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# 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



**Dave Stark**  
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP



**Richard Westfall**  
Hale Westfall, LLP



**Cole Wist**  
Holland & Hart LLP

# Staff



**Executive Director:**

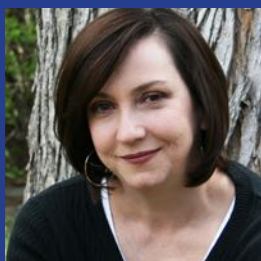
Connie Talmage\*  
303-866-0273  
[ctalmage@coloradolawyerscommittee.org](mailto:ctalmage@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)

**Associate Director:**

Amanda Hoffman\*  
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**Office Manager:**

Jody Rodney  
303-866-0274  
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*\*Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

# Colorado Lawyers Committee

## ABOUT US

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of more than 60 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 37 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 25 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil Rights & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, over 800 volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours and \$3 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.

**25 Active Projects**

**800 Volunteers**

**8,000 Hours**





# Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors

(Including Specialty Bar Representatives)

**Antonio Bates Bernard PC**  
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**Asian Pacific American Bar Association**  
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**BakerHostetler**  
Dominic A. Lloyd

**Ballard Spahr LLP**  
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Sean C. Grimsley

**Bieging Shapiro & Barber LLP**  
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**Butler Snow LLP**  
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**Chan Law Firm**  
Catherine A. Chan

**Colorado Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Bar Association**  
Arash Jahanian

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**Colorado Women's Bar Association**  
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**Dorsey & Whitney LLP**  
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**Downey & Associates, PC**  
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**Elkind Alterman Harston PC**  
Nancy B. Elkind

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**Fortis Law Partners LLC**  
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**H&K Law, LLC**  
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**Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.**  
Norman R. Mueller

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

**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

**Holland & Knight LLP**  
Shawn M. Turner

**Husch Blackwell LLP**  
Mark Forrest Bell

**Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC**  
Angela Little

**Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.**  
Ilene Lin Bloom

**Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC**  
James J. Killean

**Jones & Keller, P.C.**  
Kent Modesitt

**Kamlet LLP**  
Jay F. Kamlet

**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

**Lindquist & Venum LLP**  
Howard Kenison

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

**McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP**  
Phillip R. Seckman

**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

**Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti PC**  
J. Thomas Macdonald

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

**Perkins Coie LLP**  
L. Norton Cutler

**Reilly Pozner LLP**  
Iris Eytan

**Roberts Levin Rosenberg, PC**  
Bradley A. Levin

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

**Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, PC**  
Richard C. Kaufman

**Sam Cary Bar Association**  
Nicole Gorham

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

**Snell & Wilmer**  
James D. Kilroy

**Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP**  
Peter S. Gould

**Temkin Wielga & Hardt LLP**  
Joseph G. Middleton

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

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

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

**The Ward Law Firm, PC**  
Thomas R. Ward

**Tierney Paul Lawrence LLP**  
Martha M. Tierney

# 2014 Honorees

We are delighted to honor our outstanding volunteers and contributing law firms at the Colorado Lawyers Committee Annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2014 honorees are below.



Individual of the Year Award Recipient Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)



Shelley Wittevrongel (Shelley Wittevrongel, Attorney at Law, PC), Alex Myers (Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP), and Geoff Klingsporn (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) accept a Special Recognition Award for protecting the rights of voters in Center, Colorado



Law Firm of the Year Award Recipient Patton Boggs (US) LLP





Connie Talmage, Executive Director, with Past Chair Award Recipient Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Hartson PC)



Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient Bill Callison (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)



Connie Talmage, Executive Director, with Past Chair Award Recipient Jennifer Hunt (Office of the Colorado Attorney General; formerly Hill & Robbins, P.C.)

## We also honored the following law firms and individuals in 2014:

### Law Firm of the Year Nominees

- Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP
- Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
- Snell & Wilmer

### Individual of the Year Nominees

- Aaron A. Boschee (Patton Boggs LLP)
- Peter H. Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
- Cole A. Wist (Holland & Hart LLP)

# Chair's Roundtable

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*

**Fred 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 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.*

**Brian & Amanda Hoffman**

*Holland & Hart LLP  
Colorado Lawyers Committee*

**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 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**

**Lauren E. Schmidt**

*Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP*

**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*



# 2014 Task Forces



# Children's Rights & Education



## Standing up for Kids: The Children's Task Force

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 18 attorney and staff volunteers from 10 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 for children with autism. Currently, task force volunteers are working to ensure that the State provides behavioral therapy services to children with autism through Medicaid as required by federal law.



*Individual photos of Dave Stark and Wendy Fisher courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*



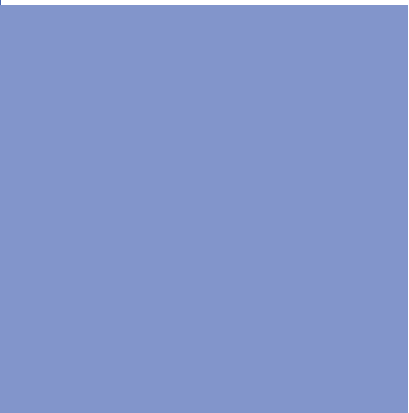


## Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students: The Education Task Force

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 39 attorneys from 21 law firms/organizations

The Lawyers Committee has a long history of advocating on education issues. Much of the task force's work during the last four years has focused on litigation (see, for example, the Amendment 23 Litigation). In addition, the Education Task Force is examining whether small school districts that fund their schools entirely through local property taxes can be required by the State to increase their mill levy without voter approval and write a check to the State for their share of the "negative factor" (which was implemented by the State to cut \$1 billion per year from education).



*Photos of Cole Wist and Terry Miller  
courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

# Children's Rights & Education

## Ensuring Adequate Funding for Education: Amendment 23 Litigation

**Leadership Team:** Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
Sean Connelly (Reilly Pozner LLP)  
Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)  
Nate Hake (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
Terry Miller (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)  
Zhonette Brown (Bryan Cave LLP)

*Dwyer v. Colorado*, filed in 2014, alleges that the State's \$1 billion per year cuts to school funding since 2010 are a violation of Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution. Amendment 23 was passed by voters 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 per pupil funding to increase by inflation plus 1% from 2001 to 2011, and by inflation after that. The State complied with Amendment 23 for about 10 years and increased per pupil funding accordingly. In 2010, under the pressure of the recession, the State reversed course and reinterpreted Amendment 23 to allow cuts to educational funding. For the last four years, the legislature has cut education funding by almost \$1 billion per year. In February 2015, after the district court rejected the State's motion to dismiss, the Colorado Supreme Court accepted the case for review. The Court has the options of upholding the cuts, invalidating them, or returning the case to the district court for a trial that was scheduled for November 2015.





## Ending the School to Prison Pipeline: The School Discipline Task Force

**Co-Chairs:** Cole Wist (Holland & Hart LLP)  
Scott Llewellyn (Morrison & Foerster LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 18 attorneys from 11 law firms/organizations

The School Discipline Task Force was created in 2014 to help address the school-to-prison pipeline resulting from the statewide criminalization of school discipline incidents. Colorado's 2012 School Discipline Bill (HB 12-1345) enacted various measures to reduce the prosecution of students for school misconduct and the disparity in the application and effects of zero-tolerance policies. Task force volunteers are reviewing compliance with those measures – in particular, the reporting requirements of the School Discipline Bill – and exploring legal options to enforce those requirements.



# Children's Rights & Education

## Assuring Transparency in School Closures: Denver Public Schools Subcommittee

**Leadership Team:** John Tatlock (The Harris Law Firm, P.C.)  
Dan Sweetser (The Sweetser Law Firm, P.C.)

The Denver Public Schools (DPS) Subcommittee is committed to the success of DPS and the highest possible educational achievement for DPS's more than 90,000 students. Lawyers Committee volunteers work closely with DPS officials and advocate for increased transparency and community engagement and provide input on DPS's decision-making related to school closures, turnaround strategies, student retention, enrollment, and academic performance.



*Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*





## Imagining a New System: 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)

Since 2013, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered with the Donnell-Kay Foundation to provide legal advice to the Foundation on its ReSchool Colorado initiative, an effort to model an entirely new state public education system in Colorado where learning is reimagined and students graduate equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers have worked with the Foundation to explore ways to overcome legal obstacles to this new system.



*Photos of Bobbee Musgrave and Bill Callison  
courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

# Civil Rights & Criminal Law



## Access to the Polls: The Election Task Force

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 115 volunteers from 54 law firms/organizations

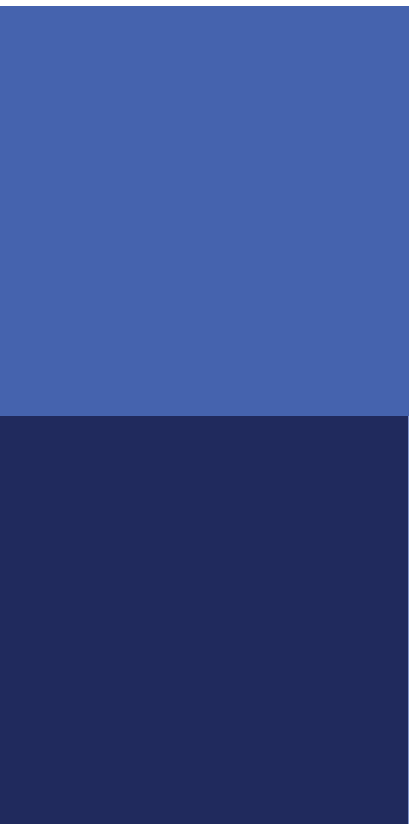
The Election Task Force monitors the election process and works to ensure access to the polls in Colorado's elections. This bipartisan coalition of volunteers works closely with the Colorado Secretary of State, the Republican and Democratic parties, the specialty bar associations, and other key constituencies to assure collaborative solutions to election issues and changes to the law.





## Nonpartisan Election Call Center

In November 2014, 60 Lawyers Committee volunteers aided access to the polls for hundreds of voters at Just Vote! Colorado's Nonpartisan Election Call Center. The volunteers contributed over 200 hours responding to questions from more than 500 voters around the state related to voting, polling places, ballots and other issues.



# 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 co-hosted the Colorado/New Mexico hearing of the National Commission on Voting Rights on March 7, 2014. The hearing, one of 25 held throughout the country, focused on voting discrimination and election administration in Colorado and New Mexico.





## ***Amicus* Brief: Standing Up for Elections in Center, Colorado**

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

Members of the Election Task Force filed an *amicus* brief 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



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

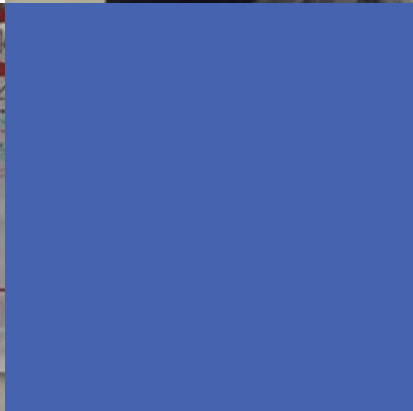
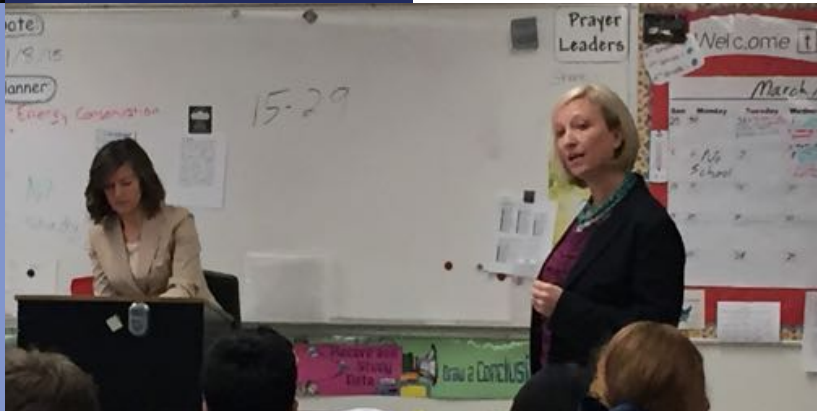
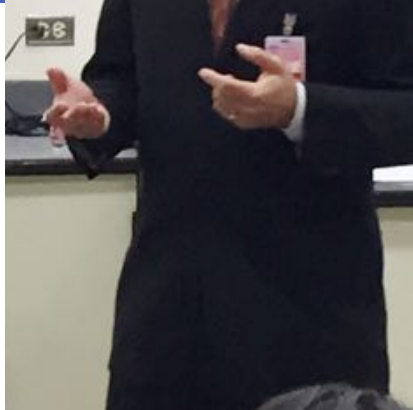
**Co-Chairs:** Tarek Saad (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)  
Phyllis Wan (Hogan Lovells US LLP)

**Administrator:** Christine Snider (Ballard Spahr LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 26 attorneys, paralegals and law students from 18 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. Using a criminal fictional trial format involving a high-school student charged with hate crimes against a Muslim teacher, a perceived GLBT student, and others (including by way of social media threats) the presentation empowers participants to improve their community culture regarding diversity, discrimination, stereotypes, and preventing the severe harm caused by hateful slurs and biased actions. Volunteers have conducted more than 60 educational trials in the last five years.





# Civil Rights & Criminal Law



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

**Chair:** Aaron Boschee (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 19 attorneys from 10 law firms/organizations

The Taylor Ranch litigation (*Lobato v. Taylor*) involves the right of landowners in the San Luis Valley to access a 77,500 acre parcel known as the Taylor Ranch. This right was created in the mid-1800s when settlers on the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, then a part of Mexico, were promised access to the mountainous regions near their homes for uses necessary for their survival. More than 100 years later, Jack Taylor purchased and fenced off the land. The Lawyers Committee has been active in this litigation for almost 20 years and is still identifying landowners entitled to access the property (after a 2003 decision by the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the rights of plaintiff property owners). To date, the District Court has examined title to over 6,000 parcels of land and found that all but approximately 400 parcels are entitled to access Taylor Ranch. In 2014, the team successfully challenged an attempt by the owners of the Taylor Ranch to deny access to approximately 25 landowners in the Los Vallejos area.

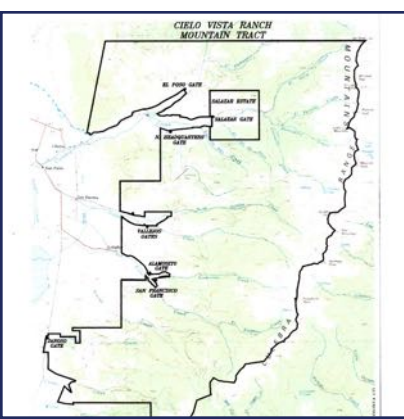


Photo of Aaron Boschee  
courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC







## Championing Equal Rights: Marriage Equality Lawsuit

**Leadership:** John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 35 attorneys, paralegals and staff from 4 law firms/organizations

At the beginning of 2014, 19 states in the U.S. recognized the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. Colorado was not one of them. By the middle of the year, volunteer attorneys from Reilly Pozner LLP, Law of the Rockies, and Gutterman Griffiths PC had helped change that statistic. These attorneys recognized the inequity in our state with regard to same-sex marriage. They chose to take on the fight against the Attorney General's Office and litigate this contemporary civil rights issue in Colorado state court. Their case, *McDaniel-Miccio v. Colorado*, along with a consolidated case, *Brinkman v. Long* (filed by Anne Wilcox, Ralph Ogden and Professor Tom Russell), kicked off an avalanche of marriage equality litigation in Colorado. A similar case was filed later in federal court by the lawyers at Killmer Lane & Newman, LLP. These cases eventually secured marriage equity for GLBT families in our state.



# Poverty & Public Benefits

## Helping Indigent Individuals Obtain IDs: Legislative Coalition

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered over the last few years with other nonprofits to support legislation to remove barriers to obtaining identification cards (IDs). In 2014, the Lawyers Committee and its partners supported two bills that: (1) increase the number of Exceptions Processing offices from one to five (to process ID applications when the usual verifying documents are not available); (2) require the Department of Revenue (DOR) to promulgate rules to help resolve minor name inconsistencies in documents used to apply for IDs; (3) simplify the process for individuals 70 and over to legally change their names to make verifying documents consistent; and (4) require the DOR to submit annual reports to the General Assembly regarding the number of people who fail to complete the ID application process.

## The 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 the 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 and other organizations are invited, as appropriate, to attend monthly meetings where individual issues and systemic barriers to obtaining IDs are discussed.





## Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Greeley Legal Night

**Leadership:** Michelle Berge (Denver Public Schools) Chair  
 Deborah Wagner (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.)  
 Jody Pic (Weld County Legal Services)  
 Roberto Ramirez (Spanish Speaking Lawyers Committee, Colorado Bar Association)  
 Lisa Pray (The Law Office of Lisa Martin Pray)

**2014 Volunteers:** 39 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from over 25 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, more than 2,000 individuals have been assisted by task force volunteers from the Denver-metro and Weld County legal communities. In 2014, over 200 clients were served. Volunteers also assisted in coordinating a legal clinic for flood victims in Evans, Fort Morgan and Sterling.



*Individual photo of Michelle Berge courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

# Poverty & Public Benefits



## Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Denver Legal Night

**Leadership Team:** Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
 Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
 Ilene Bloom (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)  
 Angela Reyes (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.)  
 Linda Teater (Arnold & Porter LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 274 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from over 100 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 and 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 20,000 individuals have been served. In 2014 alone, volunteers assisted 2,176 clients.

*Photos of Susan Cole, Tim Macdonald, Angela Reyes, and Ilene Bloom and of Chris Unger, Edward Butler, and Juan Carlos Montanez courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*





# Poverty & Public Benefits



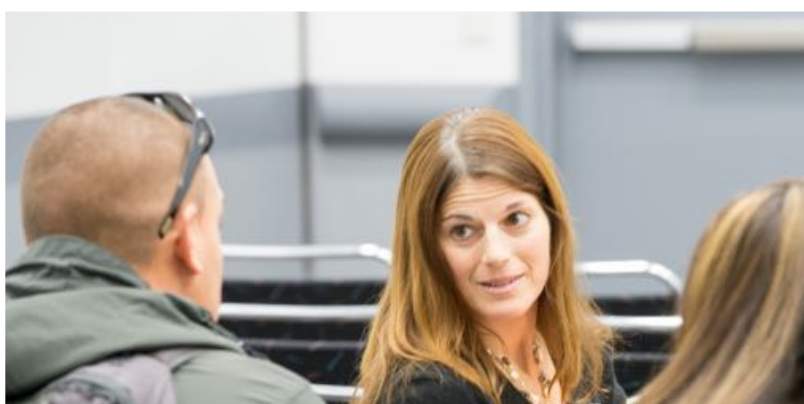
## Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Project Homeless Connect

**Leadership Team:** Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
 Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)  
 Alice Norman (Denver Chief Municipal Public Defender)  
 Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)  
 Carolyn Powell (Association of Corporate Counsel - Colorado Chapter)  
 Linda Teater (Arnold & Porter LLP)

**2014 Volunteers:** 97 attorneys, paralegals, and law students from over 40 law firms/organizations

Since 2005, the Lawyers Committee has coordinated, with the Association of Corporate Counsel - Colorado Chapter, the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event sponsored by the City of Denver that 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 Court Judge. Since 2010, more than 1,500 individuals have been helped with legal issues at Project Homeless Connect. In 2014, a record 331 cases were heard in Homeless Court and volunteers in the legal resource area assisted 143 individuals with 175 issues.





# Poverty & Public Benefits

## Navigating Medical Benefits: Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Appeals

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

**2014 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. More than 20 volunteer lawyers received training on the ACA and the appeals process. Several teams have provided assistance to individuals who have encountered issues with Medicaid and ACA coverage.

## Ensuring Proper Benefits Processing: CBMS Litigation

**Chair:** Jay Sturhahn (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

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.



*Photo of Jay Sturhahn courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*





## Protecting Nutritional and Medical Benefits: The Food Stamps/Public Benefits Task Force

**Chair:** Blain Myhre (Blain Myhre LLC)

**2014 Volunteers:** 13 attorneys and staff from 9 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 2014, the task force changed its name to the Public Benefits Task Force and is exploring solutions to ensure that recipients of federal benefits (Medicaid and food stamps) continue receiving those benefits when a timely appeal (of a notice of termination) is filed.

## Accessing Help for Medical Needs: Health Care for Community Corrections Residents

**Co-Chairs:** Jessica Yates (Snell & Wilmer)  
Bobbee Musgrave (Bryan Cave LLP)

Every year, 4,000 individuals in Colorado's Community Corrections system (half-way houses) have severely limited access to health care. The federal government asserts these individuals are not eligible for care under the Colorado Indigent Care Program or for Medicaid or subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As a result, the only health care options for these individuals are treatment in emergency rooms, or for more serious medical needs like cancer or a problem pregnancy, reoffending and returning to prison to receive health care. At the task force's request, numerous officials (Representative DeGette, Governor Hickenlooper and Attorney General Suthers) unsuccessfully requested the federal government to reevaluate its position. The task force is considering litigation.



*Photos of Jessica Yates and Bobbee Musgrave courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*



# Community Development



## Systemic Legal Problems Related to Housing: The Housing Task Force

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 25 attorneys from 18 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 and local housing issues and meeting with other advocacy organizations. Among the issues the task force has explored are the Homeless Bill of Rights, current Denver County Landlord/Tenant procedures, Denver's Camping Ban, and the possibility of tiny houses providing housing solutions.



*Photos of Rebecca Fischer and Bill Callison courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*



Photo of Peter Schwartz courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC

## Assisting Small Colorado Nonprofits: the Nonprofit *Pro Bono* Matching Program

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

**2014 Volunteers:** More than 50 attorneys and staff 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. Last year, volunteers provided transactional-type legal assistance to 40 nonprofits. Since the matching program began, more than 240 nonprofits have been served.



# Immigration



## Assistance for Indigent Immigrants: the Immigration Task Force

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 25 attorneys and paralegals from 12 law firms/organizations

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 the Center's staff, and providing referrals to *pro bono* attorneys. This year, the task force also supported the training of the Center's newest staff member for her accreditation from the BIA (Board of Immigration Appeals) which authorizes her to provide immigration services through the Center.

The Immigration Task Force also co-sponsored a free training in 2014 for over 70 non-immigration lawyers and paralegals willing to assist unaccompanied minors in Children's Asylum cases. Additionally, the task force members helped to provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night seeking assistance with Colorado Senate Bill 13-251, which authorizes the issuance of a Colorado driver's license, instruction permit or identification card to those individuals who either cannot demonstrate lawful presence in the U.S. or can only demonstrate temporary lawful presence.



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC



## Helping Migrant Workers: Shepherders' Rights Subcommittee

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

**2014 Volunteers:** 2 attorneys from 1 law firms/organizations

This subcommittee works on strategies to help improve conditions for migrant shepherders and range workers in Colorado. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 shepherders and range workers in the United States, the majority of whom come from Peru or Mexico. Of those, approximately 200-300 are believed to be working in Colorado and migrated to the U.S. under federal rules and regulations governing temporary foreign worker programs that have essentially not changed in the past 50 years. Shepherders and range workers 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 2015, the subcommittee will meet with stakeholders to develop possible solutions to improve the living and working conditions of migrant shepherders and range workers.

*Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*





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

**Solving problems together,  
we make the world a better place.**



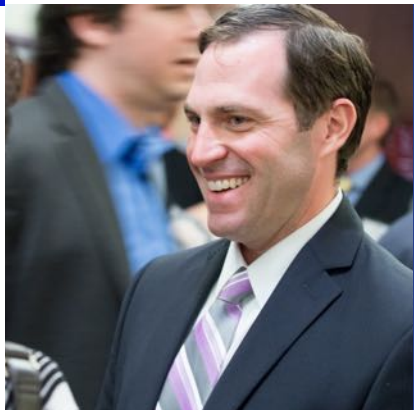




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