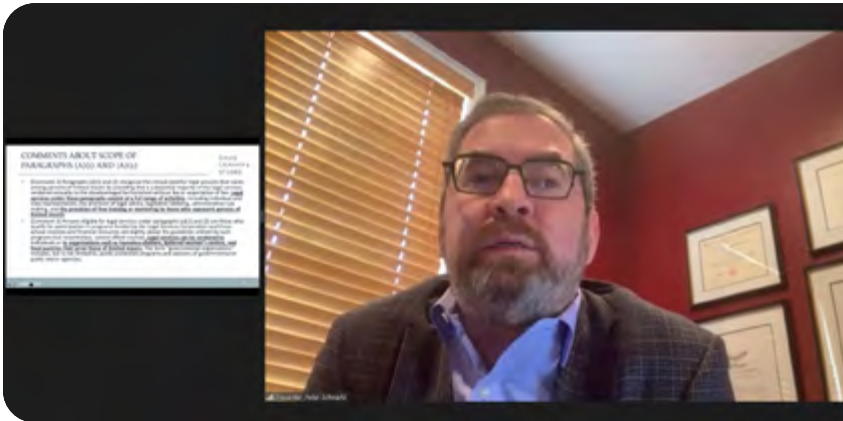
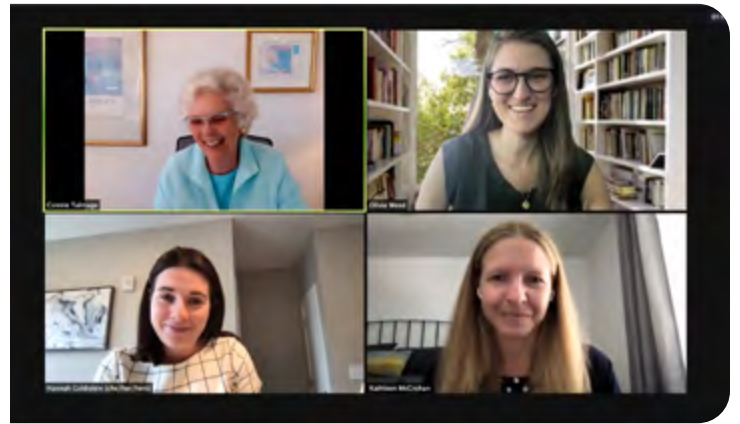
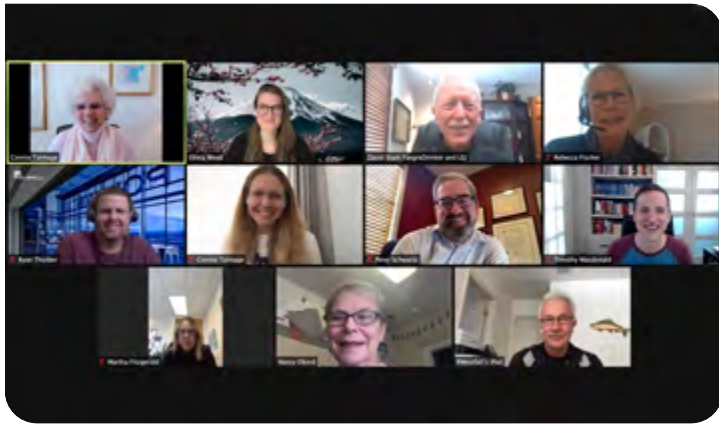




# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Photos on cover taken by our wonderful pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC are indicated in black on this graphic.





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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## STAFF



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BOARD CHAIR  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.



Richard Westfall  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
WESTFALL LAW LLC



Nancy Elkind  
ELKIND ALTERMAN  
HARSTON PC (RETIRED)



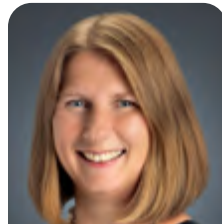
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



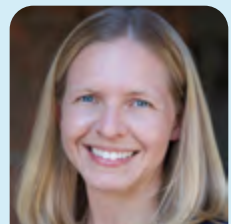
Iris Eytan  
EYTAN NIELSEN LLC



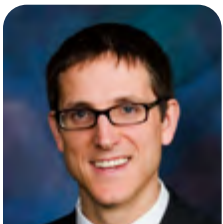
Martha Fitzgerald  
BROWNSTEIN HYATT  
FARBER SCHRECK, LLP



Liz Harding  
POL SINELLI PC



Kathleen McCrohan  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Tim Macdonald  
ARNOLD & PORTER



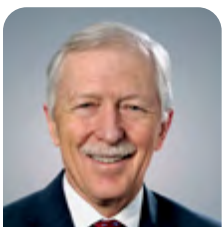
Cait McHugh  
YLD BOARD CHAIR  
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER  
CHRISTIE LLP



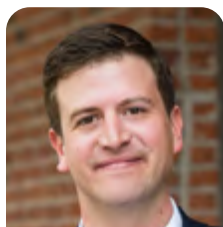
Peter Schwartz  
DAVIS GRAHAM &  
STUBBS LLP



Kaitlynn Sartor  
OFFICE MANAGER



Dave Stark  
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE &  
REATH LLP



Mack Wilding  
YLD BOARD CHAIR-ELECT  
FORTIS LAW PARTNERS LLC



Maureen Witt  
HOLLAND & HART LLP

With thanks to Abby Hinchcliff (formerly Bartlit Beck LLP) and Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC) for your leadership and service on the Executive Committee during 2019, 2020 and 2021.



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 2021

Dear Colorado Lawyers Committee family:

This is our first annual report since May 2019. What a challenging 18 months it has been. For all of us. None of us could have imagined the events that have occurred: the pandemic, the politicization of public health, the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, the disputed national election, the January 6th insurrection, and the delta variant. It has been exhausting. And yet, the needs that the Colorado Lawyers Committee was created to address more than 43 years ago, did not disappear because many of us were at home in our yoga pants, spending more time with our families than would ever have seemed possible.

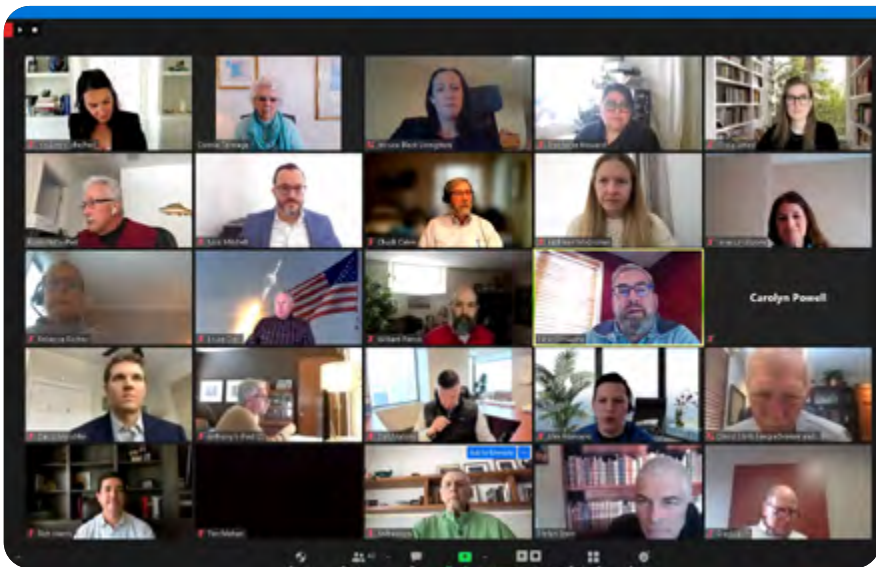
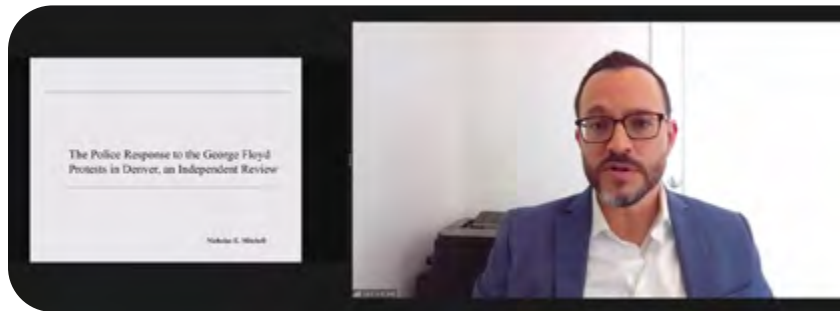
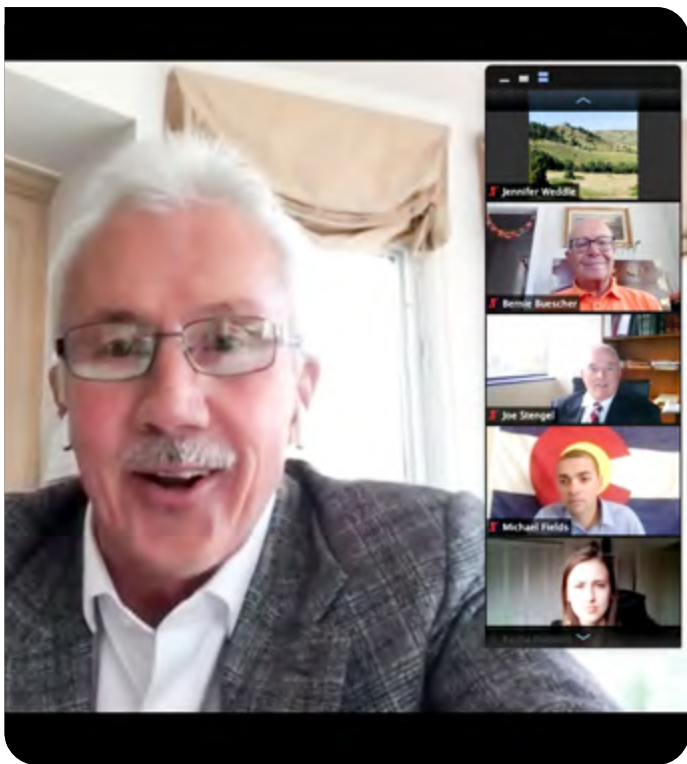


I am proud to tell you that, even from home, Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers continued their long tradition of making a difference in our community for children and the underserved. Our Denver Legal Night program easily pivoted from in person to virtual and, at least twice a month, individuals with serious legal issues were able to spend 45 minutes with an experienced lawyer exploring solutions. Our Hate Crimes Education volunteers also found a way to offer this important program about Colorado's Hate Crimes law virtually to middle school students and adults, to further the discussion about the importance of diversity in our community and the value of preventing the spread of racial slurs and hateful actions. Similarly, our Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was able to provide, via zoom, comprehensive audits for small nonprofits on their legal health, in virtual meetings with teams of lawyers. Our volunteers have been nimble, flexible, and passionate in making sure these significant efforts were able to continue in new ways.

Our volunteers have also been amazing in their willingness to respond to new needs created by recent events. During 2020, we established a Racial Justice Task Force to assure that the Lawyers Committee is doing all we can to be proactive in expanding racial justice. Also in 2020, when we learned of 14 medically vulnerable people detained in ICE custody (nine of whom were transgender women living with HIV and were at high risk of getting COVID-19) a group of CLC volunteers stepped up and filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking their release. Another group of volunteers, in response to the devastating impact of the pandemic on small businesses, created a program that provided lawyers to more than 250 small businesses, many of them minority owned.

While the last year and a half has been filled with turmoil and disruption, it is heartwarming to see the continued commitment of our volunteers to making a difference in our community.

Connie





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HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
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Ilene Lin Bloom

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& PASCOE, PC  
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Steven C. Lass

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MCDERMOTT STUART  
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SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.  
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I. Thomas Bieging

PERKINS COIE LLP  
W. Matthew Pierce

POLSINELLI PC  
Sean R. Gallagher  
Elizabeth E. Harding

RECHT KORNFELD PC  
Marnie Adams

RICHARDS CARRINGTON, LLC  
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SAM CARY BAR ASSOCIATION  
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Pascal C. Schunk

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Rebecca Anderson Fischer  
Tamir I. Goldstein

SNELL & WILMER  
James D. Kilroy

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ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO  
Katayoun A. Donnelly

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(US) LLP  
Peter S. Gould

STINSON LLP  
Jeffrey D. Harrison

THE HARRIS LAW FIRM  
Richard A. Harris

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
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Patricia M. Jarzobski

THE MANDELL LAW FIRM, LLC  
Victoria Mandell

THE WITT LAW FIRM  
Jesse H. Witt

TIERNEY LAWRENCE LLC  
Martha M. Tierney

WESTFALL LAW, LLC  
Richard A. Westfall

WILKINSON BARKER  
KNAUER, LLP  
Matthew S. Larson

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP  
Mary V. Sooter

YURI BAZAN LAW FIRM  
Yuridia Bazan



# 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.

In its first six years, the YLD drafted a governing charter, produced and directed two videos shown at the Awards Luncheons, expanded and strengthened the Hate Crimes Education Program, took over running Denver Legal Night, actively supported the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the Nonpartisan Election Call Center, and held a number of YLD fundraising events, including YLD Night at the Rockies and Casino Night as well as two virtual events (Barristers Behind the Bar and Geeks Who Drink) which helped raise over \$22,000 for future CLC projects, including the YLD Grant Program.

In August 2019, the YLD created a new CLE Series where YLD members learn trial advocacy skills through trainings led by distinguished Denver trial attorneys and judges. When the program was suspended in early 2020 due to the pandemic, the YLD created its Lunches with Legends Program, a series of monthly lunchtime zoom calls with well-known lawyers and judges.

Over 300 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.

With thanks to former Board members **Lauren P. Carboni** (Foley & Lardner LLP), **Tess Hand-Bender** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), **Abigail Moss Hinchcliff** (Office of the Colorado Attorney General; formerly Bartlit Beck LLP), **Stephanie A. Kanan** (Snell & Wilmer), **Ellie Lockwood** (Snell & Wilmer), **Kelly Lunch Murphy** (formerly The Harris Law Firm P.C.) and **Jennie Reid Wray** (The Harris Law Firm P.C.) as well as to former Law Student Representatives **Annika K. Adams** (Highlands Law Firm; formerly University of Denver Sturm College of Law), **Miles Williams** (MW Legal Group; formerly University of Colorado Law School), and **Anjie Zhi** (Ballard Spahr LLP; formerly University of Colorado Law School) for your leadership and service on the YLD Board during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

## CLC YLD Board

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

**Mark D. Wilding** (Fortis Law Partners LLC), YLD Chair Elect, Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

**Edgar Barraza** (Fox Rothschild LLP), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

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

**Therese Fox** (Arnold & Porter), Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

**Elizabeth Froehlke** (Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP), Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

**Jonathan M. Goldstein** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP), Strategic Planning Team Co-Chair

**Alexis L. Hailpern** (Jackson Kelly PLLC), Public Relations & Membership Team Co-Chair

**Alyssa L. Levy** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

**Alex Mancero** (Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

**Stephen C. Robin** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

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

**Whitney W. Wolfe** (The Harris Law Firm P.C.), Legal Night Team Co-Chair

In 2019, the YLD Board added law students to the Board. This year’s law school representatives are:

**John Ellis** (University of Colorado Law School)

**Hannah Goldstein** (University of Denver Sturm College of Law)







## STATEMENT OF THE COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

### Racial Discrimination Is Intolerable

We have watched with deep sadness, pain, and anger at the blatant racial injustice of multiple recent events. We mourn the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all those who are victims of the violence of a racist system. We condemn all acts of police brutality against Black men and women and stand with the Black community and all our colleagues to denounce police brutality, the dismissal of Black lives, and the denial of justice.

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has a long history of working to eliminate systemic injustices. Our Hate Crimes Education program for more than 25 years has educated communities and students about overcoming racial and ethnic hatred. Many other projects have challenged economic inequities; our new Small Business Program has offered legal assistance to more than 250 small businesses struggling with the impact of COVID-19, particularly minority-owned businesses that have long suffered from economic discrimination. Our work pivots on the fundamental value that all people deserve equal access to both opportunity and justice. Our Black community has been denied this access for far too long, and it is unacceptable.

However, in this moment it is not enough to focus on the work we have accomplished. We must remind ourselves that there is much work to be done. We must take this opportunity to join the voices of the Black community, heed their message and answer their charge. Today, we recommit to stand in solidarity with the Black community and with all individuals who have suffered unacceptable discrimination, to educate ourselves and to continue the fight in the on-going battle against systemic oppression, racism, and hate. We commit to continue to reexamine who we are and to seek to ensure that all our actions and projects support the goal of a healthy, strong, and diverse community.

We thank all our partnering firms and lawyers who have already dedicated their time and who will continue to dedicate their time to address these complex issues. With you by our side, and with other colleagues and friends who are committed to equality, we will fight for a healthier, safer, and more just world. A world that recognizes that *Black Lives Matter*.



# COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

## Pandemic Update

We are happy to present this Colorado Lawyers Committee 2021 Annual Report. Because of COVID-19, we did not publish an Annual Report in 2020, so this Report includes our work since our last report in May 2019. We may all have been working remotely and meeting via zoom, but our volunteers have not slowed down! Thank you all.



## About Us

Founded in 1978, the Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of almost 80 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities. For the past 43 years, Lawyers Committee volunteers have focused on major policy issues and systemic change through legal advocacy, negotiation, and litigation, using the unique skills of lawyers in service of others. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is affiliated with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington D.C. and similar organizations in seven other cities throughout the country.

## Our Work

The Colorado Lawyers Committee has 29 active projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers contributed more than 7,700 hours and \$3.57 million worth of time to Colorado Lawyers Committee projects. In addition, the CLC Young Lawyers Division has engaged more than 300 young (or recently admitted) lawyers and law students who are making a difference on Colorado Lawyers Committee projects and on six YLD teams. The successes of the past two years would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers, supporting law firms, and staff. Thank you to the many individuals who have committed their time and expertise to improving the lives of others through the law for the past 43 years.



**ACTIVE PROJECTS**



**VOLUNTEERS**



**HOURS**



# 2019 HONOREES



We are delighted to honor our volunteers and contributing law firms at our annual Awards Luncheon. Photographs of some of our May 2019 honorees are included on these pages.

Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient **Daniel A. Sweetser**



Law Firm of the Year Recipient **Snell & Wilmer**

Team of the Year Recipient **Jail Wait**  
**Litigation: Iris Eytan** (Eytan Nielsen LLC), **Allison Butler** (Disability Law Colorado), **Sean Connelly** (Connelly Law LLC), **Caleb Durling** (Fox Rothschild LLC), **Mark Ivandick** (Disability Law Colorado), **Scott Llewellyn** (Morrison Foerster LLP), **Ellie Lockwood** (Snell & Wilmer), **Kathleen Mullen**, **Jenn Purrington** (Disability Law Colorado), **Tim Scalo** (Snell & Wilmer), and **Byeongsook Seo** (Snell & Wilmer)





## 2019 HONOREES

### Special Recognition Awards were presented to:

**Melanie Tsuchida** (Colorado Nonprofit Association) for her coordination and administration of the Colorado Lawyers Committee Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinics and the CLC Nonprofit Working Group, and

### CLC Young Lawyers Division Board Members (past and present)

**Adrienne D. Boyd** (Arnold & Porter)

**Lauren P. Carboni** (Dentons)

**Elizabeth Froehlke** (Littler Mendelson P.C.)

**Nathaniel J. Hake** (formerly Arnold & Porter LLP; currently Hake Law LLC)

**Tess Hand-Bender** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

**Abigail Moss Hinchcliff** (Bartlit Beck LLP)

**Martina Hinojosa** (Butler Snow LLP)

**Stephanie A. Kanan** (Snell & Wilmer)

**Christopher John Lane** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

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

**Matthew M. Linton** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)

**Ellie Lockwood** (Snell & Wilmer)

**Caitlin McHugh** (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

**John M. McHugh** (Reilly Pozner LLP)



**Kelly Lynch Murphy** (The Harris Law Firm P.C.)

**Jill Tenley Oldak** (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)

**Joseph G. Phillips** (formerly Arnold & Porter LLP; currently Office of the Colorado Attorney General)

**Ryan B. Thurber** (Polsinelli PC)

**Mark D. Wilding** (Ballard Spahr LLP)

**Marie E. Williams** (formerly Faegre Baker Daniels LLP; currently Marie Williams Law LLC)

**Jennie Reid Wray** (The Harris Law Firm P.C.)

We also honored the following law firms and volunteers in 2019:

### Law Firm of the Year Award Nominees

**Faegre Baker Daniels LLP**

**Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC**

**Polsinelli PC**

### Team of the Year Nominees

**The Anti-Bullying Subcommittee of the Education Task Force:** **Jessica C. Collier** (Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP), **Sara Nicole Maeglin** (Lohf Shaiman Jacobs Hyman & Feiger PC), **John M. McHugh** (Reilly Pozner LLP), **Daniel Ramos** (One Colorado), **Mark A. Spitz** (Spitz Legal Counsel LLC) and **Denise M. Whinnen** (Gill Foundation)

**The Hate Crimes National Team:** **Elizabeth Froehlke** (Littler Mendelson P.C.), **Beth Ann Lennon** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), **John M. McHugh** (Reilly Pozner LLP), **Tarek F. M. Saad** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Christine Snider** (Ballard Spahr LLP), **Valeria Spencer** (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado), **Phyllis V. Wan** (Wanderful Ventures LLC), and **Mark D. Wilding** (Ballard Spahr LLP)

**The Taylor Ranch Litigation Team:** **Jason C. Astle** (The Law Firm of Springer & Steinberg, P.C.), **Aaron A. Boschee** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Stephanie Carr** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Bennett L. Cohen** (Polsinelli PC), **Sarah Conley** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Jerome A. DeHerrera**, **Rebecca Anderson Fischer** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), **Watson W. Galleher** (Don Galleher & Saliman PC), **Jeffrey A. Goldstein**, **Peter S. Gould** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Martina Hinojosa** (Butler Snow LLP), **Jonathan S. King** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Carolyn L. McIntosh** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Laura Joan McNabb** (Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP), **Brent Owen** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP), **Elizabeth Weil Shaw** (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP).



# 2019 AWARDS LUNCHEON





# A GRAND CELEBRATION



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



## 2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

**Julie E. Anderson**  
ANDERSON HEMMAT, LLC

**Catharyn A. Baird**  
ETHICSGAME, LLC

**Frederick J. Baumann**  
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

**Michael L. Bender**  
PERKINS COIE LLP

**William C. Berger**  
L2S LEGAL, LLC

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COHEN|BLACK LAW LLC

**Joan Blaik**  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

**Susan L. Boothby**  
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**Aaron P. Bradford**  
SHERIDAN ROSS PC

**Bernie Buescher**  
IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR & PASCOE, PC

**Mary Beth Buescher**  
ATTORNEY (RETIRED)

**A. Bruce Campbell**  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT (RETIRED)

**Russell E. Carparelli**  
AB-CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES

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CONNELLY LAW LLC

**Frederic K. Conover**  
MOYE WHITE LLP

**George B. Curtis**  
GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP (RETIRED)

**Lucy Hojo Denson**  
HINDS AND HINDS FAMILY LAW, PC

**Samuel E. Edwards**  
HOLLAND & HART LLP

**Nancy B. Elkind**  
ELKIND ALTERMAN HARSTON PC (RETIRED)

**Iris Eytan**  
EYTAN NIELSEN LLC

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

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

**Martha L. Fitzgerald**  
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**Andrew A. Folkert**  
HOLLAND & HART LLP

**C. Adam Foster**  
FOSTER & JONES

**Elizabeth Froehlke**  
BERG HILL GREENLEAF RUSCITTI, LLP

**Tamir I. Goldstein**  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

**Sean C. Grimsley**  
IBOTTA, INC.

**Harold A. Haddon**  
HADDON, MORGAN AND FOREMAN P.C. (RETIRED)

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JAMS

**Alexis L. Hailpern**  
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H&K LAW, LLC

**Richard F. & Pamela B. Hennessey**  
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HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

**Robert F. Hill**  
HILL & ROBBINS, P.C.

**Abigail Moss Hinchcliff**  
OFFICE OF THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL





## 2018-2022 CHAIR'S ROUNDTABLE

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SENIOR JUDGE, DENVER COUNTY COURT

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**Craig D. Joyce**  
FAIRFIELD AND WOODS P.C.

**Kenzo Kawanabe**  
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LEVIN SITCOFF, PC

**Scott F. Llewellyn**  
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

**Ellie Lockwood**  
SNELL & WILMER

**Frank Lopez**  
GLADE VOOGT LOPEZ SMITH, P.C.

**Jason M. Lynch**  
FOUNDRY GROUP

**J. Thomas Macdonald**  
OTTEN JOHNSON ROBINSON NEFF + RAGONETTI PC

**Timothy R. Macdonald**  
ARNOLD & PORTER

**Michael S. McCarthy**  
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

**Caitlin McHugh**  
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

**Gale T. Miller**

**Terry R. Miller**

**Kristen L. Mix**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

**Gerald A. Niederman (Deceased)**  
POLSINELLI PC

**Daphne O'Connor**  
ARNOLD & PORTER

**Andrew J. Petrie**  
BALLARD SPAHR LLP

**Carolyn S. Powell**

**Kathryn A. Reilly**  
WHEELER TRIGG O'DONNELL LLP

**Christopher L. Richardson**  
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

**Chalyse Robinson**  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

**John L. Ruppert**

**Lauren E. Schmidt**

**Peter H. Schwartz**  
DAVIS GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP

**Byeongsook Seo**  
SNELL & WILMER

**Thomas W. Snyder**  
KUTAK ROCK LLP

**David W. Stark**  
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

**Stefan D. Stein**  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

**C. Jean Stewart**  
JEAN STEWART LLC

**Craig E. Stewart**  
HOLLAND & HART LLP

**Jerome H. Sturhahn**  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

**Daniel A. Sweetser**  
COLORADO & DENVER BAR ASSOCIATIONS

**Constance C. Talmage**  
COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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**Erica L. Tarpey**  
IRELAND STAPLETON PRYOR & PASCOE, PC

**James K. Tarpey**

**Luis A. Toro**  
CITY OF BOULDER CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

**Samuel D. Walker**

**John F. Walsh**  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

**Richard A. Westfall**  
WESTFALL LAW, LLC

**Mark W. Williams**  
SHERMAN & HOWARD L.L.C.

**Dee P. Wisor**  
BUTLER SNOW LLP

**Maureen Reidy Witt**  
HOLLAND & HART LLP

**Elaine A. Wohlner**  
JAMS

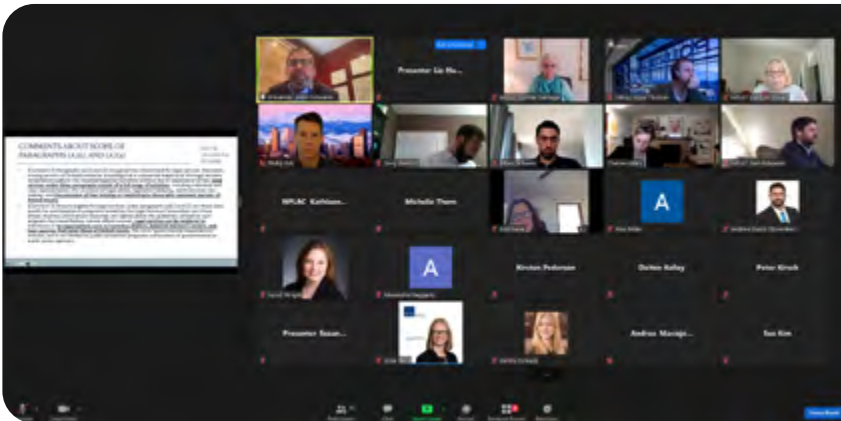


# 2020 TASK FORCES

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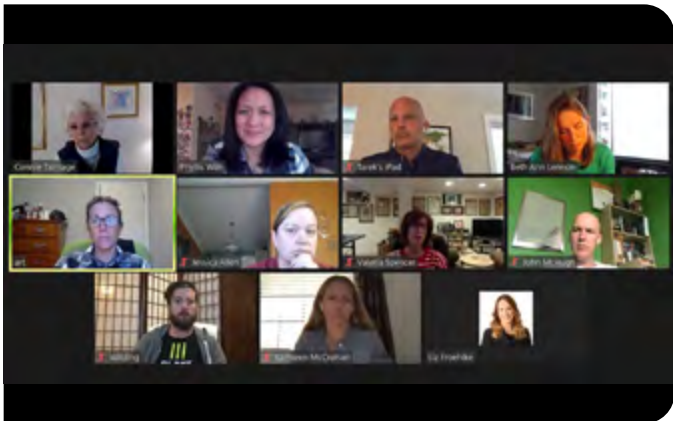


\*






# 2020 TASK FORCES



### Key Terms of SB-83

- ❖ Civil Arrest
  - ❖ Arrest made primarily in connection to a civil proceeding
- ❖ Courthouse
  - ❖ Building in which court is located, including, but not limited to, a courtroom, hallway, restroom, or lobby
- ❖ Environs
  - ❖ Vicinity surrounding a courthouse, including, but not limited to sidewalk, driveway, entryway, green space, parking area
- ❖ Court Proceeding



Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC\*.



## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

### Standing Up for Kids **CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE**



Established in 2003, the Children's Task Force examines issues relating to children in Colorado to determine if there are legal problems that would benefit from advocacy of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteers. In past years, task force volunteers worked to ensure that the State provides behavioral therapy services to children with autism through Medicaid as required by federal law. Recently, the Task Force began to explore other possible issues and the efforts of the Task Force have been focused through the Foster Care Subcommittee.

#### **Chair**

**Dave Stark**  
(Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)

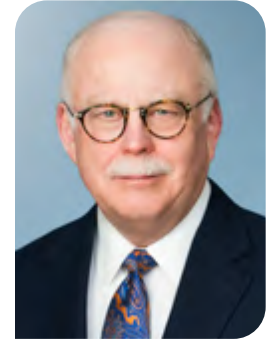


## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

### Standing Up for Kids

#### **FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE**

This group of volunteers is currently working to address the issue of youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who are being housed/treated in overly restrictive, non-integrated placements due to a lack of appropriate residential placements and community supports. These practices have resulted in youth being unnecessarily removed from the home, youth being placed far away from home in a facility that is more restrictive than necessary, often preventing family reunification, and even youth remaining in detention facilities for weeks and months awaiting placement. In addition, the Task Force is concerned that these youth are not receiving adequate mental health support. In 2018, the Subcommittee partnered with Children's Rights, a national nonprofit which advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout the country, to explore possible litigation to assure Colorado children are protected. The Subcommittee is now negotiating with representatives from the State of Colorado to identify possible solutions.



#### **CLC Litigation Team**

**Tamir Goldstein** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

**Michael McCarthy** (Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)

**Maureen Witt** (Holland & Hart LLP)



## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

### Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

### **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 ten years focused on education funding, including several lawsuits that alleged the State's funding for education was inadequate. Most recently, the Task Force has continued to monitor educational funding and has been exploring advocacy for children with special needs.



#### **Chair**

**John Tatlock** (Epstein Patierno, LLP)



## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

### Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students **SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Since 2019, the Special Education Subcommittee has been examining the following issues: (1) charter school practices of not providing services to special needs kids (keeping kids through "count day" and then announcing the charter school has no services); (2) implementation of the recent US Supreme Court decision in a Douglas County case (which requires the state to offer an "individualized education program" reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress that is appropriate in light of the child's circumstances); and (3) looking at the impact of the underfunding of special education on both the identification of students needing services and the inability of districts to provide necessary services.



#### Co-Chairs

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

**John Parks** (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP)



## CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

### Access to the Polls **ELECTION TASK FORCE**

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



#### Co-Chairs

**Martha Tierney** (Tierney Lawrence LLC)

**Richard Westfall** (Westfall Law LLC)







## CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

### Access to the Polls

# NONPARTISAN ELECTION CALL CENTER

For 16 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 2020, Lawyers Committee volunteers received training, coordinated the call center and answered calls from voters on Election Day and the day before Election Day. An in-person Call Center (with social distancing) was held at the Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center. Seventy six volunteers responded to questions from almost 500 Colorado voters related to registration, voting procedures, polling places, mail ballots, and similar issues. The other Just Vote! partners are Colorado Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of Colorado, Disability Law Colorado, and Mi Familia Vota.



### Co-Chairs

**Cait McHugh** (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

**Ryan Thurber** (Polsinelli PC)



# CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW



## Teaching Students about Hate Crimes

### HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE

For more than 27 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 discrimination, stereotyping, bias and inclusion and to prevent the severe harm caused by hateful slurs and biased-motivated actions. While the pandemic significantly reduced the number of opportunities to present the Hate Crimes Program in person, the Task Force was able to modify the program to offer it virtually in 2020 and 2021.



#### Leadership Team

- Jessica Allen** (Denver City Attorney’s Office)
- Liz Froehke** (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP)
- Beth Ann Lennon** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
- John McHugh** (Fennemore.)
- Tarek Saad** (Crowell & Moring LLP)

- Christine Snider** (Ballard Spahr LLP)
- Valeria Spencer** (U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado)
- Phyllis Wan** (Holland & Hart LLP)
- Mack Wilding** (Fortis Law Partners LLC)
- Anjie Zhi** (Ballard Spahr LLP)



## CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

### Expanding Hate Crimes Education

## NATIONAL HATE CRIMES TEAM

In early 2019, the CLC received a grant from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to modify our Hate Crimes Education program so it could be presented in any school in the country. The team expanded the original curriculum by revising the script based on a "typical statute" that includes gender expression and gender identity. The team also created a number of resources for interested schools and community organizations, including separate guides for teachers, volunteers, and administrators as well as instructional videos for teachers and volunteers. The expanded program can be offered in-person and virtually. In addition, volunteers can accommodate schools' technology needs and adapt the program to almost any interactive platform.



### Leadership Team

- Liz Froehlke** (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP)
- Beth Ann Lennon** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)
- John McHugh** (Fennemore.)
- Tarek Saad** (Crowell & Moring LLP)
- Christine Snider** (Ballard Spahr LLP)
- Valeria Spencer** (U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado)
- Phyllis Wan** (Holland & Hart LLP)
- Mack Wilding** (Fortis Law Partners LLC)



## CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

### Defending Landowner Access to the Taylor Ranch **TAYLOR RANCH LITIGATION**

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 22 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. In 2018, the ranch owner filed an appeal (the third time the case was before the Colorado Court of Appeals). The Court issued a 90-page opinion rejecting the ranch owner's efforts to limit the rights of the landowners and remanded the case back to the trial court to finish identifying landowners with rights. The ranch owner decided not to appeal the Colorado Court of



Appeals decision, virtually ending the legal battle over the most significant issues that have been the subject of litigation for almost 40 years. The parties subsequently began negotiations regarding management of the ranch's resources.

In 2020, a group of five volunteers from Ballard Spahr LLP agreed to join the Taylor Ranch team to address the ranch owners recent egregious behavior toward the landowners. In early 2021, the team filed a motion to stop the ranch owner from intimidating the landowners by excessively tracking them, interrogating them, and treating them like trespassers. The team also challenged the ranch owner's fencing that significantly limits the landowners' access to the property. The landowners are seeking several remedies to prevent the ranch owner's use of harassment and unreasonable interference with the landowner's easement. These remedies include removing the electrical fence, prohibiting excessive surveillance, disallowing the use of guard dogs, and implementing new procedures that will increase access to the property. In 2019 and 2020, 21 attorneys and paralegals from 7 firms worked on the Taylor Ranch Litigation team.

#### Chair

**Brent Owen**  
(Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)



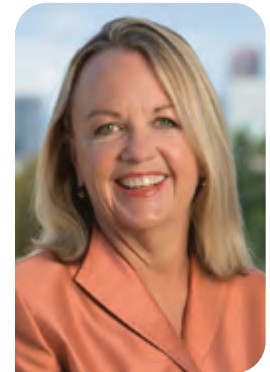


# CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

## Racial Discrimination is Intolerable

### RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In response to recent events in our country, including the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more, the Colorado Lawyers Committee formed the Racial Justice Task Force in the Summer of 2020, in order to reassess our internal and external racial justice practices. The Racial Justice Task Force primarily focuses on enacting systemic change and racial justice through three subcommittees: (1) The Advocacy Subcommittee, which supports CLC task forces in their efforts to advocate for racial justice and is exploring community needs in criminal justice, mental health, and health care to decide whether the CLC should create new task forces in these areas; (2) The Training Subcommittee, which is planning racial bias training for our Board and volunteers and is reaching out to over 30 community organizations to assess racial bias training; and (3) The Internal Subcommittee, which is working to expand diversity and inclusiveness in our contributing law firms and our internal procedures and which held a highly successful YLD Racial Justice Summit in September 2021 on the topic of racism in the criminal justice system. In 2019 and 2020, 33 volunteers from 27 firms and organizations worked on racial justice through the task force.



#### Leadership Team

The initial Co-Chairs of the Task Force were:

**Kenzo Kawanabe** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

**Abby Hinchcliff** (Barlit Beck LLP, now Office of the Colorado Attorney General)

In 2021, the following individuals chaired the new subcommittees:

**Martha Fitzgerald** (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)

**Christine Hernandez** (Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)

**Gina Rodriguez** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, now US District Court)





## CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

### Fighting for Reform

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In early 2021, the Lawyers Committee began exploring whether school districts in Colorado are sharing confidential student information, in violation of Colorado and federal law.

Additionally, the CLC has supported a number of efforts during the last two years to reform the criminal justice system and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for people who are incarcerated. The Colorado Lawyers Committee successfully supported the passage of the Police Reform Act (SB20-217) in 2020 and also signed on to a letter drafted by the ACLU that urged the State Court Administrator to consider psychiatric and intellectual disabilities in incarcerated individuals during COVID-19. In March 2020, advocates also sent a letter to the State Court Administrator, Governor Jared Polis, and the Colorado Supreme Court Justices that called for several improvements: for state leaders to immediately and safely reduce Colorado's jail and prison population, reduce new admissions to jails and prisons, dramatically decrease in-person appearances, and install human and rights-affirming measures to protect the health and wellbeing of inmates and staff. In May 2020 as a response to an outbreak at the Sterling Correctional Facility, the CLC signed onto a coalition letter that called on Governor Polis to take a series of steps that urgently address how COVID-19 impacts the prison population and further limit the spread among some of our most vulnerable communities.

In addition, in March 2020, the CLC signed onto two Rule 21 Petitions, filed by the Colorado Public Defender's office and three law school professors, that called for safety for persons in courtrooms and all judicial spaces until the termination of the State of Emergency Order by the Governor of Colorado, and an adjustment to jail populations during COVID-19 based on warrants and court process procedures. In late 2020, the CLC agreed to support the newly launched Redemption Campaign, a statewide initiative to safely release thousands of people who pose no public safety risk from Colorado prisons by encouraging Governor Polis to use existing clemency powers in new and transformational ways. In 2019 and 2020, 14 attorneys from 13 law firms worked on criminal justice efforts through the task force.



### Leadership Team

**Iris Eytan** (Eytan Nielsen LLC)

**Ellie Lockwood** (Snell & Wilmer)



# POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

## JOINT ID TASK FORCE

There are major barriers in Colorado to obtaining a state-issued identification card (ID), particularly for those with limited resources. Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has worked to address the barriers facing homeless and other individuals in obtaining Colorado IDs, without which they are unable to secure housing, employment, and other critical services. In early 2013, at the request of the Lawyers Committee, Governor Hickenlooper's office created a Joint ID Task Force. Participants include representatives from the ID Collaboration Project (housed at Colorado Legal Services), at least six staff from the Department of Revenue (DOR) (including the Executive Directors and Deputy Directors of DOR and the Division of Motor Vehicles), and the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee. Individuals from the Department of Corrections, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, One Colorado, the ACLU, and other organizations are invited, as appropriate, to attend quarterly meetings where individual issues and systemic barriers to obtaining IDs are discussed. Over the years, the Task Force has successfully addressed and resolved barriers to obtaining IDs. Most recently, the Task Force supported efforts by the DOR to modify its regulations to permit the issuance of IDs and licenses with gender-neutral designation (e.g., Male, Female, and X).





## POVERTY AND 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. In pre-COVID days, clinics were held at Centro San Juan Diego, and clients were served on a first-come first-served basis. Issues generally include immigration, criminal, family, consumer, and housing matters; volunteer interpreters are available to assist when needed. The Lawyers Committee co-sponsored a training on the ethics of pro bono service, designed to allow volunteers to become better equipped to help individuals at Legal Night. In 2019, the leadership team continued its partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office and four other agencies to arrange for "know your rights" presentations for clients on immigration and other issues. Those four agencies include the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel; the Office for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. In 2020, in response to the pandemic, Denver Legal Night switched from in-person to a virtual clinic. Instead of meeting at Centro San Juan Diego, volunteer lawyers consult with clients over the phone to help determine significant legal issues, refer individuals to legal services, and answer other questions about the legal process. Since Denver Legal Night began, more than 29,800 individuals have been served! In 2019, 181 volunteers from 106 law firms and organizations assisted 1,092 clients and, in 2020, 155 volunteers from 78 law firms and organizations assisted 1,027 clients.



#### Leadership Team

**Edgar Barraza** (Fox Rothschild LLP, YLD Board Member)\*

**Erika E. Carter** (The Harris Law Firm P.C.)

**Quinn Girrens** (Ogborn Mihm, LLP, formerly Hall & Evans, LLC)

**Madalia Maaliki** (Richards Carrington, LLC)

**Angela Reyes** (retired)

**Stephen Robin** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C., YLD Board Member)\*

**Whitney Wolfe** (The Harris Law Firm P.C., YLD Board Member)\*

With thanks to **Claudia Shadler** (now Colorado Court of Appeals) and **Lauren Carboni** (Foley & Lardner LLP), former YLD Board Member, for their leadership in 2019 and 2020.

\*Pictured





# POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

## Legal Clinics for the Underserved **PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT**

Since 2005, the Lawyers Committee has coordinated the legal component for Project Homeless Connect, an annual one-day event sponsored by the City of Denver which typically links about 1,000 homeless individuals in Denver to a variety of services, including public benefits, housing, jobs, medical care, and legal assistance. Task Force volunteers staff a legal resource area, where homeless individuals receive legal information and referrals, as well as a Homeless Court, where outstanding warrants for municipal violations can be resolved before a Denver County Judge. Since 2005, the Task Force has provided more than 1,200 legal volunteers to these events, 4,270 individuals have been helped with legal issues, and more than approximately 1,500 cases have been heard in Homeless Court. The Lawyers Committee partners with the Association of Corporate Counsel—Colorado Chapter to offer these services. In 2019, 88 volunteers from 32 law firms and organizations helped 142 individuals. Project Homeless Connect was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic.



### Leadership Team

- Becky Golz** (Arnold & Porter)
- Tim Macdonald** (Arnold & Porter)
- Alice Norman** (Chief Denver Municipal Public Defender)
- Carolyn Powell** (Association of Corporate Counsel—Colorado Chapter)
- Peter Schwartz** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)



## POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

### Legal Clinics for the Underserved

## FEDERAL PRO SE CLINIC

In early 2018, the Judges in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado approved a two-year pilot program to create a clinic for pro se litigants in the federal courthouse. The Lawyers Committee was involved in the planning of the clinic for over a year. The Clinic is operated by the Colorado Bar Association and opened its doors in 2018. The Executive Director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee serves on the Clinic's Advisory Board. Because of the program's success, the Court in 2019 agreed to permanently continue providing the clinic for federal pro se litigants. In its second year, the clinic saw 50% more litigants and held more than double the number of appointments than in the first year. The program was recently expanded to include a bankruptcy clinic which provides experienced attorneys to help pro se litigants filing for Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado.



### Reinstating Crucial Benefits

## MEDICAID TERMINATIONS

At the end of 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee learned that, during the previous six months, significantly defective notices had been sent to Medicaid recipients stating that their benefits would be terminated. In some instances, the notices did not include information about the right to appeal and many recipients had their benefits slashed or eliminated with no explanation or change to the law. With advocacy from CLC volunteers and assistance from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, the State agreed to reinstate all benefits that had been wrongly terminated without due process and to issue new notices to comply with federal and state statutes.

### CLC Leadership Team

- Colin Deihl** (Polsinelli PC)
- Jennifer Evans** (Polsinelli PC)
- Colleen Guinn** (Polsinelli PC)
- Ryan Thurber** (Polsinelli PC)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Helping Small Businesses During the Pandemic **COLORADO COVID LEGAL RELIEF PROGRAM**

In response to the devastating economic effects of COVID-19, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Colorado Attorney General, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Colorado & Denver Bar Associations, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and the law firms of WilmerHale, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, and Messner Reeves LLP to launch a program that matched volunteer lawyers with small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19. Small businesses provide half of Colorado's jobs and were especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis, with minority and women-owned small businesses being hit the hardest. With the help of over 200 volunteer lawyers from 116 law firms and organizations, the program served more than 250 Colorado small businesses from June 2020 through August 2021. CCLR also provided clinics and webinars and compiled resources for small businesses. In August 2021, this program was phased out and replaced with the Small Business Legal Assistance Program (below).



Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



#### Steering Committee

- China Califf** (Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce)
- Katy Donnelly** (Azizpour Donnelly LLC)
- Michelle Harden** (Messner Reeves LLP)
- Nikki Maloney** (Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade)
- David Padrino** (formerly Office of the Colorado Attorney General)
- Chalyse Robinson** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)
- Chris Rodgers** (Colorado SEO Pros)
- Peter Schwartz** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)
- Lorri Strizich** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)
- Keith Trammell** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)
- Samuel Walker** (Office of the Colorado Attorney General)

#### Frequent Volunteers (Helped 3 or more businesses)

- Roger Adams** (Adams Law, LLC)
- Howard Haenel** (Antonio Bates Bernard PC)
- Brad Hamilton** (Jones & Keller, P.C.)
- Cynthia Kennedy** (Kennedy Law Firm)
- Nathan Moore** (Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP)
- Hester Parrot** (Ballard Spahr LLP)
- Carolyn Powell** (MCR Development)
- Roddy Stieger** (Stinson LLP)
- Kristin White** (Fisher & Phillips LLP)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Helping Small Businesses Thrive **COLORADO SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



In July 2021, Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with several other organizations to create a new program to assist small businesses (Colorado Small Business Legal Assistance Program). The program is designed to help small businesses (primarily those with 10 or fewer employees) with their economic recovery and success. Volunteer attorneys will provide one hour of free legal assistance to answer questions from small businesses on a range of legal issues, including real estate, contracts, employment, government benefits, and bankruptcy. The program is housed at the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. The other program partners are the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado, the Sam Cary Bar Association, the Association of Corporate Counsel-Colorado Chapter, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado Women’s Bar Association, and Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice. As the program gets underway, 55 volunteer attorneys have already agreed to participate.

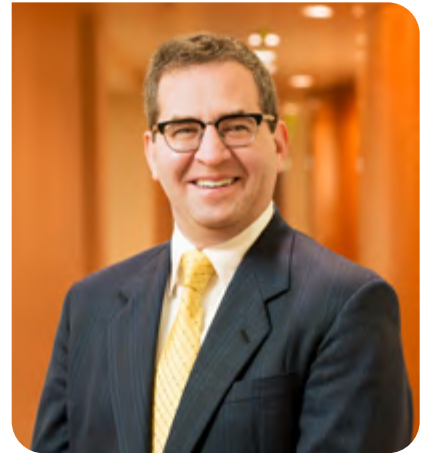




## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Helping Small Businesses **UNITED BUSINESS ADVISORY**

In 2018, the Lawyers Committee partnered with Mile High United Way (MHUW) to support its new program, the United Business Advisory, to assist small business in under-resourced communities in the Denver metro area. MHUW is providing business consulting service and advice to promising businesses in under-resourced communities. MHUW's theory of change is: if MHUW can help small businesses grow, it helps provide greater economic opportunities for the owners/families, the employees, the suppliers, etc. which in turn supports the economic vibrancy of our communities. Eligible businesses must be promising businesses that have an existing track record (have been in business for a few years), want to grow (and have the opportunity to add jobs, create additional economic opportunity for the owners and families, etc.), live, work or operate in under-resourced communities (in neighborhoods like Globeville, Elyria/Swansea, southern Adams County, etc.) and are likely woman/minority owned (although not mandatory). The Lawyers Committee has identified CLC volunteers to work on a pro bono basis with MHUW clients on transactional-type legal issues. This program was implemented on a pilot basis in 2018 and has assisted several small businesses since it was created.



#### **Chair**

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



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community **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 2019, volunteers organized and staffed two legal clinics, in February and July. During the clinics, 122 attorneys assisted 42 nonprofits. In February 2020, volunteers organized and staffed a legal clinic where 46 attorneys assisted 19 nonprofits. Due to COVID-19, the summer 2020 Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was canceled. In 2021, the clinic moved to a virtual format; in February and July of 2021, 100 attorneys assisted 36 nonprofits. Since 2006, more than 700 volunteers have assisted almost 265 small nonprofits in the Clinic!



### Leadership Team

**Sam Edwards**, Chair (Holland & Hart LLP)

**Carolyn Powell** (Association of Corporate Counsel—Colorado Chapter)

**Ryan Thurber** (Polsinelli PC)

**Cait McHugh** (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

Many thanks to departing Steering Committee Members **Erin Leddy** (formerly of Haynes and Boone, LLP) and **Mariah Taylor** (Colorado Nonprofit Association)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community

## NONPROFIT PRO BONO MATCHING PROGRAM

Since 2006, this Task Force has 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. Over the past two years, 85 volunteers from 27 law firms and organizations provided transactional-type legal assistance to 96 organizations. Since the matching program began, over 500 nonprofits have been served.



### Leadership Team

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

**Milada Kostalkova** (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Many thanks to departing Leadership Team members **Hannah Pressler** (formerly of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) and **Mariah Taylor** (Colorado Nonprofit Association) for their significant contributions during their time with the program.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Legal Advocacy for Housing and Homelessness **HOUSING TASK FORCE**

This task force, originally created in late 2013 to identify housing issues in Colorado that might benefit from legal advocacy by Lawyers Committee volunteers, was dormant for several years and revitalized in late 2018. During the 2019 legislative session, the Task Force supported four bills designed to provide significant support to tenants: expanding notice to tenants before eviction, prohibiting housing discrimination on the basis of source of income, creating an eviction legal defense fund, and allowing automatic sealing of criminal records. In 2020 and 2021, the Task Force successfully supported bills to protect tenants by sealing eviction records and by prohibiting discrimination by source of rental income. Task Force volunteers also monitored landlord compliance with Colorado's new law (HB19-1106) which prohibits excessive rental application fees and prevents the landlord from making inquiries about an applicant's criminal history. In addition, CLC joined a letter urging Governor Polis to extend protections to renters to minimize the devastating impact of the pandemic. In early 2021, the Task Force began to focus its attention on Colorado real estate taxes and the possibility that Colorado counties are using appraisal techniques that result in higher-priced homes being undervalued for tax purposes and low-priced homes being overvalued. If this is true, it is not only a regressive tax, but it a regressive tax that adversely impacts people of color. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, more than 20 individuals from 15 law firms and organizations worked on housing efforts through the task force.



#### Co-Chairs

**Bill Callison** (Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)

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





# IMMIGRATION

## Assistance for Indigent Immigrants **IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE**

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For almost 20 years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has supported the efforts of the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center to provide low-cost immigration services to the local population, including overseeing services provided, training staff, and providing referrals to pro bono attorneys. More recently, the Task Force continued its assistance of IRC and also helped provide guidance to individuals at Legal Night seeking assistance regarding numerous issues, including the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to US citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders.

The Task Force has also worked on several initiatives describe. below: stopping warrantless arrests by ICE (the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement) at the courthouse, prohibiting probation officers from disclosing private information to ICE, assisting individuals seeking asylum with their Credible Fear Interviews, and training non-immigration lawyers to represent asylum seekers, including children.

In 2019 and 2020, 47 attorneys and law students from 30 firms and organizations worked on immigration issues with this task force.

### Leadership Team

**Nancy Elkind** (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired)

**Steven Williams** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)



## IMMIGRATION

### Helping Immigrants Achieve Asylum Status **PASS PROGRAM**

In 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee, in partnership with RMIAN (Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network) launched a pilot program called the Preparing Asylum Seekers for Success (PASS) Program. Four law firms (Davis Graham & Stubbs, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, and WilmerHale) participated in the program which aimed to train attorneys to prepare asylum seekers for their “Credible Fear Interviews”, the first step in determining whether detainees are eligible for asylum. The PASS Program also sought to ensure that every asylum seeker detained in the Aurora Immigration Detention Facility had the chance to meet with a participating attorney—a milestone the program achieved. Many of the attorney volunteers not only prepared asylum seekers for their Credible Fear Interviews, but also represented individuals later in the asylum process. Each firm was matched with an experienced immigration lawyer who assisted the lawyers. This model put the expertise within each firm and allowed the lawyers to collaborate with one another on these cases. Thirty-five attorneys from four law firms participated in the pilot program. All four firms continue to engage with the program.



Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

GIBSON DUNN



WILMERHALE® 



#### Mentors

- Nancy Elkind** (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired)
- Koby Polaski** (Elkind Alterman Harston PC)
- Pascal Schunk** (Schunk Law Firm P.C.)
- Emily Smith** (Emily L. Smith Esq)



# IMMIGRATION

## Protecting the Privacy of Immigrants

### IMMIGRATION PROBATION SUBCOMMITTEE

In early 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee joined the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, the Office of Alternate Defense Counsel, and the ACLU in a letter to Chief Justice Coats and State Court Administrator Ryan, calling for significant adjustments to the State Court's policy regarding disclosure by probation officers to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) about individual probationers. Based on the negative impact the Court's policy had on rehabilitation and reintegration, community safety, and the criminal justice system, the letter urged improvements to the existing policies and procedures, including clarification that probation officers should not assist ICE in arresting probationers. Shortly after the letter was sent, CLC representatives and others met with State Court personnel. Soon thereafter, the Colorado legislature passed a bill (HB19-1124) which prohibits law enforcement officers from arresting or detaining an individual solely on the basis of a civil immigration detainer and prohibits probation officers and probation department employees from providing an individual's personal information to federal immigration authorities. In 2019 and 2020, 10 attorneys from 9 firms and organizations participated in the subcommittee.

#### Leadership Team

**Nancy Elkind** (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired)

**Christine Hernandez** (CHBA; Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)

**Arash Jahanian** (Denver Public Schools, formerly the Meyer Law Office, P.C.)

**Christopher Lasch** (University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Deceased)

**Hans Meyer** (The Meyer Law Office, P.C.)

**Mark Silverstein** (ACLU of Colorado)

**Steven Williams** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)



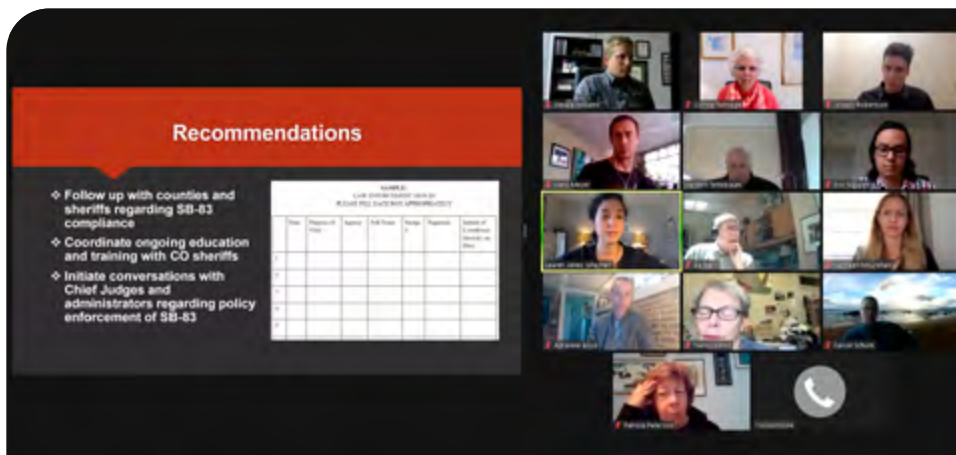
## IMMIGRATION

### Keeping Immigrants Safe

## ICE IN THE COURTHOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

In early 2019, the Colorado Lawyers Committee was made aware that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were making civil arrests at Colorado courthouses without court-issued warrants. These actions had a significant chilling effect on immigrants who were victims of crime or witnesses of crimes—in many instances deterring them from reporting crimes or agreeing to testify about crimes. In early 2020, the CLC ICE in the Courthouse Subcommittee helped draft and successfully supported the passage of SB20-083, a bill that prohibits ICE from making civil arrests at the courthouse and when individuals are traveling to and from the courthouse. The law’s purpose ensures that immigrants are protected in the justice system and do not fear arrest when they report crimes or appear as witnesses. Since the passage of the bill, the Subcommittee has been working with the Immigration Law & Policy Clinic (ILPC) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law to spread awareness and educate law enforcement officers and court officials about the new law. The courts have been closed due to the pandemic; it is unclear whether ICE will comply with the law once the courts reopen. The Colorado

Lawyers Committee is dedicated to monitoring ICE’s compliance with the law and will pursue litigation to enforce the statute, if necessary. In 2019 and 2020, 16 attorneys and law students from 13 law firms and organizations participated in the subcommittee.



### Co-Chairs

**Nancy Elkind** (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired)

**Steven Williams** (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.)



# IMMIGRATION

## Protecting Vulnerable Detainees from COVID-19

### IMMIGRATION TRO

In April 2020, CLC volunteers partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and the National Immigration Project to address the significant risks from COVID-19 faced by individuals in the Aurora Detention Facility, where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detains immigrants during the pendency of civil immigration law proceedings. The group filed a Habeas Petition and Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, seeking the release of 14 medically vulnerable people detained in ICE custody. Nine of the 14 petitioners were transgender women living with HIV who, because of the COVID-19 outbreak at the detention facility, were at high risk. The day after the petition was filed, ICE released eight of the petitioners, none of whom had criminal backgrounds. By June 2020, ICE released two more members of the group. Ultimately, the Judge denied the Motion for TRO and Habeas Petition, stating that a habeas remedy is not available for a challenge to confinement conditions, although courts across the country have granted habeas relief under similar circumstances. RMIAN and partners secured the release of all but one of the remaining petitioners through successful immigration proceedings.

#### Litigation Team

**Reeves Anderson** (Arnold & Porter)

**Mark Barr** (Lichter Immigration)

**Adrienne Boyd** (Arnold & Porter)

**Colleen Cowgill** (Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network)

**Kathleen Kramer Custer** (Arnold & Porter)

**Mekela Goehring** (Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network)

**Sarah Grey** (Arnold & Porter)

**Arash Jahanian** (Denver Public Schools, formerly The Meyer Law Office, P.C.)

**Laura Lunn** (Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network)

**Tim Macdonald** (Arnold & Porter)

**Catherine McCarthy** (Arnold & Porter)

**Hans Meyer** (The Meyer Law Office, P.C.)

**Colin O'Brien** (Arnold & Porter)

**Rachel Ryan** (Arnold & Porter)



## IMMIGRATION

### Encouraging Pro Bono Immigrant Advocacy

#### **ASYLUM TRAINING**

In March 2020, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and the Immigration Justice Campaign (IJC) to host a free virtual program to train attorneys to provide pro bono representation to asylum-seekers in Colorado. The program specifically focused on representing children, parents, and other individuals in civil immigration detention in Colorado and was designed for attorneys who are new to immigration law. Over 90 people signed up for the training which was free for anyone who agreed to take a pro bono asylum case.

### Helping Children Seeking Asylum

#### **SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS) TRAINING**

In 2021, Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) to present a free training on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS, the pathway to lawful permanent residence for immigrant children who cannot be reunified with one of both parents. To successfully apply for this status, a child must obtain a state court order making special findings regarding the child (SIJS predicate order). This training educated volunteers about the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and the process of obtaining the required SIJS predicate order in Colorado. Forty lawyers attended the training and all attendees agreed to take on a pro bono case involving an immigrant family.



# IMMIGRATION

Funding Legal Services for Immigrants

## **DENVER IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



The Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund was established in 2018 by Mayor Hancock's Executive Order 142, which affirms Denver's commitment to stand with immigrants and refugees and maintains Denver as a welcoming city where everyone can feel safe and thrive. The Denver Foundation distributes grants to nonprofit organizations providing direct legal representation to Denver residents for defense of removal proceedings and for assistance with affirmative immigration relief. Nancy Elkind (Elkind Alterman Harston PC, retired) is the Colorado Lawyers Committee representative on the Fund's Advisory Board.



\*Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



## CLC INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS



### Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship

Due to a generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler, the Colorado Lawyers Committee created the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship which funds a law student to work at the Colorado Lawyers Committee every other summer. Congratulations to **Hannah Goldstein**, a law student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, who was selected to be the second recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship and worked with us during the summer of 2021.



### Hill & Robbins Public Interest Paid Fellowship

The Hill & Robbins Internship was established in 1996 to encourage law students to do work in the public interest area. Each year, a student from the University of Colorado or the University of Denver is awarded the internship to work on a public interest project either through the Colorado Lawyers Committee or Colorado Legal Services (CLS). The 2020 Hill & Robbins Intern was placed with the Colorado Lawyers Committee and had an opportunity to work on various pro bono public interest projects relating to poverty issues and children. Congratulations to **Karli Wurplel**, a student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, the 2020 Hill & Robbins Fellow. Thank you to Hill & Robbins, P.C. for creating and continuing this Fellowship for more than 20 years.





## CLC INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

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

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is honored to participate in Magistrate Judge Mix's Externship program for diverse 2nd and 3rd year law students at DU and CU in a public service legal environment.



Congratulations to **Anjie Zhi**, a University of Colorado Law School student who worked at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in the spring of 2020.

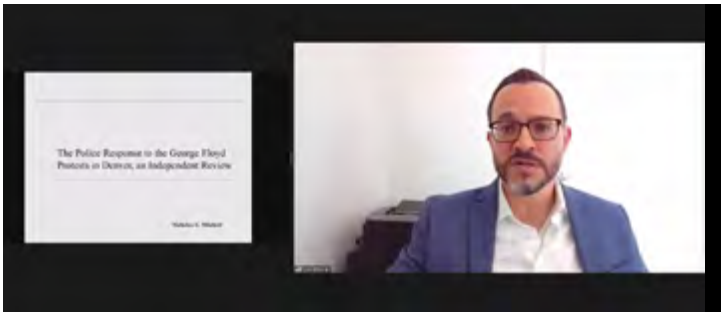


Congratulations to **Kasha Halbleib**, a University of Colorado Law School student who worked at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in the fall of 2020.



**Thank you to our many volunteers,  
supporters (law firms and other contributors),  
YLD members and the leadership of our YLD Board,  
our CLC Board and our Executive Committee for  
making our success possible over the last 43 years.**





Photos taken by our wonderful pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann of Hartmannphoto, LLC \*.



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