



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION

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COVER:
The History of Written Law by WRW Studio.
These traditional stained glass panels located in the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center Law Library feature etched text on colored glass. The design features ancient and historic texts.



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With many thanks to **Rebecca Fischer (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)**, **Martha Fitzgerald (Jewish Family Services)**, **Tim Macdonald (ACLU of Colorado)**, and **Cait McHugh (Lewis Roca)** for your amazing service on the CLC Executive Committee.

STAFF

With thanks to **Carolyn Powell** for your service as the CLC Associate Director in 2022.



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A CHANGE IN CLC LEADERSHIP

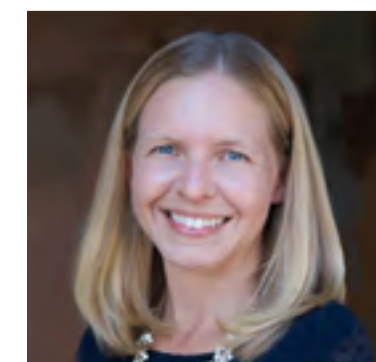
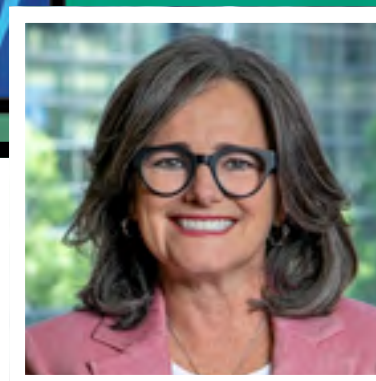
The Colorado Lawyers Committee saw a change in leadership this year as former Denver City Attorney **Kristin Bronson** began serving as its next Executive Director. Kristin replaced **Connie Talmage** who retired after serving 22 years in the position. Also re-joining the executive team as CLC's Chief Operating Officer was **Kathleen McCrohan** who served as the Committee's Associate Director from 2016 to early 2022.

The new leadership will oversee all aspects of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, a nonpartisan consortium of over **70 Colorado law firms** dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities through pro bono legal advocacy, negotiation and litigation.

Last year, the Colorado Lawyers Committee coordinated over **1,200 volunteers** who contributed more than **9,500 hours** and **almost \$3.3 million worth of time to 25 projects and task forces** in such areas as children's rights and education, civil rights and criminal law, immigration, community development, poverty and public benefits. In addition, the CLC Young Lawyers Division engaged more than **350 young (or recently admitted) lawyers and law students** who made a difference on Colorado Lawyers Committee projects and on six YLD teams.

"For 22 years, Connie Talmage has served the Lawyers Committee and the Colorado Legal Community with distinction. During her tenure, she has guided the work of the Lawyers Committee volunteers, grown the scope and membership of the Committee, created a vibrant Young Lawyers Division, and greatly expanded and enhanced the Chairs Roundtable. Connie has been the heart and soul of the Lawyers Committee," said **Board Chair Richard A. Westfall** (Westfall Law, LLC).

We wish you all the best in your retirement, Connie!



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GOODRICH & ROSATI, PC**
Brent Fassett

YURI BAZAN LAW FIRM
Yuridia Bazan

THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION



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 Colorado Lawyers Committee. General Membership in the CLC YLD is open (without charge) to young and new attorneys and law students.

In its first eight 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 an annual Casino Night as well as two virtual events (Barristers Behind the Bar and Geeks Who Drink) which helped raise over \$35,000 for future CLC projects, including the YLD Grant Program.

The YLD also created a new CLE Series where YLD members learn trial advocacy skills through trainings lead 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. In 2021, the YLD joined with the Racial Justice Task Force to hold a highly successful Racial Justice Summit on the topic of racism in the criminal justice system. The Second Annual Racial Justice Summit, on racial justice and voting rights, took place in September 2022.

Over 350 young lawyers and law students are currently members of the CLC YLD.

CLC YLD BOARD

Mark D. Wilding (The Rodman Law Group, LLC), YLD Chair, Hate Crimes Education Team Co-Chair

Edgar Barraza (Clark Hill PLC), YLD Chair Elect, Legal Night Team Co-Chair

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

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Jared Ertle (Stinson LLP), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

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

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

Jennifer Kinkade (Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC), Fundraising & Events Team Co-Chair

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

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

Thank you to the following YLD Board members for your service:

Therese Fox (Arnold & Porter), **Alexis**

L. Hailpern (Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.), **Russ Johnson** (County Attorney's Office, Jefferson County).

Alyssa L. Levy (Fisher & Phillips LLP), and **Alex Mancero** (Ria Digital).

Thank you to our former law school representatives for your service:

John Ellis (University of Colorado Law School) & **Hannah Goldstein** (University of Denver Sturm College of Law).



2022 HONOREES



The Board of Directors selected **Hernandez & Associates, P.C.** as the Colorado Lawyers Committee Law Firm of the Year. Other nominees for 2022 Law Firm of the Year were **Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP**, **Sherman & Howard L.L.C.**, and **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**. The CLC appreciates the strong dedication of all these attorneys.



The Board of Directors selected **Pascal C. Schunk** (Schunk Law Firm P.C.) as the CLC 2022 Individual of the Year. Other nominees for the Individual of the Year Award were: **Carolyn S. Powell** (MCR Development), **Sarah B. Wallace** (Ballard Spahr LLP), and **Steven Williams**.

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2022 HONOREES



The Former Board Chair Award was given to **Rebecca Fischer** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C).

Special Recognition Awards were presented to **Angela Reyes**; the **Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)**; and **Seigneur Gustafson LLP**.



Jerome A. DeHerrera (Achieve Law Group, LLC) received the Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award for his extensive pro bono representation of the plaintiffs in the famous Taylor Ranch class-action lawsuit (*Lobato v. Taylor*).

Photos courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC.



2022 AWARDS LUNCHEON



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A GRAND CELEBRATION



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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 (Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC) and Peter Schwartz (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP) for chairing this effort.

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(RETIRED)

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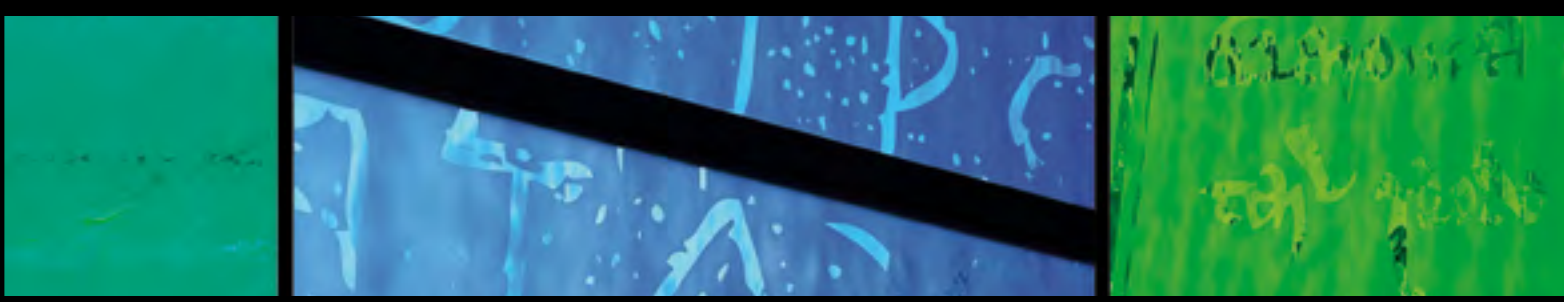
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COURT

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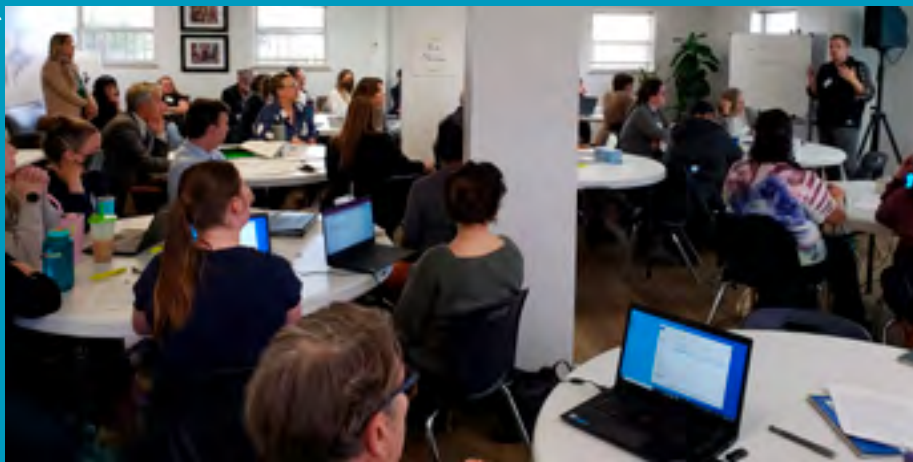
Dee P. Wisor
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Maureen Reidy Witt
HOLLAND & HART LLP

Elaine A. Wohlner
JAMS

2022 TASK FORCES





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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 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. During 2022, the Task Force advocated for increased availability of appropriate placements and mental health services for children in foster care. More recently, the efforts of the Task Force have been focused on whether (1) juvenile diversion policies are applied evenly to everyone, regardless of race or socio-economic status and (2) counties are providing children in foster care with the education services required by the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). The Task Force is working to collect and analyze data to determine if there are systemic issues where CLC advocacy could make a difference.

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 twelve years focused on education funding, including several lawsuits that alleged the State's funding for education was inadequate. Most recently, the Task Force has formed several subcommittees (described below) to address educational funding, children with special needs, due process in school discipline, and charter schools.



CHAIR:
Dave Stark
(Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)



CHAIR:
John Tatlock
(Epstein Patierno, LLP)

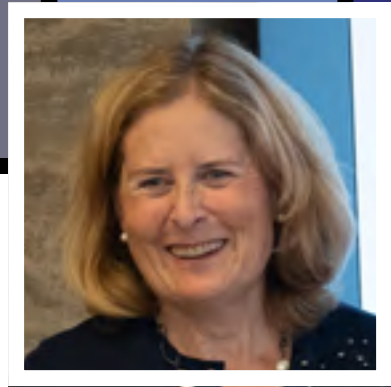
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CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students:

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Since 2019, the Special Education Subcommittee has been exploring the impact of what appears to be significant underfunding of special education resulting in failures to identify students needing services and by districts to provide necessary services. The Subcommittee is also exploring whether the State has failed to comply with its obligations to supervise special education services.



CO-CHAIRS:

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

John Parks
(Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith
LLP)

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students

THE CHARTER SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE

Formed in 2022, this Subcommittee is exploring challenges faced by charter schools in providing necessary services to special needs children and recent legislation which will impact these services.



CHAIR:

Tess Hand-Bender
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & EDUCATION

Advocating for Better Education for Colorado's Students:

THE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE

The School Discipline Subcommittee partnered with the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center and the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center to launch a new pilot program. The School Expulsion Pilot Project provides direct representation to students facing expulsion from school districts across the state. Under Colorado law, starting in third grade, students can be expelled from school for a calendar year with minimal procedural safeguards. Students have a right to an expulsion hearing and related appeal rights, but many families do not have legal assistance to navigate this process. Moreover, many of the hearings proceed with little or no due process. Six law firms (The Harris Law Firm, Ireland Stapleton, Holland & Hart, Holland & Knight, Davis Graham & Stubbs, and Moye White) are taking on these cases. Training for volunteers was held in January and July of 2023. Volunteers compile data after each case, which we will use to urge the legislature and Governor to implement reforms.



CHAIR:
Jennie Wray
(The Harris Law Firm)

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Access to the Polls:

THE 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 has worked 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. While election procedures seem to have become an increasingly partisan issue in recent years, this bipartisan coalition continues to focus on access to the polls. Most recently, when one Colorado county cancelled a contract with a voting machine vendor, the Task Force reached out to county officials to remind them of their legal obligation to provide private and secure voting opportunities for all voters, including those with disabilities.



Access to the Polls:

NONPARTISAN ELECTION CALL CENTER

For 18 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 2022, Lawyers Committee volunteers received training, coordinated the call center, and answered calls from voters on Election Day and the day before Election Day. Volunteers responded to questions from 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:

Martha Tierney
(Tierney Lawrence Stiles LLC)

Richard Westfall
(Westfall Law, LLC)



CLC STEERING COMMITTEE:

Caitlin McHugh
(Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP)

Ryan Thurber
(Polsinelli PC)

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CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW



Teaching Students about Hate Crimes: THE HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE

For almost 30 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 (using social media), BIPOC students, and others, the presentation empowers student participants to act as jurors to improve their community culture in areas concerning discrimination, stereotyping, bias and belonging 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. Volunteers were delighted to return to in-person presentations at the end of 2021, and the Task Force is currently looking to expand to more areas across Colorado.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Jessica Allen

(Denver City Attorney's Office,
Airport Office Building, DIA)

Liz Froehlke

(Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP)

Beth Ann Lennon

(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

John McHugh (Fennemore.)

Tarek Saad (Reid Collins & Tsai 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

(The Rodman Law Group, LLC)

Anjie Zhi (Ballard Spahr LLP)



CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

**LOVE IS
STRONGER
THAN HATE**

Expanding Hate Crimes Education: THE 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. Since finalizing the program, the CLC has received inquiries from several other states seeking to use the CLC's content to put on their own hate crimes programs.



**Stop
Hate
Project**

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Jessica Allen (Denver City Attorney's Office, Airport Office Building, DIA)

Liz Froehlke (Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti, LLP)

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

John McHugh (Fennemore.)

Tarek Saad (Reid Collins & Tsai 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 (The Rodman Law Group, LLC)

Anjie Zhi (Ballard Spahr LLP)

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW

Defending Landowner Access to the Taylor Ranch: THE 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 to the local citizens as “La Sierra,” but known more widely as the “Taylor Ranch.” The Lawyers Committee has been active in this litigation for the past 23 years and has successfully confirmed the historical rights for landowners to access the property to graze their animals and collect wood for their homes, based on the terms of Mexico’s Sangre de Cristo land grant issued to Narciso Beaubien and Stephen Luis Lee in 1844. To date, the District Court has examined title to thousands of parcels of land and found that all but a few parcels are benefited by access to La Sierra. 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 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 owner’s recent egregious behavior toward the landowners. 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 late 2021, lawyers from Sherman & Howard L.L.C. agreed to represent several individual landowners in actions by the ranch owner that could impact their individual rights and the easement rights established over decades. The Taylor Ranch team is currently looking for additional litigators, with support from real estate lawyers, to help protect the rights of the individual landowners.

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Joe Bronesky
(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

Jerome DeHerrera
(Achieve Law Group, LLC)

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

Brent Owen
(Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)

CIVIL RIGHTS & CRIMINAL LAW



Taking Action Against Discrimination: THE RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In 2021, the Racial Justice Task Force joined with the CLC Young Lawyers Division to hold a highly successful Racial Justice Summit in September on the topic of racism in the criminal justice system. The Second Annual Racial Justice Summit, on racial justice and voting rights, was held in September 2022. In addition, the Task Force has worked to strengthen the relationship between the CLC and the individual specialty bars, as well as the relationship between the CLC and the diverse student organizations at both law schools. The Task Force created a “best practices” survey which will help all CLC contributing law firms assess their EDI efforts and encourage them to consider implementing additional EDI practices.



CHAIR:
Christine Hernandez
(Hernandez & Associates, P.C.)

POVERTY AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Fight for Access to Care:

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY TASK FORCE

During 2021, the Lawyers Committee joined with the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Mental Health Colorado and lawyers from Polsinelli PC to explore what appears to be a significant lack of parity in benefit coverage available for mental and physical health for Colorado Medicaid beneficiaries. Both federal and state law require mental health and substance use disorder treatment to be covered in “parity” with treatment for physical health conditions. Failure to comply with parity requirements can have significant repercussions for Medicaid beneficiaries, including inadequate access to care, treatment delays, beneficiary and provider frustration, and negative health outcomes. The team has prepared CORA requests to collect information to better understand how the State of Colorado is managing its parity obligations, and whether potential challenges may be appropriate.

Helping Vulnerable Populations:

JOINT ID TASK FORCE

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, at least six staff from the Department of Revenue (DOR) 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 a gender-neutral designation (e.g., Male, Female, and X) and to create a mobile ID unit (aka DMV2Go) which allows individuals who are not mobile (e.g., in nursing homes, rehab centers, etc.) to obtain their ID or license.



CHAIR:
Ryan Thurber
(Polsinelli PC)



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) two monthly Legal Night clinics to provide legal information and referrals for individuals and families who cannot afford legal services. Issues generally include immigration, criminal, family, consumer, and housing matters; volunteer interpreters are available to assist when needed. 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 consulted with clients over the phone to help determine significant legal issues, refer individuals to legal services, and answer other questions about the legal process. In July 2022, Legal Night returned to an in-person clinic at Centro San Juan Diego. Since Denver Legal Night began, almost 32,000 individuals have been served! In 2022, 403 volunteers assisted 969 clients.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Edgar Barraza (Clark Hill PLC)

Shannon Calhoun
(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

Erika Carter (The Harris Law Firm)

Anton Krainiy (BrightNight Power)

Madalia Maaliki
(Richards Carrington, LLC)

Meredith O'Harris
(Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.)

Angela Reyes (retired)

Stephen Robin (Foley Hoag LLP)

Whitney Wolfe
(Merriam Law Firm, P.C.)



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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. The program was 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.



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 with their economic recovery and success. Volunteer attorneys 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. Over 100 volunteers have signed up to provide assistance and almost 200 small businesses have already received assistance.

Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community:

THE NONPROFIT PRO BONO MATCHING PROGRAM

Since 2009, 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. Since the matching program began, over 500 nonprofits have been served.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Tariq Adawi
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Chris Lane
(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT *



Assisting Nonprofits to Strengthen Our Community: NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

Since 2006, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered with the Colorado Nonprofit Association to hold a Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic for small nonprofits with limited operating budgets. Teams of transactional attorneys answer questions and 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 2021, the clinic moved to a virtual format. We were excited to return in-person at the July 2022 Clinic. In July 2022, 71 volunteers helped a record 35 nonprofits. Since 2006, almost 800 volunteers have assisted 300 small nonprofits in the Clinic.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Caitlin McHugh

(Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP),
Co-Chair

Ryan Thurber (Polsinelli PC), Co-Chair

Tariq Adawi

(Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Jazz Allen-Perkal (Polsinelli PC)

Amy Black

(Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Carolyn Powell

(Association of Corporate Counsel—
Colorado Chapter)

Elizabeth Prutch

(Colorado Nonprofit Association)

Emily Tichenor (Polsinelli PC)

Thanks to departing Chair,
Sam Edwards
(Crowell & Moring LLP).



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Legal Advocacy for Housing and Homelessness:

THE 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. 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 lower-priced homes being overvalued. After significant review and discussion, the Task Force concluded that the appraisal techniques were sound. In early 2023, the Task Force began investigating possible racial discrimination in the covenant enforcement and foreclosure practices of certain HOAs in poorer neighborhoods in Denver. The Task Force is continuing to meet with advocacy groups and elected officials to research these allegations.



CO-CHAIRS:

Bill Callison (Holland & Hart LLP)

Rebecca Fischer

(Sherman & Howard L.L.C.)

IMMIGRATION

Assistance for Indigent Immigrants:

THE IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

For 22 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 who are seeking assistance regarding numerous issues, including the influx of unaccompanied children coming to the U.S., paths to U.S. citizenship and the effects of the recent executive orders.



CO-CHAIRS:

Nancy Elkind
(Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)

Steven Williams

Photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

IMMIGRATION



Helping Immigrants Seek Asylum: THE AFGHAN ASYLUM SUBCOMMITTEE

In 2021, the United States evacuated thousands of Afghans to the United States who are seeking protection from persecution. More than 2,000 Afghans resettled in Denver. Asylum applications needed to be submitted within one year of their arrival in the United States, so for most, this meant an August 2022 deadline.

In March of 2022, in partnership with Catholic Charities Denver, the Subcommittee conducted a training for almost 200 lawyers and non-lawyers. The Subcommittee held twelve workshops from April through October of 2022. A total of 355 volunteers (lawyers and non-lawyers) and 41 interpreters spent almost 5,500 hours valued at approximately \$1 million. The legal team had hoped to complete 200-300 applications—they completed 604. The Project was an incredible success and won the Denver Bar Association’s Project of the Year for 2022.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

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Diane Bassett

Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)

Tracy Harper (Catholic Charities Denver)

Arash Jahanian (Denver Public Schools)

Julie Kaptur (Bartlit Beck LLP)

Amber Paoloemilio (Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services)

Patricia Peterson (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)

Becca Siever (Colorado Court of Appeals)

Steven Williams



IMMIGRATION

Helping Immigrants Achieve Asylum Status: THE 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 create in-firm expertise and help detainees with their “credible fear interviews.” These interviews determine whether detainees are eligible for asylum. Many of the 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. Once the pilot program phased out, the firms moved forward with “PASS 2” during 2021 where firms would handle immigration bond hearings, parole hearings and asylum cases. In 2022, almost 30 volunteers participated in this program.



DAVIS
GRAHAM &
STUBBS

GIBSON DUNN



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. 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 2022, the Subcommittee reconvened when reports of renewed improper communications surfaced.



LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Nancy Elkind
(Palmer Polaski P.C., retired)

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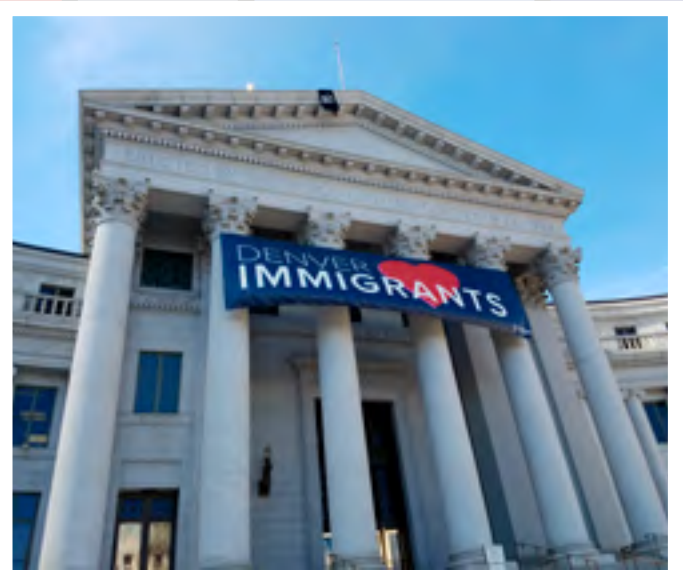
IMMIGRATION

Encouraging Pro Bono Immigrant Advocacy: ASYLUM TRAINING

In January and February 2022, the Colorado Lawyers Committee partnered with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) 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. More than 50 people signed up for the training which was free for anyone who agreed to take a pro bono asylum case.

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, for the estimated 55,000 unauthorized immigrants who live in Denver. Since 2018, the Fund has distributed nearly \$1.5 million in grants to organizations that provide legal representation. Nancy Elkind (Palmer Polaski P.C., retired) is the Colorado Lawyers Committee representative on the Fund's Advisory Board. Executive Director Kristin Bronson serves on the Fund's Fundraising Committee.



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 Megan Rash, a law student at the University of North Carolina School of Law, who was selected to be the second recipient of the Sattler Civil Rights Fellowship and worked with us during the summer of 2023.





**THANK
YOU**



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 45 years.





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

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