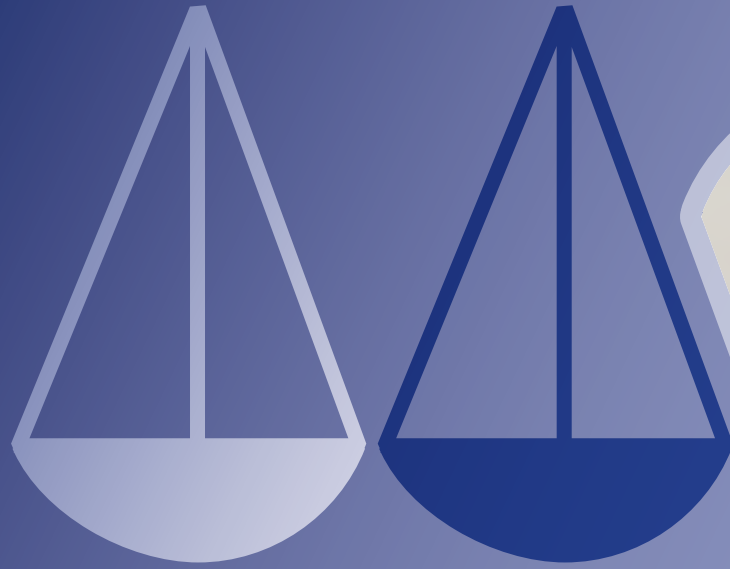


Colorado Lawyers Committee

2016 Annual Report





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



Contents

02	Executive Committee and Staff
03	About Us
05	Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors
06	Young Lawyers Division
08	2015 Honorees
10	2015 Awards Luncheon
12	Chair's Roundtable

Task Forces

14	Children's Rights & Education
19	Civil Rights & Criminal Law
26	Poverty & Public Benefits
34	Community Development
37	Immigration
39	Honoring Bruce and Martha Sattler
40	Thank You

Executive Committee

Staff



Iris Eytan
Board Chair
Eytan Nielsen LLC



Tim Macdonald
Arnold & Porter LLP



Nancy Elkind
Elkind Alterman Harston PC



Connie Talmage
Executive Director



Peter Schwartz
Secretary/Treasurer
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



Lauren Schmidt
Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck, LLP



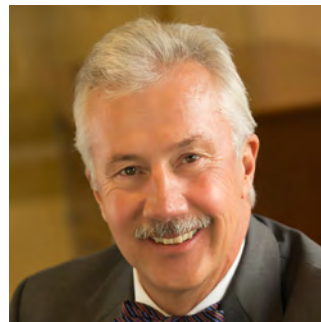
Dave Stark
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP



Elisa Cozad
Associate Director



Rebecca Fischer
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.



Richard Westfall
Hale Westfall, LLP



Maureen Witt
Holland & Hart LLP



Esther Cross
Office Manager

With thanks to Bobbee Musgrave (formerly Bryan Cave LLP) and Cole Wist (Holland & Hart LLP) for their leadership and service on the Executive Committee during 2015.



Matt Linton
YLD Representative
Holland & Hart LLP

With thanks to our former Associate Director, Amanda Hoffman, and our former Office Manager, Jody Rodney, for all their hard work during 2015.

Colorado Lawyers Committee



About Us

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of 66 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 38 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, more than 750 volunteers contributed more than 7,000 hours and \$2.6 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. In addition, in 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a Young Lawyers Division which has engaged more than 75 young (or recently admitted) lawyers and law students who are making a difference on six different YLD teams. 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

750
Volunteers

7,000
Hours



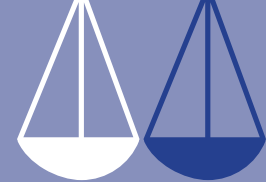
Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors

(including Specialty Bar Representatives)



Akerman LLP
Howard B. Celt

Antonio Bates Bernard PC
Howard M. Haenel

Arnold & Porter LLP
Timothy R. Macdonald

Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Andrea Wang

BakerHostetler
Eben P. Clark

Ballard Spahr LLP
Leslie Ann Eaton

Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP
Sean C. Grimsley

Blain Myhre LLC
Blain D. Myhre

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

Bryan Cave LLP
Kathryn DeBord

Butler Snow LLP
Dee P. Wisor

Chan Law Firm
Catherine A. Chan

Colorado LGBT Bar Association
Arash Jahanian

Colorado Hispanic Bar Association
M. Antonio Callegos

Colorado Indian Bar Association
Jennifer H. Weddle

Colorado Women's Bar Association
Lisha R. McKinley

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

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Kenzo Kawanabe
Peter H. Schwartz

Dentons
Phillip R. Seckman

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Gregory S. Tamkin

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

Elkind Alterman Harston PC
Nancy B. Elkind

Eytan Nielsen LLC
Iris Eytan

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

Fennemore Craig, P.C.
Troy Robert Rackham

Fisher & Phillips LLP
Jocelyn C. Campanaro

Fortis Law Partners LLC
Jeffrey M. Brenman

H&K Law, LLC
Laura J. Hazen

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
Maureen Reidy Witt

Holland & Knight LLP
Shawn M. Turner

Husch Blackwell LLP
Julie A. Sullivan

Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC
Thomas J. Scott

Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.
Ilene Lin Bloom

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC
Sarah W. Benedict

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

Levin Sitcoff, PC
Bradley A. Levin

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP
Kenneth F. Rossman, IV

Lindquist & Vennum LLP
Howard Kenison

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

Morrison & Foerster LLP
Scott F. Llewellyn

Neeti Pawar, LLC
Neeti Pawar

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

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

Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti PC
J. Thomas Macdonald

Perkins Coie LLP
L. Norton Cutler, Jr.

Reilly Pozner LLP

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

Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC
Maritza Dominguez Braswell

Sam Cary Bar Association
Nicole Corham

Shapiro Biegging Barber Otteson LLP
I. Thomas Biegging

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 Hardt & Longenecker LLP
Joseph C. 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

Tierney Lawrence LLC
Martha M. Tierney

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Mary V. Sooter

Zonies Law LLC
Anthony L. Giacomini



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 (under 40) or new (in practice less than 8 years) attorneys 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 YLD teams:

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

More than 75 lawyers and law students have joined the YLD.

The Young Lawyers Division Board

Matthew M. Linton

YLD Chair
Holland & Hart LLP

Tess Hand-Bender

YLD Chair-Elect
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Lauren P. Carboni

Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair
Dentons

Abigail Moss Hinchcliff

Strategic Planning Team Chair
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP

Martina Hinojosa

Special Projects Team Co-Chair
Butler Snow LLP

Stephanie A. Kanan

Legal Night Team Co-Chair
Lindquist & Vennum LLP

Christopher John Lane

Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Beth Ann Lennon

Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Ellie Lockwood

Legal Night Team Co-Chair
Reilly Pozner LLP

John M. McHugh

Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair
Reilly Pozner LLP

Jill Tenley Oldak

Special Projects Team Co-Chair
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Marie E. Williams

Public Relations Team Co-Chair
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

Jennie Reid Wray

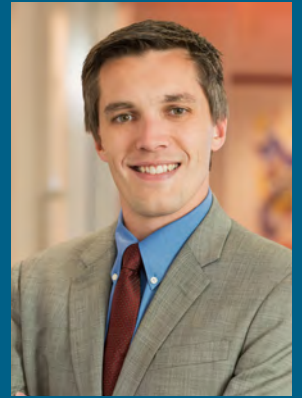
Public Relations Team Co-Chair
The Harris Law Firm P.C.

With thanks to **Nathaniel Hake** (formerly Arnold & Porter LLP) who served on the YLD Board until February 2016.



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

*



*



*



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



2015 Honorees

We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2015 honorees are below.



Law Firm of the Year Award Recipient Snell & Wilmer



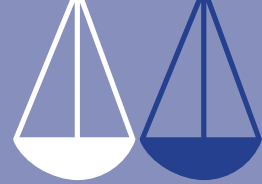
Tony Giacomini (Reilly Pozner LLP), John McHugh (Reilly Pozner LLP), Mike Kotlarczyk (Reilly Pozner LLP), Tess Hand-Bender (Reilly Pozner LLP), Amy Gray (Reilly Pozner LLP) and Ann Gushurst (Cutterman Griffiths PC) accept the Special Recognition Award for great success in the Marriage Equality Lawsuit (*McDaniel-Miccio v. Colorado*). Not shown: Marcus Lock (Law of the Rockies) and Kathleen Porter (Reilly Pozner LLP)



Linda Olson (Colorado Legal Services) receiving the Special Recognition Award for advocacy on behalf of individuals needing IDs to access essential services.

Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

2015 Honorees



Team of the Year Recipient, the Amendment 23 (*Dwyer v. Colorado*) Litigation Team: Terry Miller (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Zhonette Brown (Bryan Cave LLP), Nate Hake (Arnold & Porter LLP), Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP). Not shown: Sean Connelly (Reilly Pozner LLP) and Kathy Gebhardt (Kathleen J. Gebhardt, L.L.C.)



Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient Rebecca Fischer (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2015:

Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees

Bryan Cave LLP
Holland & Hart LLP
The Harris Law Firm P.C.

Team of the Year Nominees

Taylor Ranch Litigation (*Lobato v. Taylor*) Stars

Aaron A. Boschee (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)
Rick M. Simmons (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Legal Night Coordinators and Most Active 2014 Volunteers

Michelle Berge (Denver Public Schools)
Ilene Lin Bloom (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
Andrew T. Brooks (Brooks Immigration LLC)
Patricia Coan (Retired Magistrate Judge, District of Colorado)
Susan Cole (Arnold & Porter LLP)
John A. Helfrich (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)
Timothy R. Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Angela Reyes (Colorado Legal Services, Inc.)
John H. Tatlock (The Harris Law Firm P.C.)
Linda J. Teater (Arnold & Porter LLP)
Christopher M. Unger (Mountain West Business Law, P.C.)

Nonprofit Working Group Coordinators and Most Active 2014 Volunteers

Nicole R. Ament (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)
Susan Elizabeth Bow (Mountain View Capital Holdings, LLC)
Katie A. Feiereisel (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)
Shane M. Fleenor (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)
Justin M. Hahn (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)
Michael A. Maciszewski (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)
Alexandra F. Metzl (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)
Jeffrey Miller (Husch Blackwell LLP)
Peter H. Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Jean Steward (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
Eric M. Vinton (Bryan Cave LLP)
Candace S. Whitaker (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)



*



2015 Awards Luncheon



A Grand Celebration



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



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

Frederick J. Baumann
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Stephen Berman
University of Colorado
Children's Hospital Colorado

Nancy L. Cohen
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Sean Connelly
Zonies Law LLC

Frederic K. "Jerry" Conover
Moye White LLP

Nancy B. Elkind
Elkind Alterman Harston PC

Iris Eytan
Eytan Nielsen LLC

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 N. Hoffman/Amanda C. Hoffman
Holland & Hart LLP
Faculty of Federal Advocates

Jennifer H. Hunt

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

Edwin S. Kahn
Lass Moses & Ramp, LLC

Gregory B. Kanan
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Kenzo Kawanabe
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Geoffrey Klingsporn

Bradley A. Levin
Levin Sitcoff, PC

Scott F. Llewellyn
Morrison & Foerster LLP

Timothy R. Macdonald
Arnold & Porter LLP

Bobbee J. Musgrave

Daphne O'Connor
Arnold & Porter LLP

Kenneth F. Rossman, IV
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Bruce W. Sattler (deceased)

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



2015 ▶ Task Forces





Children's Rights & Education

Standing up for Kids: The Children's Task Force

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. Volunteers have focused on expanding access to Medicaid benefits to 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.

Co-Chairs:

Dave Stark
(Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Maritza Braswell
(Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC)

Thanks to departing
co-chair Wendy Fisher

2015 Volunteers:

21 attorneys from 12 law
firms/organizations



Children's Rights & Education



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

The Lawyers Committee has a long history of advocating on education issues. Much of the Task Force's work during the last five 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). Most recently, the task force has begun to explore the reasons for the apparent re-segregation of schools in Denver.

Co-Chairs:

Terry Miller
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

John Tatlock
(The Harris Law Firm P.C.)

Thanks to departing
co-chair Cole Wist
(Holland & Hart LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

33 attorneys from 18 law firms/
organizations



*

Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



Children's Rights & Education

Ensuring Adequate Funding for Education: Amendment 23 Litigation

In 2014, a group of volunteers challenged the State's funding of K-12 schools (*Dwyer v. State of Colorado*) alleging that the State's \$1 billion per year cuts to school funding since 2010 were a violation of Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution. In February 2015, after the district court had rejected the State's motion to dismiss, the Colorado Supreme Court accepted the case for review. In September 2015, the Court agreed with the State's objection and ordered the district court to dismiss the case.

Leadership Team:

Tim Macdonald
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Sean Connelly
(Zonies Law LLC)

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

Nate Hake
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Terry Miller
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)



Children's Rights & Education



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

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. In 2015, the task force partnered with community advocates, legislators, and others to help pass House Bill 15-1273. The bill provides funding to collect and compile data on school discipline incidents which will be critical in assessing the ways in which student conduct has been over-criminalized. The task force will continue to monitor the implementation of this new law and the criminalization of schools.



Chair:

Scott Llewellyn
(Morrison & Foerster LLP)

Thanks to former
Co-Chair, Cole Wist
(Holland & Hart LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

19 attorneys from
15 law firms/organizations



Children's Rights & Education

Imagining a New System: Redesigning Education

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.

Leadership Team:

Bill Callison, Chair
(Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Craig Stewart
(Holland & Hart LLP)

Terry Miller
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Howard Gelt
(Akerman LLP)

Thanks to former members
of the leadership team:

Cole Wist
(Holland & Hart LLP) and
Bobbee Musgrave
(formerly Bryan Cave LLP,
Co-Chair)



Photo courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Civil Rights & Criminal Law



Access to the Polls: The Election Task Force

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.



Co-Chairs:

Martha Tierney
(Tierney Lawrence LLC)

Richard Westfall
(Hale Westfall, LLP)

Thanks to departing
Secretary Geoff Klingsporn
(The Denver City Attorney's
Office)

2015 Volunteers

37 volunteers from 36 law
firms/organizations



Civil Rights & Criminal Law

Voting ID Subcommittee

In November 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a new task force to explore possible consequences if Colorado ever enacts more restrictive voting ID requirements (as some other states have done). More than 45 lawyers have signed up to explore whether such restrictions might disenfranchise significant numbers of individuals (mostly poor and elderly) who are unable to obtain a state-issued ID. The subcommittee is exploring litigation and voting requirements in other states and the availability of data in Colorado to measure the number of people who do not have state-issued IDs and would not be able to vote. The subcommittee expects to issue a preliminary report in late summer.



Chair:

Bernie Buescher
(Ireland Stapleton Pryor &
Pascoe PC)

Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Civil Rights & Criminal Law



Coordinator:

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

Nonpartisan Election Call Center

For ten years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has been an active participant in a coalition (Just Vote! Colorado) which sponsors a Nonpartisan Election Call Center. In 2014, 60 Lawyers Committee volunteers spent over 200 hours responding to questions from more than 500 voters around the state related to voting, polling places and other issues. Plans for the 2016 call center are underway and volunteers will answer calls on Election Day and for four or five days during early voting.





Civil Rights & Criminal Law

Co-Chairs:

Tarek Saad
(Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

Phyllis Wan
(Hogan Lovells US LLP)

Administrator:

Christine Snider
(Ballard Spahr LLP)

YLD Team Co-Chairs:

John McHugh
(Reilly Pozner LLP)

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

2015 Volunteers:

29 attorneys, paralegals and law students from 17 law firms/ organizations



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

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 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 social media threats), the presentation empowers student participants to act as jurors to improve their community culture in areas concerning 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. In early 2016, the task force partnered with the Department of Justice in its efforts to reach out to minority communities (particularly those with significant Muslim presence) and will offer presentations in at least five schools. The task force also recently conducted a training attended by more than 30 new volunteers.



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



Chair:

Aaron Boschee
(Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

17 attorneys from 4 law
firms/organizations

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 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 thousands of parcels of land and found that all but a few 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 Los Vallejos area. In 2015, the team reached a landmark stipulation with the owners of the Taylor Ranch regarding the scope of lands entitled to access, resulting in hundreds of additional parcels obtaining access rights. The team also defeated the ranch-owners' attempt to limit access-holders' use rights through motions filed in the District Court.





Civil Rights & Criminal Law

Leadership Team:

- Iris Eytan
(Eytan Nielsen LLC)
- Caleb Durling
(Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC)
- Mark Ivandick
(Disability Law Colorado)
- Ellie Lockwood
(Reilly Pozner LLP)
- Jason Lynch
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
- Jennifer Purrington
(Disability Law Colorado)

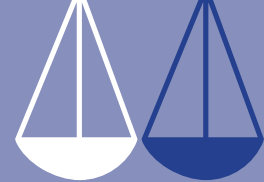


Protecting the Rights of Individuals With Mental Health Challenges: the Jail Wait Litigation

This lawsuit arose from a 2006 action against the State Hospital in Pueblo alleging it failed to timely admit mentally ill individuals who were waiting in Colorado jails for competency examinations which the Hospital had been ordered to conduct. The initial lawsuit was resolved with a court approved settlement that required the Hospital to conduct examinations within 24 days of receiving the court orders to evaluate these individuals. When the settlement expired in 2009, the Hospital stopped providing evaluations within 24 days and the “jail wait” times increased significantly. In August 2011, volunteers filed a federal civil rights action representing the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People (now Disability Law Colorado) against the State of Colorado’s Department of Human Services and the Colorado State Mental Health Hospital in Pueblo, alleging 14th Amendment constitutional violations. A landmark settlement was reached in 2012, with an agreement that requires the State to evaluate individuals for competency in the county jails within 30 days of receipt of the court order and essential police reports. It also forces the State, within 28 days of receiving the court order and essential police reports, to admit to the State Hospital in Pueblo those individuals who have been ordered to have competency examinations in the State Hospital and those already found incompetent and awaiting treatment. In 2015, the Federal District Court agreed to reopen the case, after the plaintiff alleged that the State was in violation of the settlement agreement. The parties have agreed to proceed to mediation to explore resolution of their differences.

Photo courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Civil Rights & Criminal Law



Exploring Transformation of the Criminal Justice System: the Criminal Justice Task Force

This task force grew out of the Sixth Amendment Task Force which successfully challenged the Colorado statute that required individuals charged with a misdemeanor to meet with the prosecutor before they could have a lawyer appointed to represent them. The task force recently turned its attention to exploring possible improvements to the treatment by the criminal justice system of those with mental health challenges.



Leadership Team:

Scott Llewellyn
(Morrison & Foerster LLP)

Trip DeMuth
(Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

Iris Eytan
(Eytan Nielsen LLC)

Shawn Turner
(Holland & Knight LLP)



Poverty & Public Benefits

Helping Indigent Individuals Obtain IDs: 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. In 2015, significant issues included limiting barriers to obtaining gender changes on licenses and IDs for transgender individuals, expediting applications through SB13-251 (the legislation that permits the issuance of drivers licenses and IDs to undocumented individuals and to those who are temporarily in the country legally), and expanding "exceptions processing" for individuals who cannot provide adequate documentation when requesting a license or ID. In early 2016, the Lawyers Committee successfully supported legislation (HB16-1386) that provides funding for low-income Coloradans to secure documents needed to obtain Colorado IDs.



Poverty & Public Benefits



Legal Clinics for the Underserved: Greeley Legal Night

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 addressed 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 2015, over 120 clients were served.



Chair:

Michelle Berge
(Denver Public Schools)

2015 Volunteers:

24 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from over 16 law firms/organizations



Poverty & Public Benefits

Leadership Team:

Tim Macdonald
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Susan Cole
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Ilene Bloom
(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

Angela Reyes

YLD Team Co-Chairs:

Stephanie Kanan
(Lindquist & Venum LLP)

Ellie Lockwood
(Reilly Pozner LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

353 attorneys, paralegals, law students, and interpreters from 150 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 Mi Casa Resource Center and clients are served on a first-come first-served basis. Issues generally include immigration, criminal, family, consumer, and housing matters; volunteer interpreters also are available to assist when needed. In 2015, the Lawyers Committee co-sponsored continuing legal education trainings in family law, helping more than 75 volunteers become better equipped to help individuals with family law concerns at Legal Night. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 21,000 individuals have been served. In 2015 alone, volunteers assisted 2,319 clients.





Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).

*

*

*

*



Poverty & Public Benefits

Project Homeless Connect

Since 2005, the Lawyers Committee has coordinated the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, a 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 Court Judge. Since 2010, the Task Force has provided 829 legal volunteers to these events, more than 2,600 individuals have been helped with legal issues, and more than 1,300 cases have been heard in the Homeless Court. In 2015 the event was cancelled due to inclement weather but has been rescheduled for November 3, 2016.



Leadership Team:

Tim Macdonald
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Susan Cole
(Arnold & Porter LLP)

Carolyn Powell
(Association of Corporate
Counsel—Colorado Chapter)

Alice Norman
(Chief Municipal Public
Defender)

Peter Schwartz
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Poverty & Public Benefits



Ensuring Proper Benefits Processing: CBMS Litigation

More than ten years ago, Colorado implemented a new computer system to streamline the processing of public benefits (the Computer Benefit Management System). 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.



Chair:

Jay Sturhahn
(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)



Poverty & Public Benefits

Chair:

Blain Myhre
(Blain Myhre LLC)

Thanks to departing co-chair
Bobbie Musgrave
(formerly Bryan Cave LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

11 attorneys and staff from 8
law firms/organizations



Protecting Nutritional and Medical Benefits: Public Benefits Task Force

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 2015, the task force challenged the State's failure to provide continuing benefits (Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc.) when a timely appeal is filed, as required by federal law. The task force's efforts resulted in significant changes in State procedures, guaranteeing due process for benefit recipients.



Poverty & Public Benefits



Chair:

Jessica Yates
(Snell & Wilmer)

Thanks to departing co-chair
Bobbie Musgrave
(formerly Bryan Cave LLP)

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

Every year, 4,000 individuals in Colorado's Community Corrections system (half-way houses) have severely limited access to health care. Until recently, the federal government asserted these individuals were not eligible for care under the Colorado Indigent Care Program or for Medicaid or subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. As a result, the only health care options for these individuals were 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) asked the federal government to reevaluate its position. In early 2016, the federal government finally agreed that health care for individuals in community corrections is critical and that parolees and others in halfway houses who are financially eligible may obtain medical services through Medicaid.

Photo courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Community Development

Systemic Legal Problems Related to Housing: The Housing Task Force

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 researched national housing issues and met with numerous local organizations and individuals. Although the task force identified significant issues in affordable housing, it concluded that the current solutions are political, not legal. The task force recently decided to suspend its activities until systemic legal issues can be identified.

Co-Chairs:

Bill Callison
(Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)

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

2015 Volunteers:

23 attorneys from 16 law firms/
organizations

*



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).

Community Development



Leadership Team:

Peter Schwartz
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Melanie Tsuchida
(Colorado Nonprofit
Association)

Hannah Pressler
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Chris Lane
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

2015 Volunteers:

60 attorneys and staff from 19
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 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 over 70 organizations. Since the matching program began, more than 300 nonprofits have been served.





Community Development

Leadership Team:

Peter Schwartz, Chair
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Martina Hinojosa
(Butler Snow LLP)
YLD Special Projects Co-Chair

Rachael Isaacson
(Student, University of Denver
Sturm College of Law)

Tenley Oldak
(Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck, LLP)
YLD Special Projects Co-Chair

Carolyn Powell
(Association of Corporate
Counsel—Colorado Chapter)

Patty Pogge
(Holland & Hart LLP)

Hannah Pressler
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Emily Treece
(Community Resource Center)

Melanie Tsuchida
(Colorado Nonprofit
Association)



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. At the clinic on January 21, 2016, forty volunteers provided legal audits for 19 nonprofits.





Assistance for Indigent 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 its staff, and providing referrals to pro bono attorneys. This year, the task force continued its assistance to IRC and also 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. Other areas of interest at Legal Night were questions regarding the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S. and the anticipated expansion of the executive orders about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans.



Co-Chairs:

Jocelyn Campanaro
(Fisher & Phillips LLP)

Atim Oti
(Oti Law Firm, L.L.C.)

2015 Volunteers:

24 attorneys and
paralegals from 15 law
firms/organizations

Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Immigration

Helping Immigrant Children: Training on SIJS for Non-Immigration Lawyers

In response to the humanitarian crisis involving unaccompanied immigrant children in Colorado and the dire need for pro bono legal representation for this vulnerable population, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP to present a free training on March 16, 2016 on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). SIJS is a legal immigration protection for immigrant children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected and who are juvenile court dependents. Through this form of immigration relief, children have the opportunity to become lawful permanent residents and start their lives anew. Many children currently in proceedings before the Denver Immigration Court are eligible for this form of protection, but lack counsel to represent them, in both juvenile/state and immigration proceedings. More than 40 people attended this training. The attorneys in attendance agreed to take a pro bono case representing an immigrant child.



A Wonderful Gift

From Bruce and Martha Sattler

The Colorado Lawyers Committee recently received a significant gift from the estate of Bruce and Martha Sattler. We are grateful for this generous legacy contribution and we miss our talented and caring friends.

Bruce Sattler was a passionate civil rights champion, a brilliant employment lawyer, and a great friend. One of the founders of the Lawyers Committee in 1978, he was a long-time CLC Board member (and Board Chair) and tireless volunteer on many task forces.

Bruce was a leader in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Colorado for 45 years. He also served on the boards of Colorado Legal Services and Free Speech TV, and worked with many other nonprofits.

Martha Sattler was a life-long champion of civil liberties. For many years, she was a volunteer administrator for the Colorado Lawyers Committee Hate Crimes Education Task Force. After a successful career as a scientist, Martha began a long second career with the ACLU of Colorado, volunteering on the Board and later working as Intake Director and Associate Director. Martha also volunteered for many other organizations, including Project Safeguard, Community Shares, Summer Scholars, and the Legal Center.

“ Apart from both of their unique talents, intelligence, wit, passion, warmth, and spirit, they were both such incredibly wonderful souls. As with Martha’s loss earlier [in 2015], it is a sadly diminished world we all live in now, because Bruce is no longer a part of it. Let us all recommit ourselves to fight the good fight, as Bruce and Martha so passionately and unwaveringly did, and would expect and extol us to do, in their honor. ”

— Steve Zansberg



Thank You



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



RICOH

imagine. change.

This document was produced compliments of

RICOH Legal Services

WWW.RICOH-USA.COM

Colorado Lawyers Committee

1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 4100 • Denver, CO 80203

www.coloradolawyerscommittee.org