In its second year, the clinic saw 50% more litigants and held more than double the number of appointments than in the first year. The program was recently expanded to include a bankruptcy clinic which provides experienced attorneys to help pro se litigants filing for Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado.



# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

# Helping Small Businesses During the Pandemic:

# COLORADO COVID LEGAL RELIEF PROGRAM

In response to the devasting economic effects of COVID-19, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Colorado Attorney General, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. the Colorado & Denver Bar Associations, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and the law firms of WilmerHale, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, and Messner Reeves LLP to launch a program that matched volunteer lawyers with small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19. Small businesses provide half of Colorado's jobs and were especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis, with minority and women-owned small businesses being hit the hardest. With the help of over 200 volunteer lawyers from 116 law firms and organizations, the program served more than 250 Colorado small businesses from June 2020 through August 2021. CCLR also provided clinics and webinars and complied resources for small businesses. In August 2021, this program was phased out and replaced with the Small Business Legal Assistance Program (below).









# < colorado seo pros >

DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS





#### **Steering Committee**

**China Califf** (Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce)

Katy Donnelly (Azizpour Donnelly LLC)

Michelle Harden (Messner Reeves LLP)

Nikki Maloney (Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade)

David Padrino (formerly Office of the Colorado Attorney General)

Chalyse Robinson (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)

**Chris Rodgers** (Colorado SEO Pros)

Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Lorri Strizich (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)

Keith Trammell (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)

Sam Walker (Office of the Colorado Attorney General)

# Frequent Volunteers (Helped 3 or more businesses)

Roger Adams (Adams Law, LLC)

Howard Haenel (Antonio Bates Bernard PC)

**Brad Hamilton** (Jones & Keller, P.C.)

Cyndi Kennedy (Kennedy Law Firm)

Nathan Moore (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)

Hester Parrot (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Carolyn Powell (MCR Development)

Roddy Stieger (Stieger Law LLC)

Kristin White (Fisher & Phillips LLP)



# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

# Helping Small Businesses Thrive: COLORADO SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM





In July 2021, Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with several other organizations to create a new program to assist small businesses (Colorado Small Business Legal Assistance Program). The program is designed to help small businesses (primarily those with 10 or fewer employees) with their economic recovery and success. Volunteer attorneys provide one hour of free legal assistance to answer questions from small businesses on a range of legal issues, including real estate, contracts, employment, government benefits, and bankruptcy. The program is housed at the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The other program partners are the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado, the Sam Cary Bar Association, the Association of Corporate Counsel-Colorado Chapter, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado Women's Bar Association, and Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice. The program has been operating on a limited basis but recently completed its pilot phase. Almost 100 volunteers have signed up to provide assistance and more than 40 small businesses have already received assistance.



















## Helping Small Businesses: UNITED BUSINESS ADVISORY

In 2018, the Lawyers Committee partnered with Mile High United Way (MHUW) to support its new program, the United Business Advisory, to assist small business in under-resourced communities in the Denver metro area. MHUW is providing business consulting services and advice to promising businesses in under-resourced communities. MHUW's theory of change is: if MHUW can help small businesses grow, it helps provide greater economic opportunities for the owners/ families, the employees, the suppliers, etc., which in turn supports the economic vibrancy of our communities. Eligible businesses must be promising businesses that have an existing track record (have been in business for a few years), want to grow (and have the opportunity to add jobs, create additional economic opportunity for the owners and families, etc.), live, work or operate in under-resourced communities (in neighborhoods like Globeville, Elyria/Swansea, southern Adams County, etc.) and are likely woman/minority owned (although not mandatory). The Lawyers Committee has identified CLC volunteers to work on a pro bono basis with MHUW clients on transactional-type legal issues. This program was implemented on a pilot basis in 2018 and has assisted several small businesses since it was created.



#### Chair

Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)



## Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community:

### NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has co-sponsored a Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic for small nonprofits with limited operating budgets. Teams of transactional attorneys review a checklist with participating nonprofits to evaluate their legal health. Client meetings are preceded by a CLE training for participating lawyers on Colorado nonprofit law. In 2021, the clinic moved to a virtual format; in February and July of 2021, 100 attorneys assisted 36 nonprofits. We were excited to return in-person at the July 2022 Clinic. Since 2006, more than 700 volunteers have assisted almost 265 small nonprofits in the Clinic!





#### **Leadership Team**

Sam Edwards, Chair (Holland & Hart LLP)
Taria Adawi (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Jazz Allen-Perkal (Polsinelli PC)

Amy Black (Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Cait McHugh (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

Carolyn Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel—Colorado Chapter)

**Elizabeth Prutch** (Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC)



#### Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community: NONPROFIT PRO BONO MATCHING PROGRAM

Since 2009, this Task Force has provided transactional-type legal services and representation to budget-constrained nonprofit organizations. While the Task Force initially assisted only nonprofits that served children or the indigent, in 2010 the Task Force broadened the scope of its work to include all small nonprofits whose operating budgets do not permit them to retain legal counsel. Since the matching program began, over 500 nonprofits have been served.



#### **Leadership Team**

Chris Lane, Chair (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Many thanks to departing Leadership Team member Milada Kostalkova (formerly of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for her significant contributions during her time with the program.

#### Legal Advocacy for Housing and Homelessness: HOUSING TASK FORCE

This task force, originally created in late 2013 to identify housing issues in Colorado that might benefit from legal advocacy by Lawyers Committee volunteers, was dormant for several years and revitalized in late 2018. In 2020 and 2021, the Task Force successfully supported bills to protect tenants by sealing eviction records and by prohibiting discrimination by source of rental income. Task



Force volunteers also monitored landlord compliance with Colorado's new law (HB19-1106) which prohibits excessive rental application fees and prevents the landlord from making inquiries about an applicant's criminal history. In addition, CLC joined a letter urging Governor Polis to extend protections to renters to minimize the devastating impact of the pandemic. In early 2021, the Task Force began to focus its attention on Colorado real estate taxes and the possibility that Colorado counties are using appraisal techniques that result in higher-priced homes being undervalued for tax purposes and lower-priced homes being overvalued. After significant review and discussion, the Task Force concluded that the appraisal techniques were sound.

#### **Co-Chairs**

Bill Callison (Holland & Hart LLP)

Rebecca Fischer (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

## Assistance for Indigent Immigrants. IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

For almost 22 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has supported the efforts of the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center (IRC) to provide low-cost immigration services to the local population, including overseeing services provided, training staff, and providing referrals to pro bono attorneys. More recently, the Task Force continued its assistance of the IRC and also helped provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night who are seeking assistance regarding numerous issues, including the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to U.S. citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders.

The Task Force has also worked on several initiatives describe. below: stopping warrantless arrests by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) at the courthouse, prohibiting probation officers from disclosing private information to ICE, assisting individuals seeking asylum with their Credible Fear Interviews, training non-immigration lawyers to represent asylum seekers, including children, and conducting workshops to help resettled Afghans complete their asylum applications.





#### **Leadership Team**

Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired) Steven Williams



### Helping Immigrants Seek Asylum: **AFGHAN ASYLUM SUBCOMMITTEE**

In 2021, the United States evacuated thousands of Afghans to the United States who are seeking protection from persecution. More than 2,000 Afghans resettled in Denver. In 2021, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with Catholic Charities Denver to develop a plan to help Afghan complete their asylum applications. In March 2022, the Subcommittee conducted a training for almost 200 lawyers and non-lawyers. Workshops began in April and have been held on Saturdays since then. Almost 100 volunteers (lawyers and non-lawyers) are now assisting at each workshop.







#### **Leadership Team:**

Alena Amundson, Esq.
Diane Bassett
Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)
Tracy Harper (Catholic Charities Denver)
Arash Jahanian (Denver Public Schools)
Julie Kaptur (Bartlit Beck LLP)
Amber Paoloemilio (Polsinelli PC)
Patricia Peterson (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Becca Siever (Colorado Court of Appeals)
Steven Williams





### Helping Immigrants Achieve Asylum Status: PASS PROGRAM

In 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee, in partnership with RMIAN (Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network) launched a pilot program called the Preparing Asylum Seekers for Success (PASS) Program. Four law firms (Davis Graham & Stubbs, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, and WilmerHale) participated in the program, which aimed to create in-firm expertise and help detainees with their "credible fear interviews." These interviews determine whether detainees are eligible for asylum. Many of the volunteers not only prepared asylum seekers for their Credible Fear Interviews, but also represented individuals later in the asylum process. Each firm was matched with an experienced immigration lawyer who assisted the lawyers. This model put the expertise within each firm and allowed the lawyers to collaborate with one another on these cases. Once the pilot program phased out, plans emerged to move forward with "PASS 2" during 2021 where firms would handle immigration bond hearings, parole hearings and asylum cases. More than 87 lawyers from 11 firms and organizations have participated in this program.

DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS

**GIBSON DUNN** 







## Protecting the Privacy of Immigrants: IMMIGRATION PROBATION SUBCOMMITTEE

In early 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee joined the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, the Office of Alternate Defense Counsel, and the ACLU in a letter to Chief Justice Coats and State Court Administrator Rvan. calling for significant adjustments to the State Court's policy regarding disclosure by probation officers to Immigration and **Customs Enforcement** 



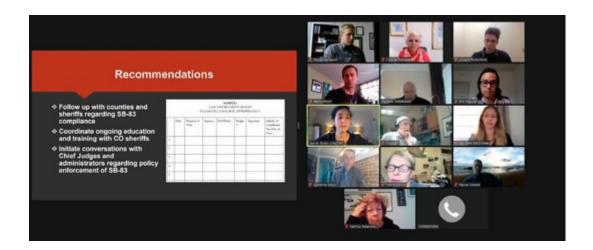
(ICE) about individual probationers. Based on the negative impact the Court's policy had on rehabilitation and reintegration, community safety, and the criminal justice system, the letter urged improvements to the existing policies and procedures, including clarification that probation officers should not assist ICE in arresting probationers. Shortly after the letter was sent, CLC representatives and others met with State Court personnel. Soon thereafter, the Colorado legislature passed a bill (HB19-1124) which prohibits law enforcement officers from arresting or detaining an individual solely on the basis of a civil immigration detainer, and prohibits probation officers and probation department employees from providing an individual's personal information to federal immigration authorities. In 2022, the Subcommittee reconvened when reports of renewed improper communications surfaced.

#### **Leadership Team:**

Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)
Christine Hernandez (CHBA; Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)
Arash Jahanian (Denver Public Schools, formerly the Meyer Law Office, P.C.)
Hans Meyer (The Meyer Law Office, P.C.)
Steven Williams

## Keeping Immigrants Safe: ICE IN THE COURTHOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

In early 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee was made aware that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were making civil arrests at Colorado courthouses without court-issued warrants. These actions had a significant chilling effect on immigrants who were victims of crime or witnesses of crimes—in many instances deterring them from reporting crimes or agreeing to testify about crimes. In early 2020, the CLC ICE in the Courthouse Subcommittee helped draft and successfully supported the passage of SB20-083, a bill that prohibits ICE from making civil arrests at the courthouse and when individuals are traveling to and from the courthouse. The law's purpose ensures that immigrants are protected in the justice system and do not fear arrest when they report crimes or appear as witnesses. After the passage of the bill, the Subcommittee worked with the Immigration Law & Policy Clinic (ILPC) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law to spread awareness and educate law enforcement officers and court officials about the new law. The courts have been closed due to the pandemic; it is unclear whether ICE will comply with the law once the courts reopen. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is dedicated to monitoring ICE's compliance with the law and will pursue litigation to enforce the statute, if necessary.



#### Co-Chairs

Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)
Steven Williams

### Encouraging Pro Bono Immigrant Advocacy: **ASYLUM TRAINING**

In January and February 2022, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) to host a free virtual program to train attorneys to provide pro bono representation to asylum-seekers in Colorado. The program specifically focused on representing children, parents, and other individuals in civil immigration detention in Colorado and was designed for attorneys who are new to immigration law. More than 160 people signed up for the training which was free for anyone who agreed to take a pro bono asylum case.

## Helping Children Seeking Asylum: SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS) TRAINING

In 2021, Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) to present a free training on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS, the pathway to lawful permanent residence for immigrant children who cannot be reunified with one of both parents). To successful apply for this status, a child must obtain a state court order making special findings regarding the child (SIJS predicate order). This training educated volunteers about the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and the process of obtaining the required SIJS predicate order in Colorado. Forty lawyers attended the training and all attendees agreed to take on a pro bono case involving an immigrant family.

#### Funding Legal Services for Immigrants:

# DENVER IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund was established in 2018 by Mayor Hancock's Executive Order 142, which affirms Denver's commitment to stand



with immigrants and refugees, and maintains Denver as a welcoming city where everyone can feel safe and thrive. The Denver Foundation distributes grants to nonprofit organizations providing direct legal representation to Denver residents for defense of removal proceedings and for assistance with affirmative immigration relief, for the estimated 55,000 unauthorized immigrants who live in Denver. Since 2018, the Fund has distributed nearly \$1.5 million in grants to organizations that provide legal representation. Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired) is the Colorado Lawyers Committee representative on the Fund's Advisory Board.



#### **CLC INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**



## Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship

Due to a generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler, the Colorado Lawyers Committee created the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship which funds a law student to work at the Colorado Lawyers Committee every other summer. Congratulations to **Hannah Goldstein,** a law student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, who was selected to be the second recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship and worked with us during the summer of 2021.



#### CLC Spring 2022 Intern

The Colorado Lawyers Committee was delighted to welcome **Francesca Lipinsky DeGette** as the CLC extern for the 2022 Spring semester. At the time, Francesca was a second year law student at the University of Colorado. Francesca has a strong interest in civil rights and intends to focus her legal career on the needs of underserved Coloradans.



#### **CLC INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**



#### Hill & Robbins Public **Interest Paid Fellowship**

The Hill & Robbins Internship was established in 1996 to encourage law students to work in the public interest area. Each year, a student from the University of Colorado or the University of Denver is awarded the internship to work on a public interest project either through the Colorado Lawyers Committee or Colorado Legal Services (CLS). The 2022 Hill & Robbins Intern was placed with the Colorado Lawyers Committee. Congratulations to McKenna Milton, a student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, the 2022 Hill & Robbins Fellow. Thank you to Hill & Robbins, P.C. for creating and continuing this Fellowship for more than 21 years.



#### **Magistrate Judge Kristin** Mix's Public Interest **Diversity Internship/ Externship Program** (MixDIP)

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is honored to participate in Magistrate Judge Mix's Externship program for diverse 2nd and 3rd year law students at DU and CU in a public service legal environment. Congratulations to **Emmanuel Brondino**, a University of Colorado Law School student who worked at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in the fall of 2021. Thank you to Magistrate Judge Mix for the opportunity to participate in this program.

## THANK YOU





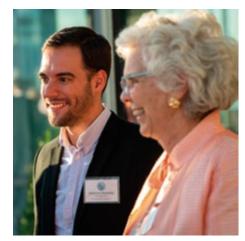
Thank you to our many volunteers, supporters (law firms and other contributors), YLD members and the leadership of our YLD Board, our CLC Board, and our Executive Committee for making our success possible over the last 44 years.

























This Document Produced Compliments of



A Xerox Company

Ryan E. Ragle, Major Account Executive Ryan.Ragle@xerox.com



1401 LAWRENCE STREET
SUITE 2300
DENVER, CO 80202
(303) 256-2782

WWW.COLORADOLAWYERSCOMMITTEE.ORG