

Annual Report 2019















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Jennie Wray YLD Board Chair The Harris Law Firm P.C

With thanks to Lauren Carboni (Dentons) for your leadership and service on the Executive Committee in 2018.



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

About Us:

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers
Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of 80
Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities.
For the past 41 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 29 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, more than 1000 volunteers contributed more than 7,823 hours and \$3.03 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. In addition, the CLC Young Lawyers Division has engaged more than 200 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 41 years.







HOURS























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THE SWEETSER LAW FIRM, P.C. Daniel A. Sweetser

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WILSON ELSER MOSKOWITZ EDELMAN & DICKER LLP Ryan A. Williams



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. Members are invited to participate in one or more of the following teams:

- Fundraising & Events
- Hate Crimes Education
- Legal Night
- Public Relations
- Special Projects
- Strategic Planning

In its first three 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

With thanks to Matt Linton (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.), John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP), Tenley Oldak (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP) and Joe Phillips (formerly Arnold & Porter) for your leadership and service on the YLD Board during 2018.

number of YLD fundraising events, including Night at the Rockies and Casino Night, which helped raise over \$22,000 for future CLC projects. Over 200 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD. Beginning in 2019, YLD members can apply for grants to help defray costs in pro bono representation, fund materials or space for clinics or other direct services or provide scholarships for trainings that assist lawyers in providing pro bono services. Another new program for YLD members is the upcoming CLE Series where YLD members learn trial advocacy skills through a series of trainings taught by distinguished Denver trial attorneys. The Series will begin in August 2019 and continue throughout 2020.

CLC YLD Board

Jennie Reid Wray (The Harris Law Firm P.C.), YLD Chair, Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

Abigail Moss Hinchcliff (Bartlit Beck LLP), YLD Chair-Elect, Strategic Planning Team Co-Chair

Lauren P. Carboni (Dentons), YLD Chair Emeritus, Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

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

Elizabeth Froehlke (Littler Mendelson P.C.), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Tess Hand-Bender (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

Stephanie A. Kanan (Snell & Wilmer), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

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

Kelly Lynch Murphy (The Harris Law Firm P.C.), Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

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

Mark D. Wilding (Ballard Spahr LLP), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

#ProBonoRocks















2018 HONOREES



Individual of the Year Recipient Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2018 honorees are included on these pages.



Law Firm of the Year Recipient Husch Blackwell LLP



2018 HONOREES



Special Recognition Award to Colorado Lawyers Committee Board Chairs

We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2018:

Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees

Hernandez & Associates, P.C. Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

Individual of the Year Nominees

Bennett L. Cohen (Polsinelli PC)
Christopher J. Lane (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Pascal C. Schunk (Schunk Law Firm P.C.)



2018 AWARDS LUNCHEON



















A GRAND CELEBRATION



















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AB-Conflict Resolution Services

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HINDS AND HINDS FAMILY LAW, PC

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Nancy B. Elkind

ELKIND ALTERMAN HARSTON PC (RETIRED)

Iris Eytan

EYTAN NIELSEN LLC

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 80 members of the Chair's Roundtable for their support and dedication to our mission. Thanks also to Iris Eytan (Eytan Nielsen LLC) and Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for chairing this effort.

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

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Tamir I. Goldstein

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ATTORNEYS (RETIRED)

Arnulfo D. Hernandez

HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Robert F. Hill

HILL & ROBBINS, P.C.



2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

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Clay James

HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP

Patricia M. Jarzobski

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FAIRFIELD AND WOODS P.C.

Kenzo Kawanabe

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HOLLAND & HART LLP
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SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

Daniel A. Sweetser

THE SWEETSER LAW FIRM, P.C.

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Maureen Reidy Witt
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JAMS



2018 TASK FORCES















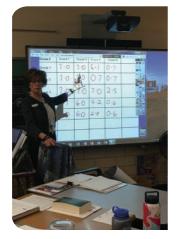


2018 TASK FORCES









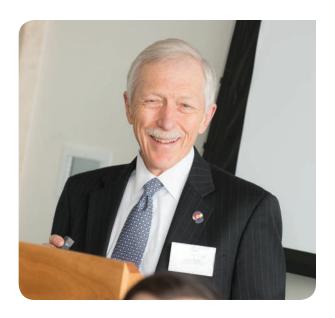








Standing Up for Kids: The Children's Task Force



Established in 2003, the Children's Task Force examines issues relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are any 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. Recently, the Task Force began to explore other possible issues and formed two new subcommittees: Foster Care and Immigration.

Chair

Dave Stark (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Thanks to departing Co-Chair, Maritza Braswell (formerly Fox Rothschild LLP, now Office of the Colorado Attorney General).

2018 Volunteers

20 volunteers from 14 law firms/ organizations



Standing Up for Kids

The Foster Care Subcommittee of the Children's Task Force

This group of volunteers is currently is currently working to address 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 2018, the Subcommittee agreed to partner 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.

Chair

Sarah Benedict (Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC)

2018 Volunteers

20 volunteers from 8 law firms/ organizations

The Immigration Subcommittee of the Children's Task Force

This subcommittee examined several examined several possible issues regarding how recent government practices are impacting children: (1) Can standing be established for a citizen child in a parental deportation proceeding, which would impact the ability of ICE to deport his or her parent; and (2) Is the government enforcing the Obama Parental Interest Directive that requires ICE to consider parental interests during court proceedings? For a variety of reasons, including the advisability of legal action in Colorado, the Subcommittee regretfully concluded that there are limited avenues for CLC's legal advocacy to protect this vulnerable population.

Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Froehlke (Littler Mendelson, P.C.)
Tiffany Pelham Webb

2018 Volunteers

6 volunteers from 4 law firms/organizations



Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: The 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 six years has focused on litigation, including Dwyer v. Colorado, which alleged that the State's \$1 billion per year cuts to school funding since 2010 are in violation of Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution. The Colorado Supreme Court upheld the cuts in 2014. Most recently, the Task Force has been exploring advocacy for children through four subcommittees: Anti-Bullying, DPS Resegregation, Special Education, and School Discipline.



Chair

John Tatlock (Epstein Patierno, LLP)

2018 Volunteers

53 volunteers from 31 law firms/organizations



Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

The Anti-Bullying Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

House Bill 11-1254 requires school districts to modify their anti-bullying policies to prohibit bullying on the basis of a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. After six years of work by One Colorado and others, 17% of Colorado schools had not complied; 11% of children in this state were impacted as a result. The Anti-Bullying Subcommittee has been reaching out to school districts and encouraging them to adopt the required policies. As of early 2019, all but one district is now either in compliance or in the process of adopting policies to comply with this law.

Denver Public School Resegregation Subcommittee

The Subcommittee believes one of the causes of the resegregation of DPS is the scarcity of transportation for school-aged children. The Donnell-Kay Foundation with Together Colorado has been working with students, community members, DPS, Denver's Office of Children Affairs, and RTD to increase transportation options for youth. Educational opportunities abound in our community's schools, libraries, cultural facilities, and recreation centers as well as through after-school and summer jobs. The institutions and programs are in place, but the missing key is access to affordable transit. Members of the subcommittee recently met with RTD leadership to explore whether the CLC can assist in these efforts.

Leadership Team

Jessica Collier (Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP)

Sara Maeglin (Lohf Shaiman Jacobs Hyman & Feiger PC)

John McHugh, Co-Chair (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Daniel Ramos (One Colorado)

Mark Spitz, Co-Chair (Spitz Legal Counsel LLC)

Denise Whinnen (Gill Foundation)

Co-Chairs

Matt Samelson (Donnell-Kay Foundation)

Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)

2018 Volunteers

8 volunteers from 7 law firms/organizations



Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

The Special Education Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

In 2018, the Special Education Subcommittee examined the following issues: (1) charter school practices of not providing services to special needs kids (keeping kids through "count day" and then telling them they have 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" [IEP] 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.

The School Discipline Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

The Subcommittee believes that many school districts across the state are not providing required due process to students who are suspended, expelled or otherwise disciplined by school authorities. In addition, parents who don't have the benefit of legal counsel are often not aware of their legal rights. (A review in one Colorado school district recently revealed that students who had an attorney were rarely, if ever, expelled while students who were not represented were often expelled). The Subcommittee has been exploring ways to improve school policies and to educate parents regarding school discipline.

Co-Chairs

Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.) **John Parks** (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP)

2018 Volunteers

24 volunteers from 22 law firms/organizations

Co-Chairs

John Tatlock (Epstein Patierno, LLP)
Jacque Phillips (Law Office of Dr. Jacque Phillips)

2018 Volunteers

20 volunteers from 17 law firms/organizations



Access to the Polls: The 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 works 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.





Co-Chairs

Martha Tierney (Tierney Lawrence LLC)
Richard Westfall (Hale Westfall, LLP)

2018 Volunteers

42 volunteers from 32 law firms/organizations









Access to the Polls: Nonpartisan Election Call Center

For 14 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 2018, Lawyers Committee volunteers received training, coordinated the call center and answered calls from voters on Election Day and the day before Election Day. Volunteers responded to questions from more than 608 voters around the state 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.





Steering Committee

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Jean Feriancek (Holland & Hart LLP)

Adam Foster (Adam Foster LLC)

Geoff Klingsporn (Denver City Attorney's Office)

Cait McHugh (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP), YLD Special

Projects Team Co-Chair

Dardoh Skinner (Holland & Hart LLP)

Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)

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

2018 Volunteers

74 volunteers from 40 law firms/ organizations



Teaching Students about Hate Crimes: The Hate Crimes Education Task Force



2.0

For more than 25 years, volunteers have presented an educational pro

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 2018, volunteers presented 11 educational trials to over 400 students. The Task Force also continued to partner with the U.S. Department of Justice in its efforts to reach out to minority communities in Colorado (particularly those with significant Muslim and Sikh presence) and offered presentations in schools with highly diverse populations. The Task Force has grown in size with many new volunteers from the Department of Justice and the CLC Young Lawyers Division, enabling the Task Force to keep up with an increase in requests from new schools and groups seeking to foster a culture of inclusion rather than communities of exclusion.



Leadership Team

Liz Froehlke (Littler Mendelson P.C.)

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

John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Tarek Saad (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Valeria Spencer (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado)

Phyllis Wan (Wanderful Ventures LLC)

Mack Wilding (Ballard Spahr LLP)

2018 Volunteers

40 attorneys, paralegals, and law students from 26 law firms/organizations



Teaching Students about Hate Crimes: Grant to Create A National Hate Crimes Program

In 2018, the CLC received a grant from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to develop a national hate crimes presentation, based on the Colorado script, that can be offered in every community and school in the country to teach students and community members about hate crimes and encourage inclusivity. Individuals and organizations wanting to offer hate crimes presentations will have access to a teacher guide, a volunteer guide (including an extensive volunteer training video) and a manual on how to create and administer a local program. These materials were completed early in 2019.













Leadership Team

Liz Froehlke (Littler Mendelson P.C.)

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

John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Tarek Saad (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Valeria Spencer (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado)

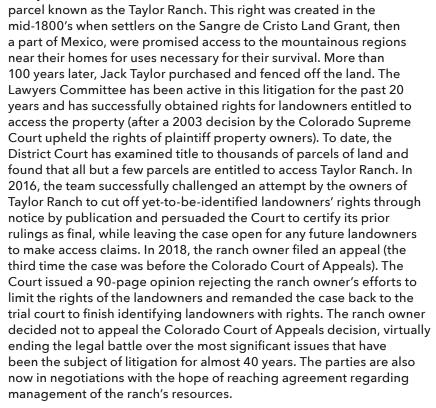
Phyllis Wan (Wanderful Ventures LLC)

Mack Wilding (Ballard Spahr LLP)



Defending Landowner Access to the Taylor Ranch: The Taylor Ranch Task Force

The Taylor Ranch litigation (Lobato v. Taylor) involves the right of landowners in the San Luis Valley to access a 77,500-acre mountainous











Chair

Aaron Boschee (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

2018 Volunteers

16 attorneys and paralegals from 7 law firms/organizations



Protecting the Rights of Individuals Detained in Jail with Mental Health Disabilities: the Jail Wait Litigation

For eleven years, Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers have been litigating against the Colorado Department of Human Services. The suit was filed on behalf of thousands of individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities who have waited or are waiting in Colorado jails for unconscionable amounts of time to be evaluated for competency to proceed to hearing/trial or to receive court ordered competency restoration. These individuals cannot proceed with defending the criminal accusations against them, until they are evaluated and/or receive treatment so they can participate in their criminal cases. The result is they end up being warehoused in jails, deteriorating, without care, and many are held in jail far longer than any sentence would have been imposed on them (if any). The Colorado Department of Human Services is required to provide these services in a timely manner per Colorado Law and the United States Constitution.

In July 2016, the plaintiffs reached a (second) settlement requiring the State to evaluate individuals for competency held in the county jails within 30 days of receipt of the court order and essential police reports, and if found incompetent, to admit the patients for restoration treatment within 28 days of receipt of the order. Since June 2017, the State has been out of compliance with the timeframes, and more than a thousand people have waited in jails as long as 6 months to receive court-ordered restoration treatment. In June 2018, the plaintiffs filed a motion in federal court to re-open the settlement agreement. In November 2018, the Court found the State in breach of the agreement and out of compliance since June 2017 and subsequently appointed a Special Master to oversee the State's plan for compliance and provide the Court and parties with a comprehensive plan for long-term compliance. In March 2019, after extensive negotiations, the parties reached a landmark settlement in the form of a Consent Decree which will result in a significant reduction in the criminalization of the mentally ill. The Decree requires the Department to move the most in need of psychiatric care from the jails to an inpatient hospital within 7 days, eventually evaluate all persons deemed incompetent within 21 days, to create comprehensive plan to overhaul the competency system, hire numerous forensic



clinicians to work in courtrooms across Colorado, refrain from legislating issues related to the Consent Decree without approval of the Special Master or Plaintiff, and will require the Department to obtain approval from the Special Master for all new plans, hires, and systems changes. If the State violates the Decree in any way, Federal Magistrate Judge Hegarty (who served as mediator for the negotiations) has the authority to impose remedies, including up to \$10,000 a day in liquidated damages. In addition, because it will take the State two years to clear the wait list/back log, they will likely pay up to \$10 million in fines each year until they are in full compliance. The fines will be placed into an interest bearing account, and the Special Master, one Defendant and one Plaintiff representative will determine where the funds will go into the community to assist persons with mental illness.

Leadership Team

Iris Eytan, Chair (Eytan Nielsen LLC)
Allison Butler (Disability Law Colorado)
Sean Connelly (Connelly Law LLC)
Caleb Durling (Fox Rothschild LLP)
Mark Ivandick (Disability Law Colorado)
Scott Llewellyn (Morrison & Foerster LLP)
Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)
Kathleen Mullen
Jenn Purrington (Disability Law Colorado)
Tim Scalo (Snell & Wilmer)

Byeongsook Seo (Snell & Wilmer)



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. Most recently, the Task Force supported efforts by the DOR to modify its regulations to permit the issuance of ID's and licenses with a gender neutral designation (e.g., Male, Female, and X).





Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Greeley Legal Clinic

Greeley Legal Night was established in 2010 as a joint project of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Association of the Colorado Bar Association, and Weld County Legal Services. Since 2010, the Task Force has been offering four to six legal clinics a year at Our Lady of Peace Church in Greeley. Modeled after the successful Denver Legal Night program, volunteer lawyers provide free legal information and referrals to a community where such resources are limited. Issues addressed typically include immigration, family, housing, and criminal matters. Since the start of the clinic, more than 3,000 individuals have been assisted by Task Force volunteers at Greeley Legal Night. In 2018, over 170 clients were served.















Chair

Michelle Berge (Denver Public Schools)

2018 Volunteers

36 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 22 law firms/ organizations



Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Denver Legal Night

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. Clinics are held at Centro San
Juan Diego, and clients are 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. The leadership team continued its partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office and four other agencies to arrange for "know your rights" presentations for clients on immigration and other issues. Those four agencies include the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel; the Office for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 29,500 individuals have been served. In 2018, 275 volunteers assisted 1,482 clients.

Leadership Team

Stephanie Kanan (Snell & Wilmer) Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer) Angela Reyes

2018 Volunteers

275 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 172 law firms/organizations



Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Project Homeless Connect





Since 2005, the Lawyers Committee has coordinated the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, an annual one-day event sponsored by the City of Denver which typically links about 1,000 homeless individuals in Denver to a variety of services, including public benefits, housing, jobs, medical care, and legal assistance. Task Force volunteers staff a legal resource area, where homeless individuals receive legal information and referrals, as well as a Homeless Court, where outstanding warrants for municipal violations can be resolved before a Denver County Judge. Since 2005, the Task Force has provided more than 1,000 legal volunteers to these events, 3,115 individuals have been helped with legal issues, and more than approximately 1,500 cases have been heard in Homeless Court. In 2018, 72 volunteers helped 136 individuals. The Lawyers Committee partners with the Association of Corporate Counsel-Colorado Chapter to offer these services.





Leadership Team

Colorado Chapter)

Becky Golz (Arnold & Porter)
Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter)
Alice Norman (Chief Denver Municipal Public Defender)
Carolyn Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel—

Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

2018 Volunteers

72 attorneys, paralegals and staff from 33 law firms/organizations



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.











Protecting the Rights of the Disabled: Medicaid Special Needs Trust Task Force

In 2018, the Lawyers Committee formed a new Task Force to examine the legality of Colorado's efforts to prematurely terminate special needs trusts when the recipients move out of state so the State can then collect the balances in the trusts to obtain reimbursement for Medicaid expenditures. Special Needs Trusts were put into place in 1993 by the Clinton Administration, to ensure long-term care for individuals under 65 years old who are disabled in some capacity. (The trusts are generally funded by an inheritance or settlement/judgment which would otherwise make the recipient financially ineligible to receive Medicaid.) In 2004, Colorado adopted a regulation that effectively requires termination of a special needs trust and immediate reimbursement to Colorado for all Medicaid benefits provided (to the extent of the trust proceeds) if the beneficiary moves out of state, rather than upon the beneficiary's death. Only two states have this regulation, Colorado and Wyoming. The Task Force believes the regulation is a violation of federal law, the 14th Amendment and the right to travel and is exploring litigation to challenge the regulation.

Access to Private Duty Nursing Services Under Medicaid

In early 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee agreed to participate in an appeal of a recent Denver District Court decision. The appeal alleges that the Court erred in refusing to invalidate a Colorado regulation that prohibits 24-hour private duty nursing care for severely disabled adults on Medicaid, despite a Colorado statute that permits such care and despite a finding that such care is medically necessary for the individual.

Chair

Jim Kilroy (Snell & Wilmer)

2018 Volunteers

6 volunteers from 3 law firms/organizations

Chair

Colin Deihl (Polsinelli PC)



Helping Small Businesses: The United Business Advisory

In 2018, the Lawyers Committee partnered with Mile High United Way (MHUW) to support its new pilot program, the United Business Advisory, to assist small business in under-resourced communities in the Denver metro area. MHUW is providing business consulting service 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 underresourced communities (in neighborhoods like Globeville, Elyria/ Swansea, southern Adams County, etc.) and are likely woman/minority owned (although not mandatory). The Lawyers Committee has agreed to identify CLC volunteers who will 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, once established, is expected to serve 5-6 companies per year.



Chair

Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)



Assisting Small Colorado Nonprofits: 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 2018, volunteers organized and staffed two legal clinics, in February and July. During the clinics, 85 attorneys assisted 38 nonprofits.









Leadership Team

Sam Edwards, Chair (Holland & Hart LLP)

Carolyn Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel-Colorado Chapter)

Hannah Pressler (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC)

Cait McHugh (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

Mariah Taylor (Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Many thanks to departing Steering Committee Co-Chair Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) and Steering Committee members Melanie Tsuchida (Colorado Nonprofit Association), Tenley Oldak (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP), and Chris Unger (Dewhirst & Dolven, LLC)

2018 Volunteers

85 attorneys and law students from 40 law firms/organizations



Assisting Small Colorado Nonprofits: the Nonprofit Pro Bono Matching Program

Since 2009, this Task Force has, in partnership with the Colorado Nonprofit Association, 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. Last year, volunteers provided transactional-type legal assistance to 36 organizations. Since the matching program began, more than 440 nonprofits have been served.



Leadership Team

Chris Lane, Chair (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Mariah Taylor (Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Hannah Pressler (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Many thanks to departing Leadership Team member Melanie Tsuchida (Colorado Nonprofit Association) for her significant contributions during the last four years.

2018 Volunteers

26 attorneys from 13 law firms/organizations



Legal Advocacy for Housing and the Homeless: The 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. After our MixDIP intern, Miles Williams, completed a survey of the important housing work undertaken by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the other local Lawyers Committees, the Task Force reconvened to explore whether any of these projects were necessary or appropriate for Lawyers Committee advocacy. During the 2019 legislative session, the Task Force has agreed to endorse four bills that would provide significant support to tenants: expanding notice to tenants before eviction, prohibiting housing discrimination on the basis of source of income, creating an eviction legal defense fund, and allowing automatic sealing of criminal records.



Co-Chairs

Bill Callison (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP) **Rebecca Fischer** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

2018 Volunteers

10 attorneys from 7 law firms/organizations



IMMIGRATION

Assistance for * Immigrants: the Immigration Task Force





For almost 20 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has supported the efforts of the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center to provide low-cost immigration services to the local population, including overseeing services provided, training staff, and providing referrals to pro bono attorneys. In 2018, the Task Force continued its assistance of IRC and also helped provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night seeking assistance regarding numerous issues, including the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to US citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders. The Task Force is exploring possible legal action to stop ICE (the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement) from making arrests at the courthouse, which has a significant chilling effect and makes victims and witnesses of crimes reluctant to come forward.

The group is also working with the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado ACLU and others to assure that Colorado probation departments do not violate the rights of probationers by informing ICE of mandatory probation appointments, and is exploring how the

Co-Chairs

Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired) Steven Williams (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)

2018 Volunteers

26 volunteers from 21 firms and organizations

CLC can support Colorado efforts to provide bonds for individuals in detention. CLC continues to work closely with Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network and other nonprofits to provide training to nonimmigration attorneys who agree to prepare detainees for Credible Fear Interviews (necessary before asylum can be granted) and to represent detainees in asylum and other immigration cases.

Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund Advisory Committee

The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund was established 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 is distributing grants to nonprofit organizations providing direct legal representation to Denver residents for defense of removal proceedings and for assistance with affirmative immigration relief. Nancy Elkind is the Colorado Lawyers Committee representative on the Fund's Advisory Board.

CLC Representative

Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired)



IMMIGRATION



Helping Immigrant Children: SIJS Training for Non-Immigration Lawyers

In response to the humanitarian crisis involving undocumented immigrants in Colorado and the dire need for pro bono legal representation for this vulnerable population, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP and Polsinelli PC to present a free asylum training. This half-day program trained attorneys



to provide pro bono representation to asylum-seekers in Colorado, with a particular focus on representing children, as well as parents and other individuals in civil immigration detention in Colorado. The training was designed for attorneys new to immigration law and was free for attorneys who agreed to take a pro bono immigration case through RMIAN. More than 140 lawyers from 72 law firms and organizations attended the 2018 training.

Helping Immigrants: The Consulate Project

In early 2017, the Lawyers Committee created a new project that is designed to provide pro bono legal consultation to immigrant victims of crimes who are referred by several local consulates.



Chair

John Walsh (formerly Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)



FELLOWSHIPS

Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship



Due to a generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has created the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship which funds a law student to work at the Colorado Lawyers Committee every other summer. Congratulations to **Annika Adams**, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, who was selected to be the second recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship and will be working with us during the summer of 2019.

Hill & Robbins Public Interest Paid Fellowship



The Hill & Robbins Internship was established in 1996 to encourage law students to do 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 2018 Hill & Robbins Intern was placed with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and had an opportunity to work on various pro bono public interest projects relating to poverty issues and children. Congratulations to Leanna Gavin, a student at the University of Colorado School of law, the 2018 Hill & Robbins Fellow. Thank you to Hill & Robbins, P.C. for creating and continuing this Fellowship for more than 20 years.

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



The Colorado Lawyers Committee was honored to be asked to participate in Magistrate Judge Mix's new unpaid externship program for diverse 2nd and 3rd year law students at DU and CU in a public service legal environment. Congratulations to **Miles Williams**, a University of Colorado Law School student who worked at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in the fall of 2018. Thank you to Magistrate Judge Mix for the opportunity to participate in this program.



Thank you to our many volunteers, supporters (law firms and other contributors) and the leadership of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee for making our success possible over the past 41 years.



























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