

OCT. 21, 2021

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Colorado Lawyers Committee  
**Annual Awards  
Luncheon**



Congratulations

# Colorado Lawyers Committee 2021 Honorees

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Welcome

**Constance C. Talmage**

*Executive Director, Colorado Lawyers Committee*

**Rebecca Anderson Fischer, Sherman & Howard L.L.C.**

*Board Chair, Colorado Lawyers Committee*

## Keynote Introduction

**Nancy Elkind, Elkind Alterman Harston PC (retired)**

## Keynote Address

**Lee Gelernt, American Civil Liberties Union**

*Deputy Director of the Immigrants' Rights Project and Director of the project's Access to the Courts Program*

## Honoring Volunteers

Presentation by **Rebecca Anderson Fischer** and **Constance C. Talmage**

Special Recognition Awards

Team of the Year Award

Pandemic Heroes Award

Law Firm of the Year Award

Presentation by **Timothy R. Macdonald, Arnold & Porter**

Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award to **Peter H. Schwartz, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP**

## Farewell

**Rebecca Anderson Fischer**



The Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonprofit, nonpartisan consortium of almost 80 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities through high impact pro bono legal advocacy.



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solely upon advertisements. Polsinelli PC, Polsinelli LLP in California.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### LEE GELERNT ACLU

**Lee Gelernt** is a lawyer at the ACLU's national office in New York. He is widely recognized as one of the country's leading public interest lawyers and has argued dozens of important civil rights cases during his career, including in the U.S. Supreme Court. He has also testified as a legal expert before both houses of Congress. In addition to his work at the ACLU, Lee is an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, and for several years was a visiting professor at Yale Law School.

Lee's recent work is featured in the documentary "The Fight." During the past several years, Lee has argued some of the country's highest profile cases, including:

- A national class-action challenge to the Trump administration's unprecedented practice of separating immigrant families at the border.
- Successful challenges in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to the Trump administration's first and second asylum bans.
- The first case challenging the president's travel ban on individuals from certain Muslim-majority nations.
- A class-action challenge to the Trump administration's use of the Title 42 public health laws to summarily expel unaccompanied migrant children without an asylum hearing.

Over his career, Lee has argued dozens of other notable civil rights cases. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, he litigated several high-profile national security cases. One of the cases Lee argued was *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd* in the U.S. Supreme Court, involving the government's post 9-11 policy of using the federal material witness statute to investigate and preventively detain terrorism suspects in cases where there was no probable cause to justify a criminal arrest. Lee also successfully argued one of the very first major September 11 cases to reach the federal courts of appeals, *Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft*, where he represented the media in their lawsuit seeking to prevent the government from holding secret deportation hearings after September 11.

Lee has won numerous awards for his work and has been recognized as one of the 500 leading lawyers in the country in any field. He regularly lectures around the country, and frequently appears in the national and international media.

Lee graduated from Columbia Law School, where he was a Notes & Comments editor of the Law Review and is a former law clerk to the late Judge Frank Coffin of the First Circuit Court of Appeal. At the ACLU, he currently holds the positions of deputy director of the national Immigrants' Rights Project, and director of the project's Access to the Courts Program.







# Working Together for a Better World

Faegre Drinker honors the lawyers and community leaders who advance justice, equity and opportunity for all through pro bono work with the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

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### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Hartmannphoto, LLC for providing pro bono photography service for the Colorado Lawyers Committee  
Brave Knight Media for preparing the special video presentation for today's event  
Cuttlefish Arts for layout and design of the 2021 Awards Luncheon program and Annual Report



Congratulations to the honorees,  
nominees, and recipients of the  
**2021 Colorado Lawyers  
Committee Awards**

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## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



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### **MICHELLE BERGE DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

For almost 10 years, Michelle Berge, currently General Counsel at Denver Public Schools (DPS), was an essential part—and coordinator and administrator extraordinaire—of the Colorado Lawyers Committee Greeley Legal Night clinic. She has been an invaluable resource for the underprivileged community in the Weld County region and for Colorado Lawyers Committee.

From 2010 to 2020, the Colorado Lawyers Committee co-sponsored Greeley Legal Night with Weld County Legal Services and the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Committee of the Colorado Bar Association. Modeled after Denver Legal Night, Greeley Legal Night was created to reach individuals in Weld County, where legal resources were scarce and a brief discussion with a lawyer was immensely beneficial. For the better part of a decade (beginning when Michelle was in private practice and continuing long after Michelle went to DPS), Michelle made the long drive up to Our Lady of Peace Church in Greeley to facilitate the clinic, often offering to drive volunteers from Denver who needed a ride. While Michelle's primary duty was to facilitate, she would also jump in to translate or to speak with clients if the clinic was short on volunteers. This award recognizes the extraordinary effort put forth by Michelle to organize, educate and assist in providing legal services for almost 2,000 Weld County residents.

The monumental success of Greeley Legal Night would not have been possible without Michelle's tireless efforts, contagious enthusiasm, and skilled coordination.





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## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



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### **PAUL HARTMANN HARTMANNPHOTO, LLC**

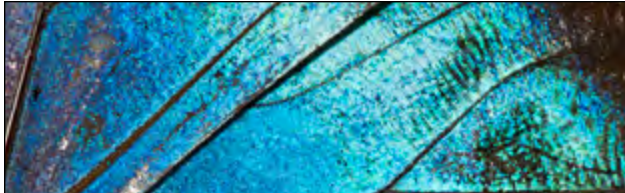
For over a decade, Paul Hartmann, Hartmannphoto, LLC, has been an essential part of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, serving as its exclusive pro bono photographer.

Paul Hartmann has worked for more than 30 years perfecting the art of taking outstanding executive portraits. He specializes in the photography of people with a primary focus on bringing out the best in each person he photographs. Paul truly enjoys working with a variety of personalities in challenging environments. Ultimately, it is Paul's professionalism, excellence and efficiency that make our partnership so strong. Through the years, Paul has taken countless photos of the CLC Annual Lunch, Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, Task Force meetings and social events, like the Chair's Roundtable Reception and our YLD Casino Night fundraiser. There is never a Colorado Lawyers Committee photo assignment too big or too small for Paul.

We are extraordinarily blessed to be the recipients of Paul's considerable generosity, enormous talent, and amazing professional images. He always makes us look good!







# Stronger Together

Ballard Spahr is proud to support CLC. We commend our friend and colleague, Christine Snider, and congratulate all of this year's honorees.

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## NOMINEE FOR TEAM OF THE YEAR HATE CRIMES NATIONAL TEAM



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC

**Elizabeth Froehlke** (*Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP*)\*

**Beth Ann Lennon** (*Sherman & Howard L.L.C.*)

**John M. McHugh** (*Fennemore.; formerly Reilly LLP*)

**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*)

**Mark D. Wilding** (*Fortis Law Partners LLC*)\*

\*Not Pictured

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 can be presented in any school in the country. The team expanded the original curriculum (that CLC volunteers have offered in Colorado schools and communities for more than 27 years) 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, including separate guides for teachers, volunteers, and administrators, and videos for teachers and volunteers that describe the program. The program can be offered in-person or virtually; volunteers can accommodate schools' technology needs and adapt the program to any interactive platform.





# CONGRATULATIONS

to the Colorado Lawyers Committee & this year's Nominees and Honorees!



David Harston, Camila Palmer, Koby Polaski  
Philip Alterman, Nancy Elkind (*retired*)  
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Congratulations to Team of the Year  
Immigration Task Force nominee

**Steven Williams**

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## NOMINEE FOR TEAM OF THE YEAR IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE-PROBATION DISCLOSURE SUBCOMMITTEE



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC

**Nancy B. Elkind** (*Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired*)\*

**Christine M. Hernandez** (*CHBA; Hernandez & Associates, P.C.*)\*

**Arash Jahanian** (*Denver Public Schools, formerly The Meyer Law Firm P.C.*)

**Christopher N. Lasch** (*University of Denver Sturm College of Law, deceased*)\*

**Hans C. Meyer** (*The Meyer Law Office, P.C.*)

**Mark Silverstein** (*ACLU of Colorado*)\*

**Steven Williams** (*Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.*)

\*Not Pictured

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 the State Court Administrator, 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 personal. 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 department employees from providing an individual's personal information to federal immigration authorities.



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## NOMINEE FOR TEAM OF THE YEAR PREPARING ASYLUM SEEKERS FOR SUCCESS (PASS) PILOT PROGRAM



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Nancy B. Elkind (*Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired*)\*  
Koby L. Polaski (*Elkind Alterman Harston PC*)\*  
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Lillie Shobe  
Bryan Wallace (*interpreter*)\*

\*Not Pictured

In 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee launched a pilot program called Preparing Asylum Seekers for Success (PASS). Four law firms (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, and WilmerHale,) participated in the program which aimed to train attorneys to prepare asylum seekers for their “credible fear interviews”—the first step in determining whether detainees are eligible for asylum. PASS also sought to ensure that every asylum seeker detained in the Aurora Immigration Detention Facility had the chance to meet with a participating attorney—a milestone the program achieved. Many of the volunteer attorneys not only prepared asylum seekers for their credible fear interviews, but also took the additional step in representing individuals throughout the asylum process. Many of the cases resulted in an immigration judge granting asylum. All four firms continue to engage with the program.







Arnold & Porter proudly supports the

# Colorado Lawyers Committee

We join with you in celebrating this year's honorees and nominees—including our own **Adrienne D. Boyd**—for their work advancing CLC's mission and projects.

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## NOMINEE FOR TEAM OF THE YEAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION CLE SERIES PLANNING COMMITTEE



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**Annika K. Adams** (*Highlands Law Firm, formerly DU Law student*)

**Adrienne D. Boyd** (*Arnold & Porter*)

**Jonathan M. Goldstein** (*Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP*)\*

**Abigail Moss Hinchcliff** (*Office of the CO Attorney General, formerly Bartlit Beck LLP*)

**Caitlin McHugh** (*Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP*)

**Ryan B. Thurber** (*Polsinelli PC*)

**Miles Williams** (*MW Legal Group*)\*

\*Not Pictured

In August 2019, the CLC Young Lawyers Division began offering a series of NITA-like trial skills CLEs to young lawyers and law students. Each CLE began with a panel discussion with distinguished attorneys and judges from around Colorado. After the panel, participants received their assignments and prepared for their small group presentations. Session One offered a lesson on opening statements, Session Two focused on direct examination, and Session Three centered on cross examination. Participants were able to spend a morning making connections, learning from experienced trial lawyers, increasing their litigation skills, earning CLE credit and having fun! The fee for each session was \$25 for YLD members and \$100 for non-YLD members. Scholarships were available to law students. The CLE Series was put on hold due to the pandemic, but the team looks forward to reintroducing the program soon.



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**Colorado Law** salutes this year's honorees and nominees for their exemplary contribution to the legal profession and dedication to public service.



## NOMINEE FOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC

During 2019, 22 attorneys in the Faegre Baker Daniels LLP Denver office participated in 19 Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. Dave Stark served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; Bill Callison also served as a firm representative on the Board of Directors. Four firm lawyers participated in the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics, held in February and July, and provided transactional-type legal services and representation to small nonprofits: Julie Belville, Hunter Metcalf, Kirstyn Jacobs and Lane Womack. Four firm lawyers participated in the Nonprofit Working Group where they provided transactional-type legal services and representation to small nonprofits: Kyle Darch, Tricia Halling, Jeff Sherman and Candace Whitaker. Four firm volunteers participated in Project Homeless Connect, which provides legal information and representation at an annual clinic organized by the City of Denver: Rachel Burkhart, Jesse Marks, Ben Petre and Jeff Sherman. Bill Callison served as Co-Chair of the Housing Task Force and three other firm lawyers researched housing issues: Tricia Halling, Sarah Kellner and Javier Mabrey. Dave Stark served as Co-Chair of the Children's Task Force, which examines developments relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are legal issues that would benefit from legal advocacy; three other firm lawyers also served on the Task Force: Tricia Halling, Bob O'Loughlin and Chris Raftery. Dave Stark, Michael McCarthy and Tricia Halling were on the Children's Task Force Foster Care Subcommittee, which explored possible litigation to assure Colorado children are protected in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Elena Simion participated on the Immigration Task Force and Michael McCarthy participated in the Immigration ICE in the Courthouse Subcommittee, which successfully supported the passage of SB20-83 that prohibits civil arrests at, to, and from the courthouse. Three firm lawyers participated in the Education Task Force: Bill Callison, Tricia Halling, and Kirstyn Jacobs. Bob O'Loughlin and Dave Stark participated on the Education School Discipline Subcommittee, which worked to assure that recently adopted school practices are non-discriminatory and provide parents and children with appropriate due process. Dave Stark also participated in the Education Special Education Subcommittee. Four firm lawyers participated in the Young Lawyers Division: Jessica Cordero, Kyle Hosmer, Kirstyn Jacobs and Becca Smith. Jessica Cordero volunteered at Denver Legal Night and provided advice and referrals to low-income clients who did not otherwise have access to legal services. Dave Stark participated in discussions leading to the creation of the Federal Pro Se Clinic to provide free legal consultations to pro se litigants in the federal courthouse.



*We salute the efforts of all the lawyers with whom we have worked on Committee projects this past year.*

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## NOMINEE FOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR POLSINELLI PC



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During 2019, sixteen attorneys and one staff member in the Polsinelli PC Denver office participated in 15 Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. Gerry Niederman served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; Sean Gallagher also served as a firm representative on the Board of Directors. Ryan Thurber served on the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Board and as YLD Board Chair. Three firm lawyers participated in the Children's Task Force Foster Care Subcommittee, which partnered with Children's Rights, a national nonprofit, to explore possible litigation to assure Colorado children are protected in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: Isuri Lawson, David Mika and Allie Schneider. Two firm lawyers participated in Denver Legal Night, where they provided advice and referrals to low-income clients who did not otherwise have access to legal services: Isuri Lawson and Ryan Thurber. Kathleen Sutton participated in the July Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic and provided transactional-type legal services and representation to budget-constrained nonprofit organizations. Ryan Thurber served on the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic Steering Committee for the February and July clinics. Mike Strand volunteered with the Nonprofit Working Group. Ben Cohen was active in the Taylor Ranch Litigation, which (for more than 40 years) has been working to protect the rights of landowners in the poorest part of the state to access a 77,500-acre parcel known as the Taylor Ranch to graze their animals and collect timber. Peter Waltz participated in the Election Task Force. Four firm lawyers worked to assure that benefits to Medicaid recipients were not improperly terminated. Colin Deihl, Jennifer Evans, Colleen Guinn and Ryan Thurber. Allie Schneider participated with the Hate Crimes Education Task Force, which provides a fictional trial on Colorado's Hate/Bias-Motivated Crime Statute to schools and community groups around the state. Annie McCullough participated in Project Homeless Connect. Four firm lawyers participated in the Young Lawyers Division. Four firm lawyers participated or taught in the YLD CLE Series, where YLD members learn trial advocacy skills through trainings lead by distinguished Denver trial attorneys and judges: Stacy Carpenter, Nicholas Cassidy, John Posthumus and Ryan Thurber. Two firm lawyers participated in the Private Duty Nurse Appeal: Ben Cohen and Colin Deihl.

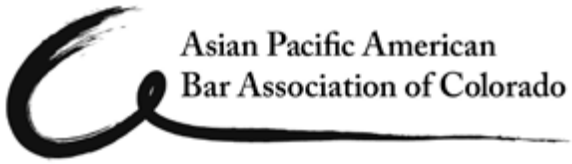




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## NOMINEE FOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP



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During 2019, eight attorneys and four staff members in the Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP Denver office participated in five Colorado Lawyers Committee projects (almost 50% of the firm's Denver office). Peter Gould served as the firm representative on the Board of Directors. Tarek Saad continued as the longtime Co-Chair of the Hate Crimes Education Task Force, which provides an education program on Colorado's Hate/Bias-Motivated Crimes Statute to schools and community groups around the state. Despite his relocation to Doha (Qatar), Tarek remained actively involved (from afar) in the leadership of the Task Force. Liz Shaw participated in the Education Task Force and the Education DPS Transportation Subcommittee of the Education Task Force. Aaron Boschee continued his long-time role as Chair of the Taylor Ranch Litigation team, which he has been a part of since 2010. Originally filed in 1981, *Lobato v. Taylor* seeks to protect the rights of landowners in the poorest part of the state, the San Luis Valley, to access a 77,500-acre parcel known as the Taylor Ranch to graze their animals and collect timber. The CLC has been involved since 1996. The following attorneys and staff members at Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP worked on the Taylor Ranch Litigation team during 2019: Aaron Boschee, Stephanie Carr, Sarah Conley, Jake Davis, Peter Gould, Amy Hansen, Jonathan King, Carolyn McIntosh, Brent Owen and Pam Wedemeyer.



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## NOMINEE FOR LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR THE HARRIS LAW FIRM



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During 2019, fifteen attorneys at The Harris Law Firm participated in eight Colorado Lawyers Committee projects (75% of the firm lawyers!). Rich Harris served on the Board of Directors; Kelly Murphy and Jennie Wray served on the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Board, where Jennie Wray served as Chair. Two firm lawyers participated in the Children's Task Force, which examines developments relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are legal issues that would benefit from legal advocacy, and the Children's Task Force Foster Care Subcommittee, which partnered with Children's Rights, a national nonprofit, to explore possible litigation to assure Colorado children are protected in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: Peter Goldstein and Niceta Bradburn. Erika Carter participated in the Election Task Force. Katy Ellis participated in the Education Task Force. Three other firm lawyers participated in the Young Lawyers Division: Erika Carter, Whitney Wolfe and Jennifer Workman. Thirteen firm lawyers participated consistently at Denver Legal Night, where they provided advice and referrals to low-income clients who did not otherwise have access to legal services: Jacob Allen, Jon Bereman, Susan Brach, Joseph Brown, Erika Carter, Katy Ellis, Ben Floyd, Kim Gent, Kelly Murphy, Hannah Van Roekel, Monica Van Slyke, Whitney Wolfe and Jennie Wray. Whitney Wolfe and Erika Carter both attended more than seven Denver Legal Night Clinics.







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## NOMINEE FOR PANDEMIC HEROES AWARD COLORADO COVID LEGAL RELIEF (CCLR) PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE & FREQUENT VOLUNTEERS



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In response to the devastating economic impact of COVID-19, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Colorado Attorney General, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the law firms of WilmerHale, Davis Graham, and Messner Reeves, the Colorado & Denver Bar Associations and the Denver Chamber of Commerce to launch a program that matched volunteer lawyers with small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19. With significant pro bono technical assistance from Colorado SEO Pros, CCLR created a web-based program that matched small businesses in need with volunteer lawyers across Colorado to provide these businesses with desperately needed pro bono legal services. Small businesses provide half of Colorado's jobs and have been especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis, with minority and women-owned small businesses being hit the hardest. With the help of volunteer lawyers from 116 law firms and organizations, the program provided legal assistance to more than 250 Colorado small businesses from June 2020 through July 2021. CCLR also provided clinics and webinars and compiled resources for small businesses. CCLR's success in helping Colorado small businesses confront the challenges brought on by the pandemic inspired the creation of a new effort, the Small Business Legal Assistance program, organized by the Colorado Lawyers Committee and several other legal organizations and housed at OEDIT. This program, expected to start in late October, will provide free limited consultation with a lawyer for any interested small business in Colorado.





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---

Congratulations to Erika Carter and Whitney Wolfe  
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## NOMINEE FOR PANDEMIC HEROES AWARD DENVER LEGAL NIGHT STEERING COMMITTEE AND FREQUENT VOLUNTEERS



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Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has co-sponsored, with the Denver Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Denver Access to Justice Committee, 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. In 2020, in response to the pandemic, Denver Legal Night seamlessly moved 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. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 29,800 individuals have been served! In 2020, 155 volunteers from 78 law firms and organizations assisted 1,027 clients.



A portrait of John McHugh, a bald man with a friendly expression, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a pink bow tie. He is standing against a background of a sunset over mountains.

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PURSUIT OF TRUTH  
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Thank you **John McHugh** for all that you do through your efforts with the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

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We proudly recognize and celebrate all the outstanding attorneys including our very own John McHugh for donating their time in the pursuit of truth and justice and who are making a profound impact in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Our firm sees the impact that John has been able to make through his efforts with the Hate Crimes National Team and the Hate Crimes Education Task Force Steering Committee and applaud him for his efforts.

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## NOMINEE FOR PANDEMIC HEROES AWARD HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE STEERING COMMITTEE



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For more than 27 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 biased-motivated actions. In early 2020, most schools that had previously offered the program switched to online learning eliminating the opportunity to present the Hate Crimes Program in person. In response, the Task Force modified the interactive program and was able to offer it virtually to students and community members in 2020 and 2021.



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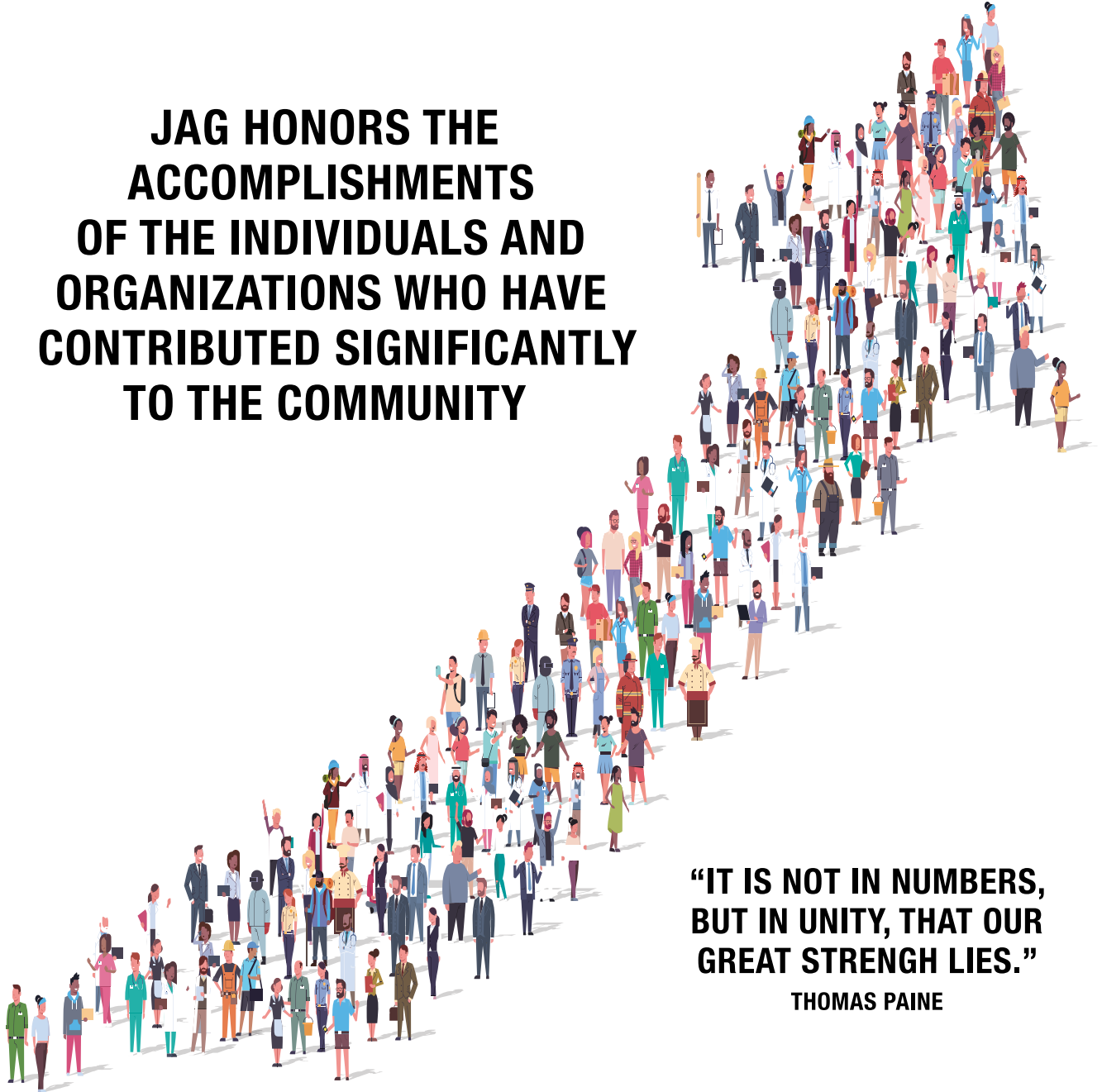
In April 2020, CLC volunteers partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and the National Immigration Project to address the significant risks from COVID-19 faced by individuals in the Aurora Detention Facility, where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detains immigrants during the pendency of civil immigration law proceedings. The group filed a Habeas Petition and Motion for TRO seeking the release of 14 medically vulnerable people detained in ICE custody. Nine of the petitioners were transgender women living with HIV who, because of the COVID-19 outbreak at the detention facility, were at high risk. The day after the petition was filed, ICE released eight of the petitioners; by June 2020, ICE released two more members of the group. Ultimately, the Judge denied the Motion for TRO and Habeas Petition, stating that a habeas remedy is not available for a challenge to confinement conditions, although courts across the country have granted habeas relief under similar circumstances. RMIAN and partners secured the release of all but one of the remaining petitioners through successful immigration proceedings.





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\*Not Pictured

In the summer of 2020, the Young Lawyers Division created a new program which involves one-hour “lunch talks” via zoom with local legal legends to help inspire young lawyers on their path to greatness. The participants have a chance to learn more about the legend and to ask questions. The inaugural Lunches with Legends was held on July 1, 2020 and featured Justice Melissa Hart. Justice Hart imparted wisdom on recovering from failures, collaborating with your team, and using your mentors, to a zoom crowd of over 60 attendees. Other featured legends in the series were: Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, Colorado Secretary of State Jenna Griswold, former Colorado Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, U.S. District Court Judge Brooke Jackson, Colorado Public Defender Megan Ring, U.S. Representative Jason Crow, U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello, former U.S. Attorney John Walsh, Professor Karen Steinhauser, U.S. Representative Joe Neguse, Judge Gary Jackson and Denver City Attorney Kristin Bronson.





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## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS



2019 Team of the Year Recipients—Jail Wait Team

### Outstanding Sustained Contribution

2019 – Daniel A. Sweetser  
 2018 – No Award Given  
 2017 – David W. Stark  
 2016 – Nancy B. Elkind  
 2015 – Rebecca Anderson Fischer  
 2014 – J. William Callison  
 2013 – Craig E. Stewart  
 2012 – Lawrence W. Treece  
 2011 – James W. Hubbell  
 2010 – John F. Walsh  
 2009 – Steven M. Kaufmann  
 2008 – Michael J. Cook  
 2007 – Christopher Lane  
 2006 – Gale T. Miller  
 2005 – Gregory B. Kanan  
 2004 – Edwin S. Kahn

2003 – Taylor Ranch Team:  
 Jeffrey A. Goldstein  
 William F. Schoeberlein  
 D. Elisabeth Arenales  
 Federico Cheever  
 Janene B. Duthie  
 Rebecca Anderson Fischer  
 Watson W. Galleher  
 Richard D. Garcia  
 Jerry P. Gordon  
 Norman D. Haglund  
 Robert M. Maes  
 David A. Martinez  
 Julia T. Waggener  
 2002 – F. Stephen Collins  
 2001 – James E. Scarboro  
 2000 – Robert F. Hill  
 1999 – Glen E. Keller, Jr.  
 1998 – Karen Tomb

### Law Firm of the Year

2019 – Snell & Wilmer  
 2018 – Husch Blackwell LLP  
 2017 – Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
 2016 – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
 2015 – Snell & Wilmer  
 2014 – Patton Boggs LLP  
 2013 – Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP  
 Faegre Baker Daniels LLP  
 2012 – Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
 2011 – Reilly Pozner LLP  
 2010 – Morrison & Foerster LLP  
 2009 – Arnold & Porter LLP  
 2008 – Arnold & Porter LLP  
 2007 – Arnold & Porter LLP  
 2006 – Kelly/ Haglund/Garnsey + Kahn L.L.C.  
 2005 – Musgrave & Theis LLP  
 2004 – No award given  
 2003 – Arnold & Porter LLP  
 2002 – Stern and Elkind, LLP  
 2001 – Hillyard, Barnhart, Ekker & McNally, L.L.P.  
 2000 – Faegre & Benson LLP  
 1999 – McKenna & Cuneo, L.L.P.  
 1998 – Morrison & Foerster LLP  
 1997 – Kelly/Haglund/Garnsey + Kahn L.L.C.  
 1996 – Hill & Robbins, P.C.  
 1995 – Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
 1994 – Holland & Hart LLP  
 1993 – Rothgerber, Appel, Powers & Johnson, LLP  
 1992 – Sherman & Howard L.L.C.  
 1990 – Holland & Hart LLP



2019 Law Firm of the Year Recipients Snell & Wilmer





## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Individual/Task Force of the Year

2019- Jail Wait Litigation Team

Iris Eytan  
Allison Butler  
Sean Connelly  
Caleb Durling  
Mark Ivandick  
Scott Llewellyn  
Ellie Lockwood  
Brent Owen  
Elizabeth Weil  
Kathleen Mullen  
Jenn Purrington  
Tim Scalo  
Byeongsook Seo

2018 – Christine Snider

2017 – Jail Wait Litigation Team

Iris Eytan  
Caleb Durling  
Mark Ivandick  
Kelsey Lesco  
Ellie Lockwood  
Jason Lynch  
Jenn Purrington

2016 – Aaron A. Boschee

2015 – Amendment 23 (*Dwyer v. Colorado*) Litigation Team:

Zhonette Brown  
Sean Connelly  
Kathleen Gebhardt  
Nathaniel Hake  
Timothy R. Macdonald  
Terry R. Miller

2014 – Susan Cole

2013 – *Lobato v. State of Colorado*

Appellate Team Leaders:

Kathleen J. Gebhardt  
Jennifer Weiser Bezoza  
Marcy G. Glenn  
Terry R. Miller

2012 – *Lobato v. State of Colorado*

Litigation Team:

Katherine P. Bell  
Kathleen Benegar  
Jennifer Weiser Bezoza  
Jennifer Bulmer  
Christopher L. Colclasure  
Jess A. Dance  
Joseph Daniels  
Lisa A. Decker  
Jo Denious  
Rebecca J. Dunaway  
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Colin P. Pitet  
Clarissa M. Raney  
Daniel P. Spivey  
Kyle C. Velte  
Natalie West  
Mark B. Wiletsky  
Susan Williams  
Jessica Yates  
Alyssa K. Yatsko

2011 – John H. Tatlock

2010 – Homeless ID Steering Committee:

James W. Hubbell  
Diego G. Hunt  
James Kilroy  
Timothy R. Macdonald  
Nan Morehead  
Linda J. Olson  
Julie Spence Prine  
Katrin Miller Rothgery  
Thomas W. Snyder  
Lindsay A. Unruh

2009 – Daniel A. Sweetser

2008 – Project Homeless Connect Team:

Susan Cole  
Timothy R. Macdonald  
Alice L. Norman  
Peter G. Schwartz  
Leonard Segreti

2007 – Sean Connelly

2006 – Kristen L. Mix and Tarek F.M. Saad

2005 – Computer Benefits Management System Litigation Team:

D. Elisabeth Arenales  
Michael J. Cook  
Maureen S. Farrell  
Edwin S. Kahn

2004 – No award given

2003 – Richard F. Hennessey

2002 – Steven M. Kaufmann

2001 – Medicaid Litigation Team:

Teresa L. Ashmore  
Lawrence E. Volmert  
Lawrence W. Treece  
Gregory C. Parham  
B. Lawrence Theis

2000 – Welfare Reform Task Force and Litigation Team:

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Barbara Z. Blumenthal  
Eric Fisher  
Kimberly E. Ghiselli  
Natalie Hanlon-Leh  
T.A. Taylor-Hunt  
Steven D. Zansberg

1999 – Mary W. Trainor

1998 – William F. Schoeberlein

1997 – James E. Scarboro, Kathleen

Nalty, F. Stephen Collins

1996 – Edwin S. Kahn

1995 – Gale T. Miller, Richard A. Westfall,

Anthony Medeiros

1994 – Michael J. Cook, Catherine A.

Lemon

1993 – Stephen S. Dunham

1992 – William E. Walters, III

1990 – Robert F. Hill



2019  
Outstanding  
Sustained  
Contribution  
Award  
Recipient Dan  
Sweetser





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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 six 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, actively supported the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the Nonpartisan Election Call Center, and held a number of YLD 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. The Grant Program makes funds available to young lawyers seeking to defray costs of pro bono representation. To date, the YLD has supported the pro bono efforts of several lawyers and continues to accept grant applications.

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, a series of monthly lunchtime zoom calls with well-known lawyers and judges. Speakers to date have been Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold, Former Colorado Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, U.S. Representatives Jason Crow and Joe Neguse, Former U.S. Attorney John Walsh, Judge Karen Steinhauer, U. S. District Court Judges Christine Arguello and Brooke Jackson, Colorado Public Defender Megan Ring, and Denver County Court Senior Judge Gary Jackson.

Over 325 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.

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**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 Goldstein** (*University of Denver Sturm College of Law*)





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For more information on programs, events, and the Colorado Chapter of ACC, please contact Colleen Schneider [coloradoevents@accglobal.com](mailto:coloradoevents@accglobal.com).



DGS congratulates the **Colorado Lawyers Committee** for its impactful work for over 40 years, and is so proud of **Peter Schwartz** for receiving the CLC's 2021 Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award and our other DGS attorneys who are part of one of the Team of the Year nominees.

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## OUTSTANDING SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTION AWARD PETER H. SCHWARTZ (DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP)

The Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award is presented each year to an individual whose participation with the Colorado Lawyers Committee over many years has significantly and positively promoted its mission, making an important difference in the lives of children and the underprivileged. This year's recipient is Peter H. Schwartz of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP.

Peter received his B.A. in Economics from Princeton University in 1989. Before law school, he earned his M.S.R.E. in Real Estate and his M.C.P. in Urban Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993. Peter earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1996. He started his legal career at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP in their Washington, DC office. After four years, Peter moved to Denver and joined Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as a Partner specializing in corporate finance; public and private securities offerings; merger and acquisition transactions for public and private companies; and private equity and other alternative asset fund formation, mutual funds, and investment advisers. He also counsels traditional for-profit, public benefit, and nonprofit clients on compliance and disclosure issues, as well as on general corporate and governance issues.

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is honoring Peter Schwartz this year for his 20 years of leadership and extensive contributions to the work of the Lawyers Committee. One of Peter's first Lawyers Committee projects was the Business Task Force, where he served as Chair for four years. For more than 15 years, Peter has been an active member of the Steering Committee of Project Homeless Connect, where he helps staff a legal resource area that provides homeless individuals with legal information and referrals, as well as a Homeless Court. Peter has been involved in assisting nonprofits in multiple ways. In 2006, he started the Nonprofit Working Group (which finds lawyers to assist small nonprofits) and served as Chair for 10 years. For more than ten years, Peter also led the Steering Committee of the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic, which provides teams of transactional lawyers who evaluate the legal health of nonprofits. Since their inception, these two programs have engaged over 1,000 volunteers who have assisted more than 750 small nonprofits. Peter has also been a leader in Lawyers Committee efforts to help small businesses. Since 2018, Peter has been the Chair of the United Business Advisory, a collaborative effort with Mile High United Way to assist small businesses in under-resourced communities in the Metro area. During the pandemic, Peter has been an integral part of the Colorado COVID Legal Relief Program, which has provided legal assistance to more than 250 small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19. Peter is also an active member of the group organizing the new Small Business Legal Program that will offer small businesses a free one-hour consultation with an attorney.

In addition to his substantive work on Lawyers Committee projects, Peter has been involved in the leadership of the Lawyers Committee. Peter has served on the Board of Directors since 2006. For the last eight years, he has been active in the Executive Committee and, from 2018 to 2020, he served as Board Chair. Peter is an extraordinary legal talent and has offered quiet, steady leadership that has benefited both the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the populations we serve. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is sincerely grateful to Peter for his many contributions. We are proud to honor Peter Schwartz with the Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award.



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## SAD NEWS: PASSING OF FIVE AMAZING CLC VOLUNTEERS

The CLC has been rocked this year with the loss of five of our incredible volunteer attorneys.

**Jim Hubbell** passed away on March 29, 2020. Jim was the recipient of the 2011 CLC Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award. He was known for his commitment to public service and his prodigious pro bono work, particularly his advocacy for the homeless.

On April 25, 2020, we lost **Bill Schoeberlein**, a longtime CLC volunteer. Deeply committed to pro-bono legal practice, Bill was proud to work for many years as part of the Taylor Ranch legal team representing landowners in southern Colorado fighting to restore their right to use the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant in *Lobato vs. Taylor*. His team took the case all the way to the Colorado Supreme Court and prevailed.

On August 28, 2020, the champion of the Taylor Ranch case, **Jeff Goldstein** passed away. As lead attorney in the landmark case known as *Lobato v. Taylor*, Jeff filed a class action lawsuit in 1981 to protect the rights of residents in the San Luis Valley, one of the poorest areas of the state. This epic land rights struggle garnered national and international recognition and has been a tremendous victory. Countless generations of families who will use their land grant rights will be forever grateful to Jeff and Bill for their tenacity and success in this classic David versus Goliath battle.

On November 15, 2020, our beloved Board and Executive Committee member, **Gerry Niederman**, passed away. He dedicated his life to expanding access to health care for all and practiced law as a shareholder at Polsinelli in the Denver office, where he represented health care organizations and related nonprofit entities in Colorado and throughout the United States. He also proudly served on philanthropic boards, including the Colorado Lawyers Committee and Judaism Your Way.

On June 23, 2021, Professor **Chris Lasch** passed way. He dedicated his life and career to helping others as a public defender, a civil rights lawyer, and a clinical law professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Most recently, Professor Lasch was heavily involved in several groundbreaking immigration matters and worked closely with several Colorado Lawyers Committee immigration committees.

These five wonderful lawyers and friends will be greatly missed!



Jim Hubbell



Bill Schoeberlein



Jeff Goldstein



Gerry Niederman



Chris Lasch





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**Colorado Lawyers Committee  
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**for donating his time and talents  
to countless projects at the CLC.**

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MoFo has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to pro bono over the years, dedicating substantial resources to work on significant cases in Colorado and around the country. Across our global offices and practices, our lawyers bring their passions and talents to a range of pro bono initiatives. Their dedication and teamwork reflect MoFo's collaborative culture, as well as a shared commitment to giving back to the communities where we work and live.

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