

Colorado Lawyers Committee

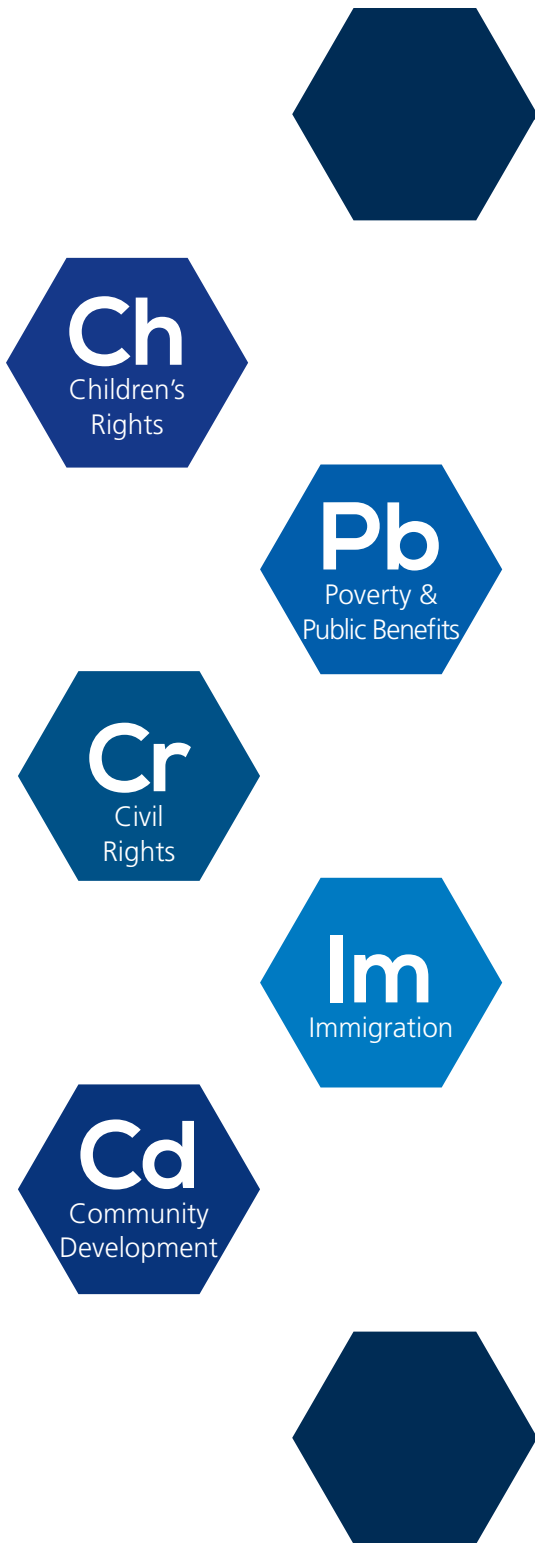
2014 Annual Report





The photos of Tim MacDonald with Tarek Saad, Nancy Elkind, Brad Levin with Sean Connolly, Dave Stark with Richard Westfall, and Chris Watney were taken by our pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC. Thank you, Paul, for your support

Table of Contents



Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors.....	2
Colorado Lawyers Committee	3
Executive Committee & Staff.....	4
Chair's Roundtable.....	5
Our Volunteers.....	6
Children's Rights & Education.....	7
Civil Rights & Criminal Law	10
Poverty & Public Benefits.....	14
Community Development	20
Immigration	22
Thank You!	24

Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors (Including Specialty Bar Representatives)

Antonio Bates Bernard, PC
Howard M. Haenel

Arnold & Porter LLP
Timothy R. Macdonald

Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Nina Y. Wang

Baker & Hostetler LLP
Paul S. Enockson

Ballard Spahr LLP
Leslie Ann Eaton

Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP
Sean C. Grimsley

Bieging Shapiro & Barber LLP
I. Thomas Bieging

Blain Myhre LLC
Blain D. Myhre

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Martha L. Fitzgerald
Lauren E. Schmidt

Bryan Cave LLP
Bobbie J. Musgrave

Butler Snow LLP
Dee P. Wisor

Chan Law Firm
Catherine A. Chan

Colorado Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Bar Association
Ryann Peyton

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association
M. Antonio Gallegos

Colorado Indian Bar Association
Jennifer H. Weddle

Colorado Women's Bar Association
Ryann Bryce Fogel

David M. Johnson, P.C.
David M. Johnson

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Kenzo Kawanabe
Peter H. Schwartz

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Gregory S. Tamkin

Downey & Associates, PC
Thomas E. Downey, Jr.

Elkind Alterman Harston PC
Nancy B. Elkind

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
J. William Callison
David W. Stark

Fortis Law Partners LLC
Jeffrey M. Brenman

Friesen Lamb, LLP
Daniel E. Friesen

H&K Law, LLC
Laura J. Hazen

Haddon, Morgan & Foreman P.C.
Norman R. Mueller

Hale-Westfall, LLP
Allan L. Hale
Richard A. Westfall

Heizer Paul LLP
Dean C. Heizer

Hill & Robbins, P.C.
Nathan P. Flynn

Hoffman Crews Nies Waggener & Foster LLP
Julia T. Waggener

Hogan Lovells US LLP
Phyllis V. Wan

Holland & Hart LLP
Craig E. Stewart
Cole A. Wist

Husch Blackwell LLP
Kathryn A. Reilly

Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC
Angela L. Little

Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.
Ilene Lin Bloom

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC
James J. Killean

Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP
Stephen H. Kaplan
John E. Putnam

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

Lass Moses & Ramp, LLC
Steven C. Lass

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

Law Offices of Louise Bouzari, L.L.C.
Eloise Henderson Bouzari

Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP
Kenneth F. Rossman, IV

Lindquist & Vennum LLP
Howard Kenison

McCormick and Murphy, P.C.
Kirk R. McCormick

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP
Jennette C. Roberts

Morrison & Foerster LLP
Scott F. Llewellyn

Neeti Pawar, LLC
Neeti Pawar

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
David D. Powell

Otii Law Firm, L.L.C.
Atim Miriam Otii

Patton Boggs LLP
Peter S. Gould

Pendleton Wilson Hennessey & Crow P.C.
Edward M. Allen

Perkins Coie LLP
L. Norton Cutler

Reilly Pozner LLP
Iris E. Eytan

Roberts Levin Rosenberg, PC
Bradley A. Levin

Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.
Tracy L. Ashmore

Ryley Carlock & Applewhite
Richard C. Kaufman

Sam Cary Bar Association
Nicole Gorham

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
Tamir I. Goldstein
Rebecca Anderson Fischer

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
James D. Kilroy

Stern & Curray LLC
Emily J. Curray

Temkin Wielga & Hardt LLP
Joseph G. Middleton

The Harris Law Firm P.C.
Richard A. Harris

The Law Office of Patricia M. Jarzobski, P.C.
Patricia M. Jarzobski

The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.
Daniel A. Sweetser

The Ward Law Firm, PC
Thomas R. Ward

Colorado Lawyers Committee

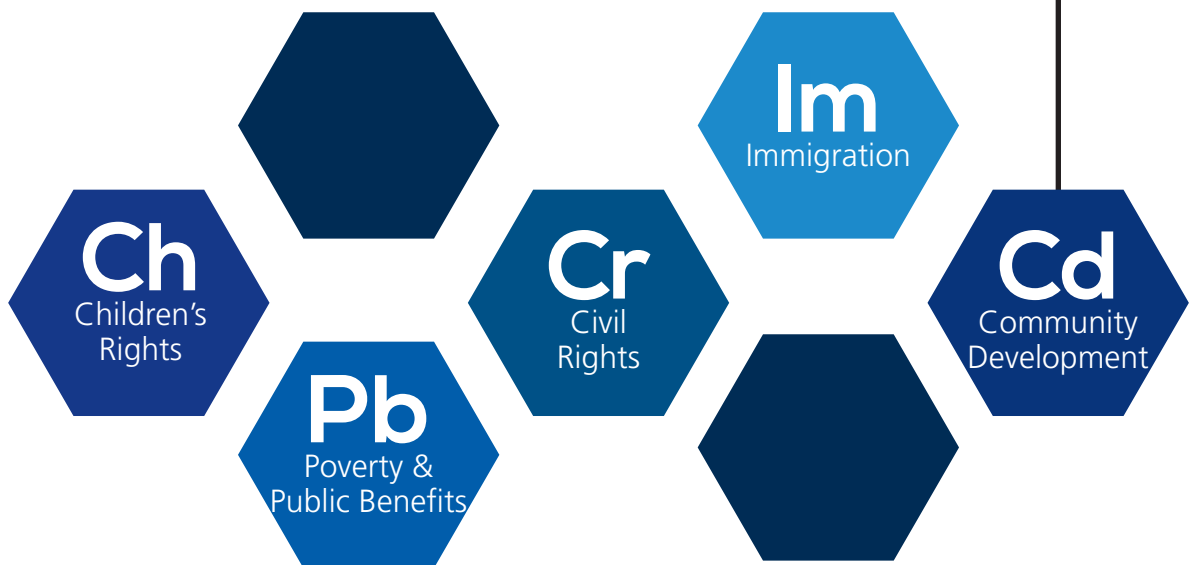
About Us



Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of 59 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 36 years, Lawyers Committee volunteers have focused on major policy issues and systemic change through 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 25 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil Rights & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, 795 volunteers contributed more than 7,190 hours and \$2.2 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. The successes of the past year would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers and staff. Thank you to the many individuals who have committed their time and expertise to improving the lives of others through the law.



Executive Committee & Staff

Executive Committee



Tim Macdonald, Board Chair
Arnold & Porter LLP



Iris Eytan, Secretary/Treasurer
Reilly Pozner LLP



Nancy Elkind
Elkind Alterman Harston PC



Rebecca Fischer
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.



Bobbee Musgrave
Bryan Cave LLP



Lauren Schmidt
Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck, LLP



Peter Schwartz
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC



Dave Stark
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP



Richard Westfall
Hale-Westfall, LLP



Cole Wist
Holland & Hart LLP



Staff

Executive Director:

Connie Talmage, 303-866-0273, ctalmage@coloradolawyerscommittee.org

Associate Director:

Liza Prado, 303-866-0275, lprado@coloradolawyerscommittee.org

Office Administrator:

Linda Futrell, 303-866-0274, lfutrell@coloradolawyerscommittee.org

Chair's Roundtable 2013 - 2017

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 members of the Chair's Roundtable for their support and dedication to our mission.

Catharyn A. Baird

Ethics Game

Frederick J. Baumann

Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP

Stephen Berman

University of Colorado Children's Hospital Colorado

Nancy L. Cohen

MiletichCohen PC

Sean Connelly

Reilly Pozner LLP

Frederic K. "Jerry" Conover

Moye White LLP

Nancy B. Elkind

Elkind Alterman Harston PC

Iris E. Eytan

Reilly Pozner LLP

Hubert A. Farbes, Jr.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Rebecca Anderson Fischer

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Tamir I. Goldstein

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

K.C. Groves

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

Harold A. Haddon

Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.

Robert F. Hill

Hill & Robbins, P.C.

Jennifer H. Hunt

Patricia M. Jarzowski

The Law Office of Patricia M. Jarzowski, P.C.

Edwin S. Kahn

Lass Moses & Ramp, LLC

Gregory B. Kanan

Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP

Kenzo Kawanabe

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Geoffrey C. Klingsporn

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Bradley A. Levin

Roberts Levin Rosenberg, PC

Scott F. Llewellyn

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Timothy R. Macdonald

Arnold & Porter LLP

Bobbee J. Musgrave

Bryan Cave LLP

Kenneth F. Rossman

Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP

Bruce W. Sattler

Peter H. Schwartz

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

David W. Stark

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

Craig E. Stewart

Holland & Hart LLP

Daniel A. Sweetser

The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.

Constance C. Talmage

Colorado Lawyers Committee

John F. Walsh

Richard A. Westfall

Hale-Westfall, LLP

Dee P. Wisor

Butler Snow LLP

Cole A. Wist

Holland & Hart LLP

Maureen Reidy Witt

Holland & Hart LLP

Awards

We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2013 honorees are below.



Jail Wait Litigation Team Accepts Special Recognition Award



Individual of the Year Award Recipients, Terry Miller, Kathy Gebhardt, Marcy Glenn, Jennifer Bezoza



Byeongsook Seo and Adela Flores-Brennan Accept Special Recognition Award



Kenzo Kawanabe presents the Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award to Craig Stewart



Law Firm of the Year Award Recipient, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP



Law Firm of the Year Award Recipient, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

We also honored the following law firms and individuals in 2013. Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees: Patton Boggs LLP and Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Individual of the Year Nominees: Jerome A. DeHerrera (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Timothy R. Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP), Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP), Ilene Lin Bloom (Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.), Angela Reyes (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.), Tarek F. M. Saad (Jin, Schauer & Saad LLC), Phyllis V. Wan (Hogan Lovells US LLP), Becky Hamilton (Jin, Schauer & Saad LLC), and Lucia C. Padilla (Sawaya & Miller).

The photographs on this page were taken by our pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Children's Rights & Education

Children's Task Force

Co-Chairs: **Dave Stark** (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)
Wendy Fisher (Reilly Pozner LLP)

Volunteers: 14 attorneys from 11 law firms/
organizations

Established in 2003, the Children's Task Force examines issues relating to Colorado's children to determine if there are legal problems that would benefit from the advocacy of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers. In recent years, volunteers have worked to expand access to Medicaid benefits to children with autism. In 2013, the team broadened its focus to address the needs of all children on Medicaid. Specifically, volunteers have been examining whether the State is providing the services that are required by federal law (under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program). In early 2014, Jennifer Hunt (Colorado Attorney General's Office; formerly Hill & Robbins, P.C.) resigned after almost five years as Co-Chair of the Task Force.



Education Task Force

Co-Chairs: **Terry Miller** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Cole Wist (Holland & Hart LLP)

Volunteers: 26 attorneys from 21 law firms/organizations

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has a long history of working on education issues. In recent years, much of the focus of the volunteer efforts has been on the school finance litigation (see page 8). In 2014, the Task Force has been preparing litigation against the State alleging that for several years it has violated Amendment 23 of Colorado's constitution (see page 9) and significantly underfunded education. The Task Force is also considering whether Charter Schools are meeting their obligations to serve special needs students and whether schools are improperly imposing fees on students. In August of 2013, Craig Stewart (Holland & Hart LLP) and Kenzo Kawanabe (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) stepped down as the Task Force Co-Chairs, after a combined eight years of leadership.



School Finance (*Lobato*) Litigation

Leadership Team: **Kathy Gebhardt** (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)
Marcy Glenn (Holland & Hart LLP)
Terry Miller (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Jennifer Weiser Bezoza (King & Greisen, LLP)

Volunteers: 16 attorneys from 8 law firms/organizations

In June 2005, a lawsuit (*Lobato v. State of Colorado*) was filed asserting that Colorado's method of school financing failed to provide a 'thorough and uniform' system of K-12 public education, as mandated by the State constitution. Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers were actively involved in the case from the start, initially serving as consultants, then filing an amicus brief in the Colorado Supreme Court, and eventually leading a successful five-week trial in Denver District Court. In 2013, volunteers led the response to the State's appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court, including oral arguments before a courtroom packed with attorneys, students and media. In a 4-2 vote, the Court reversed the trial court decision. Though the decision was disappointing, the efforts of the *Lobato* volunteers have proven critical in highlighting the problems faced by Colorado's public schools.



Children's Rights & Education

Redesigning Education

Leadership Team: **Bill Callison** (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP) Co-Chair
Bobbee Musgrave (Bryan Cave LLP) Co-Chair
Craig Stewart (Holland & Hart LLP)
Cole Wist (Holland & Hart LLP)
Terry Miller (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Howard Gelt (Polsinelli PC)

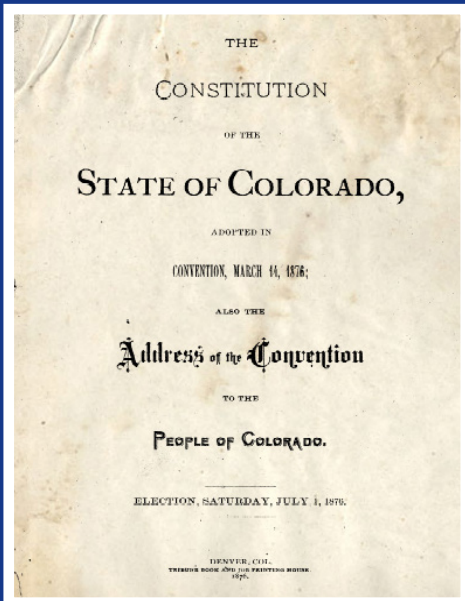
The Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered with the Donnell-Kay Foundation in an exciting new education program. The Foundation recently announced the launch of ReSchool Colorado, an effort to create an entirely new state public education system in Colorado where learning is reimagined and students graduate equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The Foundation expects the design process will be completed in 2015, and implemented in 2016. Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers have agreed to work with the Foundation to find ways to overcome legal obstacles to this new system.



Amendment 23 Challenge

Leadership Team: **Kathy Gebhardt** (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)
Terry Miller (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Jennifer Weiser Bezoza (King & Greisen, LLP)

Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution was passed in 2000 to reverse a decade of budget cuts experienced by Colorado school districts throughout the 1990s. In order to restore educational funding to 1988 levels, Amendment 23 requires K-12 funding to increase by inflation plus 1% from 2001-2011 and by inflation after that. Because of the economic downturn and Colorado's resulting budget crisis, Amendment 23 was not fully implemented through 2011. For the last three years, the legislature has reinterpreted Amendment 23 to cut education funding by almost \$1 billion per year. The Education Task Force is preparing a lawsuit that alleges these drastic cuts are a violation of Amendment 23.



Civil Rights & Criminal Law



Election Task Force

Leadership Team: **Martha Tierney** (Heizer Paul LLP) Co-Chair
Richard Westfall (Hale Westfall, LLP) Co-Chair
Geoff Klingsporn (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) Secretary

Volunteers: 52 attorneys and voting rights experts from 32 law firms/organizations

Formed in 2004, the Election Task Force seeks to assure minority voter participation and access to the polls in Colorado's elections. This bipartisan coalition of volunteers works closely with the Colorado Secretary of State and other elected officials to assure collaborative solutions to election issues and changes to the law. In 2013, the Task Force focused on two projects: an amicus brief and hosting a national voting rights hearing (see descriptions below and on page 11). Volunteers are also exploring possible revisions to Colorado's election code.

Amicus Brief: Standing Up for Elections in Center, Colorado

Author of Amicus: **Geoff Klingsporn** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

The Colorado Lawyers Committee filed an amicus brief in 2013 urging the Colorado Supreme Court to reinstate the results of a recall election in Center, Colorado. The election had been voided by the Saguache County District Court because of a potential for the secrecy of ballots to be compromised (the Court found no evidence of "fraud, undue influence and intentional wrongdoing" or proof that secrecy had actually been compromised). In January 2014, the Colorado Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling reversing the trial court's decision and reinstating the results of the recall election.



Civil Rights & Criminal Law

National Commission on Voting Rights: Colorado and New Mexico Hearing

Leadership Team: Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)
Elizabeth Steele (Colorado Common Cause)
Elena Nunez (Colorado Common Cause)
Chris Melody Fields (Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law)

The Colorado Lawyers Committee was pleased to co-host the Colorado/New Mexico hearing of the National Commission on Voting Rights on March 7, 2014. The hearing, one of 25 scheduled throughout the country, focused on voting discrimination and election administration in Colorado and New Mexico. When the hearings are complete, the Commission will submit a report with its findings to Congress, as it considers revisions to the Voting Rights Act.



Hate Crimes Education Task Force

Co-Chairs: Tarek Saad (Patton Boggs LLP)
Phyllis Wan (Hogan Lovells US LLP)

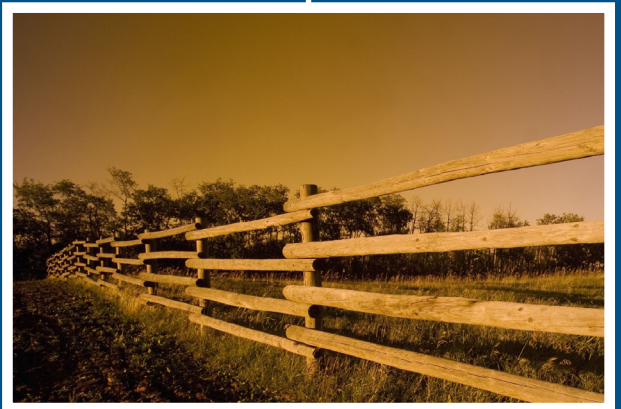
Volunteers: 29 attorneys, paralegals and law students from 14 law firms/organizations

For more than 20 years, volunteers have presented an education program on Colorado's Hate/Bias-Motivated Crimes Statute to schools and community groups around the state. The presentation, in the form of a fictional trial, stimulates discussions about diversity and the harm of racial slurs and hateful actions. In 2013, volunteers made 11 presentations in 7 schools, impacting approximately 350 students. In addition, the Task Force participated as a Community Partner in Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project, a contemporary ballet and Holocaust education partnership that promoted the protection of human rights against bigotry and hate through arts, education, and public dialogue. In early 2014, Lucia Padilla, resigned after three years as a Co-Chair of the Task Force.

Taylor Ranch Litigation

Chair: Aaron Boschee (Patton Boggs LLP)
Volunteers: 39 attorneys from 7 law firms/organizations

This lawsuit (*Lobato v. Taylor*) was filed in 1981! At issue are the rights 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 began to fence off this land, causing enormous disruption to the economic and social fabric of the local communities that had used it for generations. In 1996, the Colorado Lawyers Committee took on the case and has seen it through federal court review, two trials, and both appeals. In a historic 2003 opinion, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the rights of plaintiff property owners (whose heirs and predecessors settled the land grant) and remanded the case to the Costilla County District Court to identify the landowners entitled to access the property. Task Force volunteers have been an integral part of this identification process. To date, the District Court has examined title to over 8,000 parcels of land and found that all but approximately 500 parcels are entitled to access Taylor Ranch. In 2013, Jerome DeHerrera resigned as Chair, after having served in the position since 2009.



Civil Rights & Criminal Law

Sixth Amendment Task Force

Co-Chairs: Scott Llewellyn (Morrison & Foerster LLP)
Trip DeMuth (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Volunteers: 18 attorneys from 13 law firms/
organizations

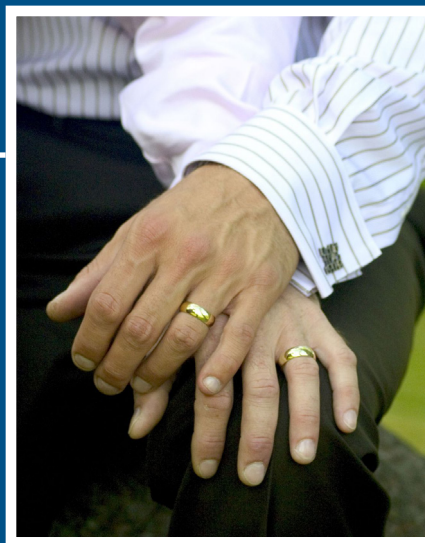
This Task Force was formed in 2009 to challenge the constitutionality of a Colorado statute requiring individuals charged with a misdemeanor to meet with a prosecutor before counsel could be appointed for them. In 2010, after failed negotiations with the State, the Task Force filed *Colorado Criminal Defense Bar v. Hickenlooper* asserting that the statute violated the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Volunteers litigated the case for several years and brought the situation to the attention of legislators. During 2013, the Colorado Legislature passed a bill to repeal the statute. This legislation resolved all the claims in the lawsuit and the suit was voluntarily dismissed—a major success for the Task Force in helping to protect the constitutional rights of misdemeanor defendants throughout the state.



Support to Marriage Equity Lawsuit

Liaison: Iris Eytan (Reilly Pozner LLP)

In February 2014, a group of volunteer lawyers filed a lawsuit challenging Colorado constitutional ban on gay marriage. Although this suit did not grow out of a Colorado Lawyers Committee task force, the Lawyers Committee has agreed to provide volunteers as needed and otherwise support this important effort to protect essential civil rights.



Poverty & Public Benefits

Legal Clinics: Denver

Leadership Team: **Tim Macdonald** (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Ilene Bloom (Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.)
Angela Reyes (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.)

Volunteers: 271 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from over 110 law firms/organizations

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 Mi Casa Resource Center; clients are served on a first-come first-served basis. Issues generally include immigration, family, consumer, and housing matters. Volunteer interpreters also are available to assist when needed. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 18,130 individuals have been served. In 2013 alone, volunteers assisted 2,168 clients.



Legal Clinics: Greeley

Chair: **Michelle Berge** (Denver Public Schools; formerly Reilly Pozner LLP)

Volunteers: 55 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from over 32 law firms/organizations



Greeley Legal Night was established in 2009, as a joint project of the Colorado Lawyers Committee and the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Association of the Colorado Bar Association. Since 2010, the Task Force has run a legal clinic every other month 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. Volunteer interpreters also are available when needed. Issues handled typically include immigration, family, housing and criminal matters. Since the start of the clinic, 1,860 individuals have been assisted by Task Force volunteers from the Denver-metro and Weld County legal communities. In 2013, 430 clients were served. The Colorado Hispanic Bar also started a program to reimburse volunteer participants for their mileage expenses to attend Greeley Legal Night. In 2014, volunteers also will assist in coordinating a legal clinic for flood victims in Evans, Fort Morgan and Sterling.

Poverty & Public Benefits

Legal Clinics: Project Homeless Connect

Leadership Team: Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Carmel Gill (Association of Corporate Counsel—Colorado Chapter)
Alice Norman (Denver Municipal Indigent Defense Counsel)
Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Linda Teater (Arnold & Porter LLP)

Volunteers: 65 attorneys, paralegals, and law students from 29 law firms/organizations

Since 2005, this Task Force has coordinated the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event sponsored by the City of Denver. The event typically links over 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 triage 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 Court Judge. In 2013, the Task Force co-sponsored the legal component of Project Homeless Connect with the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. In all, 65 volunteers assisted 260 people in the Legal Resource Area and handled 214 cases in Homeless Court (including cancelling 82 active warrants).



Poverty & Public Benefits

ID Task Force

Volunteers: 6 attorneys from 4 law firms/organizations

There are major barriers in Colorado to obtaining an ID, particularly for those with limited resources. Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has worked to address the barriers facing homeless 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 established the Joint ID Task Force to address barriers to obtaining IDs. The Task Force includes representatives from the Colorado Lawyers Committee, Colorado Legal Services, the Department of Revenue and the Division of Motor Vehicles. The group meets monthly to discuss ongoing issues, both systemic problems and isolated issues. As issues arise, representatives from other state agencies (including Department of Corrections, Human Services, Health Care Policy and Finance) have also attended these meetings.



Poverty & Public Benefits

CBMS Litigation

Chair: Jay Sturhahn (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
Volunteers: 5 attorneys from 3 law firms/organizations

Ten years ago, Colorado implemented a new computer system to streamline the processing of public benefits (the Computer Benefit Management System [CBMS]). From the beginning, the new system improperly denied or delayed essential public benefits, resulting in serious and life-threatening problems for Colorado citizens. In 2004, members of the Task Force obtained a court order requiring the State to substantially improve benefit processing and the case was subsequently settled. The team continues to monitor the State's compliance with Federal law and the requirements of the settlement.



Health Care Reform

Chair: Jay Sturhahn (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
Volunteers: 16 attorneys from 11 law firms/organizations

After years of experience with CBMS (see above), the Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers, along with Colorado Legal Services and the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, were deeply concerned about the impact on Colorado's poorest populations of the implementation in 2013 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the expansion of Medicaid. In 2011 and again in 2013, this group expressed their concerns in letters to Governor Hickenlooper. After several meetings with State officials to outline the concerns, volunteers have continued to monitor problems with the ACA implementation, and meet frequently with the Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing to discuss individual and systemic issues.



Poverty & Public Benefits

Medicaid Appeals

Leadership Team: **Jay Sturhahn** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
Elisabeth Arenales (Colorado Center on Law and Policy)
George Lyford (Colorado Center on Law and Policy)
Peter Komlos-Hrobsky (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.)

Volunteers: 27 attorneys from 16 law firms/organizations

This group was formed in 2013 after concern that additional resources might be required to assist Colorado Legal Services and the Colorado Center on Law and Policy with requests for help from individuals who had been denied either Medicaid or Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies (see page 17). More than 20 volunteer lawyers received training on the ACA and the appeals process in October 2013. Several teams have been asked to provide assistance to individuals who have encountered issues with Medicaid coverage, but the anticipated flood of cases has thankfully not materialized.



Food Stamps Task Force

Chair: **Blain Myhre** (Blain Myhre LLC)
Volunteers: 10 attorneys from 6 law firms/organizations

This Task Force was created in 2008 to examine the delay in processing Food Stamp applications in certain Colorado counties. As a result of the Task Force's negotiations with Denver, the County completely overhauled its procedures for processing food stamp applications and improved its compliance rate with federally mandated timelines from 60% to over 90%. In 2013, the Task Force continued to monitor Denver and other counties for delays. It also investigated questions about the State's reduction in the food stamp allowance for recipients who pay utilities.

Poverty & Public Benefits

Health Care for Community Corrections Residents

Co-Chair: Jessica Yates (Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.)
Bobbee Musgrave (Bryan Cave LLP)

Volunteers: 10 attorneys from 7 law firms/organizations

Every year, 4,000 individuals in Colorado's Community Corrections system (half-way houses) have severely limited access to health care. The federal government has asserted that these individuals are "in custody" and therefore are not eligible for federally funded health care benefits; as a result, they have not been eligible for care under the Colorado Indigent Care Program and now also are ineligible for Medicaid or benefits under the Affordable Care Act. Presently, the only health care options for these individuals are to seek treatment in emergency rooms, where the cost of health care is significantly higher, or for more serious medical needs like cancer or a problem pregnancy, reoffend and return to prison to receive health care. The team has been collaborating with State officials and local agencies to encourage the Federal government to reevaluate its position. Late in 2013, at the request of the Lawyers Committee, Governor Hickenlooper wrote to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, urging her to change her agency's position.



Medicaid HCBS/SLS Task Force

Chair: Cole Wist (Holland & Hart LLP)

Volunteers: 16 attorneys from 10 law firms/organizations

This Task Force was formed in 2011 when the Lawyers Committee was advised that the State was improperly reducing or terminating Medicaid benefits for individuals with disabilities participating in the Home and Community Based Services-Supported Living Services waiver program. The Task Force explored legal challenges to the State's actions and met with State representatives to advocate for a process that protects benefits recipients' legal rights. As a result, several state agencies promulgated new regulations and a new advisory committee was established to address ongoing problems. The Task Force completed its work in early 2013.

Community Development

Housing Task Force

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

Volunteers: 20 attorneys from 14 law firms/organizations

This Task Force was created in late 2013 to explore housing issues in Colorado that might benefit from legal advocacy by Lawyers Committee volunteers. To get a better understanding of the issues and to evaluate possible needs in Colorado, the team has been researching national housing issues and local activities and organizations.



Nonprofit Pro Bono Matching Program

Chair: **Peter Schwartz** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Volunteers: 50 attorneys from 19 law firms/organizations



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 serve 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. In 2013, in addition to this on-going work, the Task Force agreed to work with the Colorado Bar Association to provide expedited assistance to nonprofits adversely impacted by the floods. Last year, volunteers provided transactional-type legal assistance to 32 nonprofits. Since the matching program began, more than 200 nonprofits have been served.

Immigration



Immigration Task Force

Co-Chairs: **Jocelyn Campanaro** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)
Atim Otii (Otii Law Firm, L.L.C.)

Volunteers: 24 attorneys and paralegals from 10 law firms/organizations

For almost 20 years, this Task Force has supported the efforts of the Immigrant Resource Center (IRC), a small nonprofit in Alamosa, Colorado which provides low cost immigration services to the local population, many of whom live below the poverty level. Task Force representatives oversee the services provided by the IRC including making quarterly site visits to provide training and case assistance, as needed. Recently, volunteers also began offering telephone consultations every other month to IRC staff and clients. In addition to its work with the IRC in 2013, the Immigration Task Force co-sponsored a free training for 33 non-immigration lawyers and paralegals willing to assist pre-screened individuals complete their applications for the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals program. This program allows certain people who came to the United States as children to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years (subject to renewal); approved individuals become eligible for work authorization. In 2013, the Task Force also began exploring a collaboration with the Colorado Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (CO-AILA) to develop a program to help nonprofits qualify for Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accreditation, allowing them, like the IRC, to provide high quality, low cost legal assistance on certain immigration matters.

Shepherders' Rights

Chair: **Lauren Schmidt** (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)

Volunteers: 2 attorneys from 2 law firms/organizations

This Subcommittee was created in 2013 to work on strategies to help improve conditions for migrant shepherders in Colorado. Currently, there are 2,000 shepherders in the United States, the majority of whom come from Peru or Mexico. Of those, 300-400 reside in Colorado and migrated to the state under federal migrant worker regulations that have not changed in 50 years. Shepherders in Colorado often work and live in brutal conditions, sometimes earning less than \$2 per hour and working 80-90 hours per week without access to proper housing, food, water, or medical care. Others are unable to leave at will. In 2014, the team will explore legislative and other solutions to improve shepherders' working and living conditions.



Thank You!

**Thank You to all our contributing law firms and to
the individual volunteers and organizations that
support the Colorado Lawyers Committee.**

You make our world a better place.



(Guilty)

Count	Jury #1	
Game/Rifle	7-0	7
Facebook/Rocks	6-1	7
I. Flier	1-6	0
IV Pushing Jorge	0-7	1



The photos of Peter Schwartz, Scott Phillips, Jennifer Hunt with Craig Stewart and Bill Callison, Wendy Fisher with Terry Miller, Iris Eytan and Kenzo Kawanabe, and Barbara Arnwine were taken by our pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

**This document was produced compliments of
RICOH Legal Services
www.RICOH-USA.com
(303)944-7112**