



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Special Update

October 25, 2007

Congratulations to Susan Cole of Arnold & Porter LLP, the Colorado Bar Association's 2007 Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year! The Colorado Lawyers Committee nominated Susan for her tireless dedication and commitment to the Legal Night Clinics and Project Homeless Connect. Congratulations Susan!



Project Homeless Connect volunteers RoxAnn Mack, Bill Campbell and Bragg Hemme.

Project Homeless Connect. The 5th Annual Project Homeless Connect was held on October 19, 2007 at Invesco Field at Mile High. Project Homeless Connect links over 1,000 homeless individuals in Denver to housing, employment, medical services, public benefits, and many other valuable services. Volunteer lawyers and law students generously donated their time to provide legal information and referrals. With the assistance of our volunteers, almost 200 Project Homeless Connect participants were provided information about family law, housing, immigration, bankruptcy, and much more.

Additionally, volunteers participated in the highly successful **Homeless Court**. Denver County Judge Ortiz-White spent over 5 hours resolving outstanding tickets and warrants for Project Homeless Connect participants. By the end of the day, thousands of dollars in outstanding fines were waived, community service hours were completed, and homeless individuals left with a concrete plan to end their homelessness. **Thank you to all our volunteers!**

The next Project Homeless Connect event will be next Spring at the University of Denver. If you're interested in volunteering or would like additional information, please contact Susan Cole at susan_cole@aporter.com.



Susan Cole accepts a \$1,000 check from the Colorado Bar Association for Mi Casa Resource Center for Women.

Nonprofit Legal Clinic. The Nonprofit Working Group was established to provide pro bono services to meet the legal needs of nonprofits that serve low income, low asset, socio-economically disadvantaged or otherwise underserved communities and do not have the resources to retain an attorney.

In January, the Nonprofit Working Group will begin sponsoring quarterly legal clinics for nonprofit organizations. Volunteer lawyers are needed to meet with the nonprofit organizations and provide legal information and resources. For more information on the Nonprofit Working Group or to volunteer, please contact Peter Schwartz at peter.schwartz@dgslaw.com.

Congratulations David Fine, New Denver City Attorney!

Executive Committee member David Fine was named Denver City Attorney by Mayor John Hickenlooper. David will assume his new position on October 29, 2007.

Thanks to David for his years of work on behalf of the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

Congratulations David!

Congratulations Connie Talmage, 2007 University of Denver Law Star!

Our very own Connie Talmage was honored on September 27 as this year's recipient of the Alumni Professionalism award from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. This is a great honor and a well-deserved recognition of Connie's professional achievements.

Congratulations Connie!



Volunteer lawyer T.A. Taylor-Hunt meets with a family
Centro San Juan Diego's Legal Night Clinic.

Hate Violence Task Force. The Hate Violence Task Force is actively coordinating and conducting mock trials in middle schools and high schools throughout Colorado. Through the mock trial program, students obtain a greater understanding of Colorado's hate crimes law, as well as a deeper appreciation for the judicial system. If you know of a middle school or high school that would be interested in hosting a mock trial presentation or if you would like to volunteer at an upcoming mock trial, please contact Tarek Saad, chair of the Hate Violence Task Force at tfsaad@hollandhart.com.

**THANK YOU to the lobbying firm of
Aponté & Busam
for agreeing to be the pro bono lobbyists for the
Colorado Lawyers Committee again this coming year!**

Election Task Force. Representatives from the Election Task Force met recently with the Denver Clerk and Recorder, Stephanie O'Malley, to discuss ways the Task Force can be of assistance and help the City avoid problems with future elections. During the next election, the Task Force will again recruit election judges. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Gale Miller at gale.miller@dgslaw.com.



The Election Task Force discusses ways to engage Colorado voters in the election process.

Mental Health Task Force. This Task Force is currently exploring legal issues on three separate fronts: children's mental health care, preventative mental health care, and the interplay between mental health care and the criminal justice system.

The Criminal Justice subcommittee is closely tracking three pieces of anticipated legislation for 2008. The first two bills would broaden last year's legislation that required the Department of Corrections to assist inmates with the application process for mental health services prior to release. These bills would extend the same legal requirement to jails and human service facilities, including youth correctional facilities and state hospitals. The third bill would require the state of Colorado to suspend (rather than terminate) an inmate's Medicaid benefits upon incarceration. This bill would make it easier for an inmate to receive Medicaid services upon release.

If you're interested in participating in the Mental Health Task Force, please contact co-chairs Daphne O'Connor at daphne_oconnor@aporter.com or John Voorhees at voorhees@pattonboggs.com.

Would you like your firm to be more involved in pro bono work?

The Colorado Lawyers Committee welcomes the opportunity to meet with your law firm (partners, associates, paralegals, law clerks) to discuss volunteer opportunities through Colorado Lawyers Committee Task Forces. To schedule a presentation, please contact Nora Earnest, Associate Director, at nearest@coloradolawyerscommitte.org.



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