



Colorado Lawyers Committee

2017 Annual Report





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

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Staff



Connie Talmage
Executive Director



Kathleen McCrohan
Associate Director



Emily Jodock
Office Manager

With thanks to our former Associate Director, Elisa Cozad, and our former Office Manager, Esther Gross, for all their hard work during 2016.

Executive Committee



Iris Eytan, Board Chair
Eytan Nielsen LLC



Peter Schwartz
Secretary/Treasurer
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



Nancy Elkind
Elkind Alterman Harston PC



Rebecca Fischer
Sherman & Howard L.L.C.



Tess Hand-Bender,
YLD Representative
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



Tim Macdonald
Arnold & Porter Kaye
Scholer LLP



Lauren Schmidt
Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck, LLP



Dave Stark
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP



Richard Westfall
Hale Westfall, LLP



Maureen Witt
Holland & Hart LLP

Colorado Lawyers Committee



About Us

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of 71 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 39 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 23 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, more than 795 volunteers contributed more than 7,500 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 130 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, contributing law firms, and staff. Thank you to the many individuals who have committed their time and expertise to improving the lives of others through the law.

23
Active
Projects

795
Volunteers

7,500
Hours



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Contributing Law Firms & Board of Directors

(including Specialty Bar Representatives)



Akerman LLP

Justin D. Balsler

Antonio Bates Bernard PC

Howard M. Haenel

Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Lance J. Ream

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Timothy R. Macdonald

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

BRADFORD, LTD.

Aaron P. Bradford

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 Hispanic Bar Association

M. Antonio Gallegos

Colorado Indian Bar Association

Jennifer H. Weddle

Colorado LGBT Bar Association

Arash Jahanian

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

Christopher W. Myers

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Gregory S. Tamkin

Downey & Associates, PC

Thomas E. Downey, Jr.

Drexler Law, LLC

Regina T. Drexler

Elkind Alterman Harston PC

Nancy B. Elkind

Epstein Patierno, LLP

John H. Tatlock

Eytan Nielsen LLC

Iris Eytan

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

J. William Callison

David W. Stark

Fennemore Craig, P.C.

Troy Robert Rackham

Fortis Law Partners LLC

Jeffrey M. Brenman

H&K Law, LLC

Laura J. Hazen

Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.

Norman R. Mueller

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

Susan L. Boothby

Ilene Lin Bloom, P.C.

Ilene Lin Bloom

Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC

Sarah W. Benedict

Jones & Keller, P.C.

Lucas T. Ritchie

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

Levin Sitcoff, PC

Bradley A. Levin

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

John Cardinal Parks

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Kenneth F. Rossman, IV

Lindquist & Vennum LLP

Howard Kenison

McCormick and Murphy, P.C.

Kirk R. McCormick

McDermott Stuart & Ward, LLP

Thomas R. Ward

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

Richard A. Westfall

Hale Westfall, LLP

Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.

Tracy L. Ashmore

Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC

Maritza Dominguez Braswell

Sam Cary Bar Association

Nicole Gorham

Shapiro Biegging Barber Otteson LLP

I. Thomas Biegging

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Rebecca Anderson Fischer

Tamir I. Goldstein

Smith Immigration

Jennifer M. Smith

Snell & Wilmer

James D. Kilroy

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

Peter S. Gould

Stinson Leonard Street LLP

Temkin Hardt & Longenecker 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 Witt Law Firm

Jesse H. Witt

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 lawyers (under 40) or new attorneys (in practice less than 8 years) from law firms that contribute to the Lawyers Committee. General Membership in the CLC YLD is open (without charge) to young and new attorneys and law students. Members are invited to participate in one or more of the following teams:

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

In its first year, the YLD drafted a governing charter, produced and directed a video shown at the Awards Luncheon, expanded and strengthened the Hate Crimes Education Program, took over running Denver Legal Night, actively supported the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the Nonpartisan Election Call Center, and held a number of YLD events, including a successful Night at the Rockies and an exciting Casino Night in January 2017. Over 130 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.

CLC Young Lawyers Division Board

Tess Hand-Bender

(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
YLD Chair

Lauren Carboni *

(Dentons)
YLD Chair-Elect, Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

Matt Linton

(Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)
YLD Chair Emeritus, Public Relations Team Co-Chair

Abby Hinchcliff

(Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP)
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Martina Hinojosa*

(Butler Snow LLP)
Special Projects Team Co-Chair

Stephanie Kanan

(Snell & Wilmer)
Legal Night Team Co-Chair

Chris Lane

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

Beth Ann Lennon

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

Ellie Lockwood

(Snell & Wilmer)
Legal Night Team Co-Chair

John McHugh*

(Reilly Pozner LLP)
Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Tenley Oldak

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

Joe Phillips*

(Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP)
Strategic Planning Co-Chair

Jennie Wray

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

**Not Pictured*

#ProBonoRocks



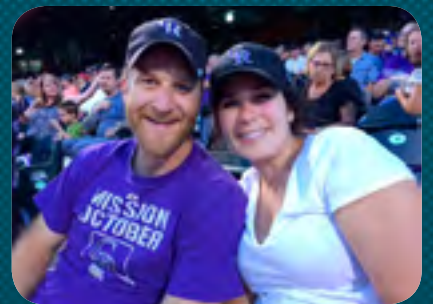
Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



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Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



2016 Honorees

We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon each May. Photographs of some of our 2016 honorees are included on these pages.



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

Individual of the Year Recipient Aaron Boschee (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP) with Iris Eytan and Connie Talmage



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.

2016 Honorees



Outstanding Sustained Contribution Recipient, Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC) with Larry Theis and Bobbee Musgrave (Bryan Cave LLP, Retired)



Tim Macdonald (Arnold & Porter LLP), Past Chair Award Recipient

We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2016:

Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees

Arnold & Porter LLP
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Dentons

Individual of the Year Nominees

Ilene Lin Bloom (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
David W. Stark (Faegre Baker Daniels LLP)
Phyllis V. Wan (Hogan Lovells US LLP)



2016 Awards Luncheon

A Grand Celebration







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 (Retired)

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 C. Klingsporn

Bradley A. Levin

Levin Sitcoff, P.C.

Scott F. Llewellyn

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Timothy R. Macdonald

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Bobbee J. Musgrave

Daphne O'Connor

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer 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

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and
Dorr LLP

Richard A. Westfall

Hale Westfall, LLP

Dee P. Wisor

Butler Snow LLP

Cole A. Wist

Colo. House of Representatives/
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak &
Stewart, P.C.

Maureen Reidy Witt

Holland & Hart LLP



2016 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 children in Colorado to determine if there are any legal problems that would benefit from advocacy of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers. Recently, task force volunteers have been 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)



*

Photo courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).

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 educational issues. Much of the Task Force's work during the last five years has focused on litigation, including *Dwyer v. Colorado*, which alleged that the State's \$1 billion per year cuts to school funding since 2010 are in violation of Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution. The Colorado Supreme Court upheld the cuts in 2014. In addition, the Education Task Force examined 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 State for their share of the "negative factor" (implemented by the State to cut \$1 billion per year from education). Most recently, the Task Force is exploring the re-segregation of Denver Public Schools, possible disparate impact claims and the potential impact in Colorado of the Every Student Succeeds Act, as well as steps that can be taken to address school finance deficits in Colorado.

Co-Chairs:

Lauren Schmidt
(Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck, LLP)

John Tatlock (Epstein
Patierno, LLP)

Thanks to departing Co-
Chair, Terry Miller (Davis
Graham & Stubbs LLP)

2016 Volunteers:

45 volunteers from
24 law firms/organizations



Photos 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)

2016 Volunteers:

44 volunteers from 26
law firms/organizations



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Civil Rights & Criminal Law



Nonpartisan Election Call Center

For 11 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has been an active participant in a coalition (Just Vote! Election Protection Colorado) which sponsors a Nonpartisan Election Call Center. In 2016, almost 100 Lawyers Committee volunteers received training and answered phones for 18 days during early voting and on Election Day. Volunteers responded to questions from more than 1,700 voters around the state related to registration, voting procedures, polling places, mail ballots, and similar issues.



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

2016 Volunteers:
97 volunteers from
41 law firms/organizations



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Civil Rights & Criminal Law

Voting ID Task Force

In November 2015, the Lawyers Committee created a task force to explore possible consequences if Colorado enacts more restrictive ID requirements as a requirement for voting (as some other states have done). During 2016, volunteers explored whether such restrictions might disenfranchise significant numbers of individuals (mostly poor and elderly) who are unable to obtain a state issued ID, or encounter significant roadblocks in obtaining a state issued ID. The task force also examined 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.

Chair:

Bernie Buescher
(Ireland Stapleton
Pryor & Pascoe PC)

2016 Volunteers:

53 volunteers from 31
law firms/organizations

*



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).

Civil Rights & Criminal Law



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

For more than 20 years, volunteers have presented an educational program on Colorado's Hate/Bias Motivated Crimes Statutes to schools and community groups around the state. Using a fictional trial format involving a high-school student charged with hate crimes against a Muslim teacher, a perceived LGBT student and others (including by way of a social media threat), the presentation empowers student participants to act as jurors to improve their community culture in areas concerning diversity, discrimination, stereotyping, inclusion and preventing the severe harm caused by hateful slurs and biased actions. In 2016, volunteers presented more than 20 educational trials to over 900 students. The Task Force also partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice in its efforts to reach out to minority communities (particularly those with significant Muslim and Sikh presence) and offered presentations in schools with highly diverse populations. The Task Force has grown in size with many new volunteers from the Department of Justice and the CLC Young Lawyers Division, enabling the Task Force to keep up with an increase in requests from new schools and groups seeking to foster a culture of inclusion rather than communities of exclusion. The Task Force also held a volunteer appreciation reception at Sherman & Howard L.L.C. in November to celebrate a successful year of presentations and recruit new volunteers.

*



*



Co-Chairs:

Phyllis Wan
(Hogan Lovells US LLP)

Tarek Saad
(Squire Patton Boggs
(US) LLP)

John McHugh
(Reilly Pozner LLP)

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

Administrator:

Christine Snider
(Ballard Spahr LLP)

2016 Volunteers:

56 attorneys, paralegals
and law students from 20
law firms/organizations

Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).



Civil Rights & Criminal Law

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-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 fenced off the land. The Lawyers Committee has been active in this litigation for the past 20 years and has successfully obtained rights for 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 2016, the team successfully challenged an attempt by the owners of Taylor Ranch to cut off yet-to-be-identified landowners' rights through notice by publication and persuaded the Court to certify its prior rulings as final, while leaving the case open for any future landowners to make access claims. The case is once again on appeal before the Colorado Court of Appeals—for the fourth time.

Chair:

Aaron Boschee
(Squire Patton Boggs
(US) LLP)

2016 Volunteers:

18 attorneys and
paralegals from 6
firms/organizations

*



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Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).



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

This lawsuit arose from a 2006 action against the State Hospital in Pueblo alleging it failed to timely admit individuals with mental illness 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 with the State 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 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 binding the State to a 10-year agreement. The agreement requires the State to evaluate individuals for competency held in the county jails within 24 or 28 days of receipt of the court order and essential police reports. In 2015, an audit by the litigation team revealed that the State provided numerous months of false reports indicating full compliance. The investigation revealed that numerous detainees were waiting more than 100 days for competency evaluations. In October 2015, the litigation team requested the Federal Court to reopen the case and then in July 2016 reached another favorable settlement with the State. The settlement provides for quarterly meetings, more detailed reports, an extension of the agreement, and an independent consultant to monitor the State’s compliance.



Leadership Team:

Iris Eytan
(Eytan Nielsen LLC)

Caleb Durling (Rollin
Braswell Fisher LLC)

Mark Ivandick and Kelsey
Lesco (Disability Law
Colorado)

Ellie Lockwood
(Snell & Wilmer)

Jason Lynch (Davis
Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Jenn Purrington
(Disability Law Colorado)
(not pictured)

Photo courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Poverty & Public Benefits

Joint ID Task Force

There are major barriers in Colorado to obtain a state-issued identification card (ID), particularly for those with limited resources. Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has worked to address the barriers facing homeless and other individuals in obtaining Colorado IDs, without which they are unable to secure housing, employment, and other critical services. In early 2013, at the request of the Lawyers Committee, Governor Hickenlooper's office created a Joint ID Task Force. Participants include representatives from the ID Collaboration Project (housed at Colorado Legal Services), at least six staff from the Department of Revenue (DOR) (including the Executive Directors and Deputy Directors of DOR and the Division of Motor Vehicles) and the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee. Individuals from the Department of Corrections, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and other organizations are invited, as appropriate, to attend quarterly meetings where individual issues and systemic barriers to obtaining IDs are discussed. In 2016, significant issues included updating and expanding the list of documents accepted by DMV as proof of identity, allowing for alternate proof of social security numbers, and conforming the issuance of commercial driver license for natives of Mexico and Canada to US immigration policy. In 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 Clinic

Greeley Legal Night was established in 2009, as a joint project of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Association of the Colorado Bar Association, and Weld County Legal Services. Since 2010, the Task Force has run a legal clinic 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 2,300 individuals have been assisted by Task Force volunteers at Greeley Legal Night. In 2016, over 168 clients were served.



Chair:
Michelle Berge
(Denver Public Schools)

2016 Volunteers:
25 attorneys, paralegals,
law students and
interpreters from 19 law
firms/organizations



Poverty & Public Benefits

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 are available to assist when needed. In 2016, the Lawyers Committee co-sponsored a training, on the ethics of pro bono service, designed to allow volunteers to become better equipped to help individuals at Legal Night. In early 2017, the leadership team partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office and four other agencies to arrange for "know your rights" presentations for clients on immigration and other issues. Those four agencies include the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel; the Office for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Office for Civil Rights. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 26,000 individuals have been served. In 2016, 190 volunteers assisted 1,740 clients.

Leadership Team:

Stephanie Kanan (Snell & Wilmer)

Ellie Lockwood (Snell & Wilmer)

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

Angela Reyes

Thanks to departing leaders Susan Cole and Tim Macdonald (both of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP)

2016 Volunteers:

190 attorneys, paralegals, law students and interpreters from 112 law firms/organizations



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).

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Poverty & Public Benefits



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC (except *).



Poverty & Public Benefits

Leadership Team:

Susan Cole
(Arnold & Porter Kaye
Scholer LLP)

Tim Macdonald
(Arnold & Porter Kaye
Scholer LLP)

Alice Norman
(Chief Denver Municipal
Public Defender)

Carolyn Powell
(Association of
Corporate Counsel—
Colorado Chapter)

Peter Schwartz
(Davis Graham &
Stubbs LLP)

2016 Volunteers:

89 attorneys,
paralegals, law
students and
interpreters from 32
law firms/organizations

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 Judge. Since 2010, the Task Force has provided 918 legal volunteers to these events, more than 2,700 individuals have been helped with legal issues, and more than 1,475 cases have been heard in Homeless Court. In 2016, 89 volunteers helped over 174 individuals.



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 benefits processing, and the case was subsequently settled. After many years of compliance monitoring and working with State officials to ensure allocation of sufficient resources for benefits processing, the CBMS task force is proud to report that in 2016 the State finally met the compliance standards set forth under federal law and the terms of the court-monitored settlement. The State is finally devoting adequate resources to improve application processing for essential public benefits, and the litigation has been dismissed.



Chair:

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

With Thanks to Elisabeth Arenales and others at the Colorado Center on Law and Policy for their hard work on this project.



Community Development

Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic

Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has co-sponsored a Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic for small nonprofits with limited operating budgets. Teams of transactional attorneys review a checklist with participating nonprofits to evaluate their legal health. Client meetings are preceded by a CLE training for participating lawyers on Colorado nonprofit law. In 2016, there were two clinics, where 80 attorneys assisted 39 nonprofits. At the Clinic in early 2017, 41 attorneys helped 17 nonprofits.

Leadership Team:

Peter Schwartz, Chair
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

David Coats (Student,
University of Denver
Sturm College of Law)

Sam Edwards (Holland
& Hart LLP)

Martina Hinojosa
(Butler Snow LLP)

Tenley Oldak
(Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck, LLP)

Carolyn Powell
(Association of
Corporate Counsel—
Colorado Chapter)

Hannah Pressler (Davis
Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Scott Thompson
(Budget Analyst,
Colorado General
Assembly)

Melanie Tsuchida
(Colorado Nonprofit
Association)

2016 Volunteers:

100 attorneys,
paralegals, law
students and
interpreters from
58 law firms/
organizations



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.

Community Development



Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Community Development

Leadership Team:

Chris Lane
(Davis Graham &
Stubbs LLP) (Chair)

Melanie Tsuchida
(Colorado Nonprofit
Association)

Hannah Pressler
(Davis Graham &
Stubbs LLP)

Thanks to departing
Chair, Peter Schwartz
(Davis Graham &
Stubbs LLP) who
created this program
and guided it through
its service to the first
300 nonprofits.

2016 Volunteers:

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

Assisting Small Colorado Nonprofits: the Nonprofit Pro Bono Matching Program

Since 2009, this Task Force has, in partnership with the Colorado Nonprofit Association, provided transactional-type legal services and representation to budget-constrained nonprofit organizations. While the Task Force initially assisted only nonprofits that served children or the indigent, in 2010 the Task Force broadened the scope of its work to include all small nonprofits whose operating budgets do not permit them to retain legal counsel. Last year, volunteers provided transactional-type legal assistance to over 40 organizations. Since the matching program began, more than 340 nonprofits have been served.



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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. In 2016, the task force continued its assistance of IRC and also helped to provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night seeking assistance regarding the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to US citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders.



Leadership Team:

Nancy Elkind
(Elkind Alterman
Harston PC)

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

Jocelyn Campanaro
(Fisher & Phillips LLP)

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Hartmannphoto, LLC.



Immigration

Helping Immigrant Children: SIJS Training 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 Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP to present two free trainings, on March 16, 2016 and on February 24, 2017 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. 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 the training in 2016; 140 lawyers attended the 2017 training. All attendees agreed to take a pro bono case representing an immigrant child.

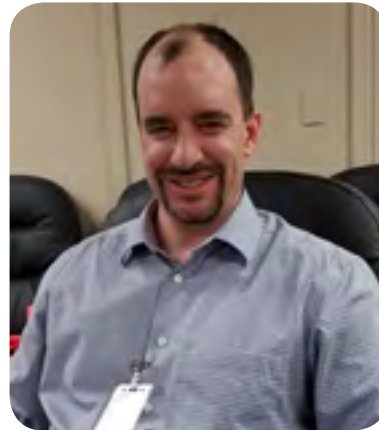


Immigration



Helping Immigrants: The Federal Immigration Litigation Task Force

In early 2017, the Lawyers Committee, in partnership with several other organizations, created a new federal immigration task force. This group is expected to address civil rights violations arising out of changes in federal immigration law.



*

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Photos courtesy of
Hartmannphoto, LLC
(except *).



Immigration

Helping Immigrants: The Consulate Project

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

Chair:

John Walsh
(Wilmer Cutler
Pickering Hale
and Dorr LLP)



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Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is pleased to announce the creation of the **Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship**, funded from the generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler.

Bruce Sattler was one of the 1978 founders of the Lawyers Committee, a long-time CLC Board member (and Board Chair), a civil rights champion, and a great friend. 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 true supporter of civil liberties and long-time 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.

The Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship will fund a law student every other summer to work at the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

The Fellowship will begin in 2017. Congratulations to **Megan Barkdull**, the first recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship. Megan is a first-year law student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law who will work at the Lawyers Committee this summer. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at Auburn University. While an undergraduate, Megan worked for The Auburn Magazine as an intern and The Auburn Plainsman as an opinions editor. After graduating, Megan worked for an animal shelter as a shelter ambassador. Megan's goal after law school is to advocate for those who lack a voice in our legal system and to effect social change through research, litigation, and pro bono work.

Thank you, Bruce and Martha and congratulations, Megan!



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Hartmannphoto, LLC.

THANK YOU!



Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



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Hartmannphoto, LLC.



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