

Colorado Lawyers Committee

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved

2021 Awards Luncheon



**Peter H. Schwartz*

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Awards Luncheon on **October 21, 2021** (in person) at the Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center.

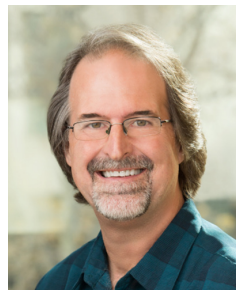
We are delighted this year to honor **Peter H. Schwartz**, a partner with Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, with the **2021 Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award** for his longstanding support and extensive contributions to the work of the Lawyers Committee. Through his decades-long involvement with the Colorado Lawyers Committee, Peter has made a huge impact in the nonprofit and business community through his work on the Business

Advisory Committee, Colorado COVID Legal Relief Program, the Small Business Legal Assistance Project, the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic, the Nonprofit Working Group and Project Homeless Connect. Peter also served as CLC Board Chair, Chair's Roundtable Co-Chair and on the CLC Executive Committee.



Michelle Berge

The Lawyers Committee also announced two recipients of the **2021 Special Recognition Award: Michelle Berge**, General Counsel at Denver Public Schools, and **Paul Hartmann**, owner of Hartmannphoto, LLC. Michelle served as Chair of CLC's Greeley Legal Night Clinic for almost ten years. Paul has generously provided expert pro bono photographic service to the CLC since 2011. His beautiful photos are displayed in our Annual Report and on our website.



Paul Hartmann

Events/Volunteer Opportunities

Denver Legal Night

August 4, 5-8 pm
August 18, 5-8 pm
September 1, 5-8 pm
September 15, 5-8 pm

SIJS Training

August 25, 9-11am
September 10, 9-12 pm

YLD Racial Justice Summit

University of Denver
Sturm College of Law
September 8, Time TBD

Chairs Roundtable Reception

September 22, 5:30-7:30 pm

2021 Awards Luncheon

October 21, 11:30-1:30 pm
Hyatt Regency Convention Center



Lee Gelernt

Keynote Speaker, Lee Gelernt

Another highlight of the Luncheon will be our **Keynote Speaker, Lee Gelernt**, Deputy Director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project and Director of the Access to the Courts Program. Over the past several years, Mr. Gelernt has argued several groundbreaking challenges to administration policies, and successfully argued the first case challenging the travel ban on individuals from certain Muslim-majority nations and advocating on behalf of children separated from their families at the border.

2021 Awards Luncheon (cont.)

The awards will be presented at the CLC's Awards Luncheon on **October 21, 2021**, at the Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center. Nominees for the **CLC 2021 Law Firm of the Year**, **2021 Team of the Year** and **2021 Pandemic Heroes Award** are:

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Polsinelli PC

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

The Harris Law Firm P.C.

TEAM OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Hate Crimes National Team

Immigration Task Force Probation Disclosure Subcommittee

Preparing Asylum Seekers for Success (PASS) Pilot Program

Young Lawyers Division CLE Series Planning Committee

PANDEMIC HEROES AWARD NOMINEES

Colorado COVID Legal Relief Program Team and Volunteers

Denver Legal Night Team and Volunteers

Hate Crimes Education Task Force Steering Committee

Immigration Habeas TRO Litigation Team

Young Lawyers Division Lunches with Legends Steering Committee

A FULL LIST OF THE INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES AS WELL AS SPONSORSHIPS AND TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT

<https://coloradolawyerscommittee.org/2021-annual-luncheon>

Task Force Updates

COLORADO COVID LEGAL RELIEF

Since June 2020, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered with the Colorado Attorney General, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the CBA/DBA, the Denver Chamber and the law firms of WilmerHale, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP and Messner Reeves LLP to provide legal help for small businesses adversely impacted by COVID. Small businesses provide half of Colorado's jobs and have been especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis, with minority and women-owned small businesses being hit the hardest. In the year since the program began, more than 250 small businesses have been helped through the program. As we start to recover from the pandemic this program will transition into the Colorado Small Business Legal Project (see below).

COLORADO SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL PROJECT

The CLC has been working with other legal organizations to create a new program that will offer one-hour of free legal assistance to small businesses. For information and to sign up, [click here](#).



Task Force Updates (cont.)

DENVER LEGAL NIGHT

Since April 2020, Denver Legal Night clinics have been offered remotely, on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 5 to 8 PM. The virtual clinics continue to be a success and have served over 1,500 people. Instead of meeting in person at Centro San Juan Diego, volunteer lawyers consult over the phone to help determine significant legal issues, refer individuals to legal services, and answer other questions about the legal process. Interpreters are available if needed. Visit our website to sign up. Also, if you know of interpreters or Spanish-speaking lawyers willing to help, please contact [Kathleen McCrohan](#). We are always in need of Spanish-speaking volunteers!

FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE

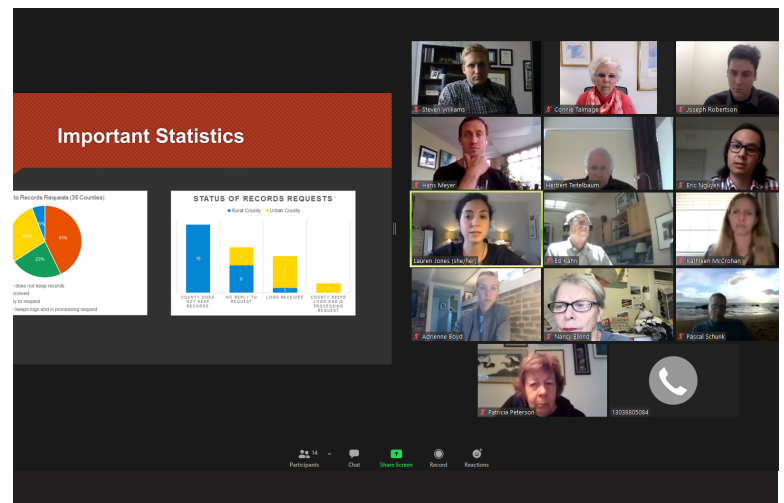
The Foster Care Subcommittee has been meeting with the State regarding what we allege is the State's failure to provide appropriate placements for foster children in detention and required mental health services. Negotiations continue as the group tries to find a resolution.

HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The [Hate Crimes Education Task Force](#) recently converted its presentation so it is available virtually. In May, we presented the virtual program to 83 seventh graders! If you know of a middle school or high school that might be interested in having a Hate Crimes presentation in grades 7 through 12, please contact [Connie Talmage](#).

ICE IN THE COURTHOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

In early 2020, the ICE in the Courthouse Subcommittee successfully supported the passage of SB20-083 which prohibits ICE arrests at the courthouse and prohibits arrests of individuals traveling to and from courthouses. The goal of the law is to ensure a better functioning justice system in Colorado by protecting immigrants who go to courthouses from fear of arrest when they report crimes or appear as witnesses. The Subcommittee has been working with the Immigration Law & Policy Clinic (ILPC) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law to educate Colorado sheriffs and judges about the new law. Once the courts reopen, the CLC will monitor ICE's compliance with the statute and may pursue litigation, if necessary. We have posted information on how to know if they learn of violations of this law.



SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS)

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is partnering with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) to train non-immigration lawyers to represent children in the state court SIJS proceedings. The training is free for anyone who agrees to accept an SIJS case screened by RMIAN. The virtual training will be in two parts: August 25th from 9 am to 11 am and September 10th from 9 am to 12 pm. Volunteers will have a mentor to assist them as necessary. [Click here](#) to sign up.

NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

The Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was held on July 20th via Zoom. Forty-eight volunteer lawyers met (in virtual breakout rooms) with representatives from 18 small nonprofits to assess the legal health of their organizations. The day began with a CLE for the attorneys. Thank you to our CLE presenters, all our volunteers and to the Steering Committee members for organizing such a wonderful virtual event! Watch for the announcement of our next clinic in February 2022.

Task Force Updates (cont.)

RACIAL JUSTICE

The Racial Justice Task Force was created in fall 2020 to assure that we are doing all we can to promote racial justice. More than 30 volunteers signed up to serve on three dynamic subcommittees: (1) The Advocacy Subcommittee, chaired by Martha Fitzgerald (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLC) is exploring needs in the areas of criminal justice, mental health and health care and will decide whether the CLC should create task forces in those areas. (2) The Training Subcommittee, chaired by Regina Rodriguez (WilmerHale), is planning DEI trainings for CLC staff and volunteers. (3) The Internal Subcommittee, chaired by Christine Hernandez (Hernandez & Associates, PC), will conduct a survey of DEI in CLC contributing law firms, is meeting with Specialty Bar Presidents to discuss strengthening their relationships with the CLC, and is planning a YLD Racial Justice Summit with YLD members from all organizations on September 8th.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

This new task force is looking at whether school districts are improperly releasing confidential student records to law enforcement.

THE MEDICAID/MENTAL HEALTH PARITY TASK FORCE

This new task force is exploring whether the state is complying with the Colorado and federal laws that require parity between medical services and behavioral health services available through Medicaid.

YLD NEWS

Thank You to our former YLD Board members! Over the past few months, we have said goodbye to several YLD Board members: **Lauren Carboni** (Foley & Lardner LLP) was a founding member of the YLD, served as Co-Chair of the Fundraising & Events team and the Denver Legal Night team and as Chair of the YLD. Thank you, Lauren, for your years of dedication to the YLD! **Abby Hinchcliff** (Colorado Attorney General's Office) was also a founding member of the YLD and served as Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning team and as Chair of the YLD Board. Thank you, Abby, for your years of dedication to the YLD! **Annika Adams** joined the YLD Board as our first DU Law School Representative. We wish her the best of luck as she begins her legal career with Highlands Law Firm. **Anjie Zhi** served on the YLD Board, before her graduation, as the CU Law School Representative. Best of luck, Anjie, as you begin your legal career with Ballard Spahr LLP.

Welcome New YLD Board Members

Three new members were elected to the Young Lawyers Division Board this summer.
Welcome to all new Board members!



Therese Fox

Therese Fox is an Associate at Arnold & Porter where she practices corporate law. Therese is the new Co-Chair of the PR & Membership team.



Stephen Robin

Stephen Robin is an Associate at Sherman & Howard L.L.C. in the firm's litigation, trials and appeals practice. Stephen is the new Co-Chair of the Legal Night team.



Whitney Wolfe

Whitney Wolfe is an Associate at The Harris Law Firm P.C. where she practices family law. Whitney is the new Co-Chair of the Legal Night team.



John Ellis



Hannah Goldstein

New Law Student Representatives on YLD Board

Welcome to **John Ellis**, a rising 2L at the University of Colorado Law School, and **Hannah Goldstein**, a rising 2L at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. John and Hannah are both working with the YLD PR & Membership team.

YLD HOSTS GEEKS WHO DRINK EVENT

On June 24th, the YLD hosted its first ever virtual Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz. There were six rounds of the finest trivia in the land, covering topics such as pop culture, music, history, food and drink. Teams of young lawyers battled it out head-to-head for fun prizes. Congratulations to “Team Defenders” (Elie Zwiebel, Sri Pernankil, and Michael LaGarde), the big winners of the evening.



CWBA FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS YLD GRANT PROGRAM

This spring, the Colorado Women’s Bar Association (CWBA) partnered with our Young Lawyers Division to fundraise for the YLD Grant Program. CWBA matched the first \$1,000 of donations in the months of March, April and May. We are excited to announce that we were able to raise a total of \$2,000 for the YLD Grant Program!

Thank you to the CWBA for supporting our efforts of assisting young attorneys in their pro bono work. The YLD Grant Program funds YLD members to support their efforts to further the CLC mission of making a difference for children and the underserved through education, advocacy, and systemic change. Members can apply for grants to help defray costs in pro bono representation, fund materials or space for clinics or other direct services or provide scholarships for trainings that assist lawyers in providing pro bono services. To apply for a Grant, [click here](#).

YLD RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT COMING TO DU LAW ON SEPTEMBER 8TH

Join the YLD and members of the Racial Justice Task Force as they host the first ever YLD Racial Justice Summit at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law on September 8th. The event will bring together law students and YLD members of the various bar associations to brainstorm racial justice efforts. The event will take place in person on campus with speakers, an informative brainstorming session and a reception to wrap up the evening. Registration for the event will be coming soon.

LUNCHESES WITH LEGENDS

The Young Lawyers Division continues to offer a series of one-hour lunch talks with local legal legends to help inspire young lawyers on their path to greatness. Over the past several months, we have been fortunate to speak with former Colorado U.S. Attorney John Walsh, US District Court Judges Brooke Jackson and Christie Arguello, Deputy District Attorney and Adjunct Professor Karen Steinhauser, and Representatives Jason Crow and Joe Neguse. Join us again in September after the summer hiatus. We thank all of our Legends for sharing their time and wisdom with us. As a reminder, this free event is held via Zoom and you do not need to be a member of the YLD to attend. All are welcome!



Joe Neguse



John Walsh



Karen Steinhauser

Welcome New Board Members



Yuri Bazan
Yuri Bazan Law Firm, LLC



Lauren Groth
Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC



Liz Harding
Polsinelli PC



Hannah Proff
CWBA Board Representative,
Proff Law, LLC

Welcome New CLC Law Firms



Welcome Hannah Goldstein. The Colorado Lawyers Committee welcomes Hannah Goldstein, the 2021 Sattler Civil Rights Fellow. Hannah is a rising second-year law student at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She earned her undergraduate degree at the George Washington University in international affairs and public policy. During her time in Washington DC, Hannah interned on Capitol Hill, at nonprofit organizations and a political consulting firm. She spent a semester abroad in London and a summer in Israel studying international politics and global conflict resolution. Hannah's work with the Lawyers Committee is made possible by a generous legacy gift from the estates of Bruce and Martha Sattler.



Full-Time Office Manager Position Available

Deadline for applications is midnight on **July 30, 2021**

For details on the position:

<https://coloradolawyerscommittee.org/careers>

COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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Kathleen McCrohan, Associate Director (303) 256-2781 | Olivia Weed, Office Manager (303) 256-2782

www.ColoradoLawyersCommittee.org



Thank you to our pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann (Hartmannphoto, LLC) who is responsible for all photos marked with an (*).