

Colorado Lawyers Committee

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved

With Challenge Comes Action!

These last few months have been deeply unsettling. Our communities have been hit hard with the uncertainties of a global pandemic and all the human and economic devastation that comes with it. Further, the continued violence perpetuated on Black communities by those in power is at the forefront of our hearts and minds and much work needs to be done. The challenges our communities face cannot be met with quick fixes or easy solutions. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is dedicated to working through the issues to support the communities we serve. Our statement regarding this commitment is [available here](#). As we continue to work towards a better tomorrow, we have plenty of updates to share.

Racial Justice Initiative

THE RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

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 animosity. Many other projects have challenged economic inequities; our new **Small Business Program** offers legal assistance to small businesses struggling with the impact of COVID-19, particularly minority-owned businesses that have long suffered from economic discrimination. But these times require more. The Colorado Lawyers Committee has formed a Racial Justice Task Force to reexamine our motivations and processes to ensure that all our actions, internally and externally, support the goal of a responsible, strong, and racially equitable community. We are delighted to welcome **Dante James** as our guest speaker at our **July 20th Board Meeting**, who will help us continue the conversation about racial justice. Dante is an experienced Consultant on racial inequity within government, higher education and the corporate and nonprofit sectors. If you are interested in working with CLC on the Racial Justice Task Force, please contact **Connie Talmage**.

INTRODUCING THE COLORADO COVID SMALL BUSINESS LEGAL PROGRAM

In partnership with the Office of the Colorado Attorney General, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Wilmer Hale, and Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, the Colorado Lawyers Committee launched its small business relief initiative in June 2020. Small businesses provide half of Colorado's jobs and they have been especially hard-hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis, with minority and women-owned small businesses being hit the hardest. The program matches small businesses that need limited legal advice regarding COVID-19 related issues with volunteer lawyers. In the first three weeks of the program, more than 50 businesses applied for assistance and over 100 volunteer lawyers offered to provide limited legal representation to help small businesses get back on their feet. The Program also offers webinars on topics relevant to small business needs. Visit coloradocovidrelief.org to learn more or to sign up!

SAVE THE DATES

YLD Barristers Behind the Bar
July 30, 2020
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Upcoming Legal Nights:
August 5, 2020
August 19, 2020
5pm - 8pm

YLD Lunches with Legends featuring Attorney General Phil Weiser
August 5, 2020
12pm - 1pm

2021 Annual Awards Lunch
May 19, 2021
11:30 am - 1pm



DAVIS
GRAHAM &
STUBBS

WILMERHALE® 

News From The Young Lawyers Division

WELCOME NEW YLD BOARD MEMBERS

Two new members were elected to the Young Lawyers Division Board in June: Alex Mancero and Anjie Zhi. Welcome Alex and Anjie!



Alex Mancero is an Associate at **Sherman & Howard L.L.C.** in the firm's Corporate & Transactional and Real Estate groups. He is the new co-chair of the Fundraising & Events team.



Anjie Zhi is a rising 3L at the **University of Colorado Law School** and will join the YLD Board as the new CU Law School Representative. Anjie will work with the PR and Membership team.

YLD LUNCHES WITH LEGENDS



The Young Lawyers Division is offering a series of lunch talks with local legal legends to help inspire young lawyers on their path to greatness. The inaugural Lunches with Legends was held on July 1, 2020 and featured Justice Melissa Hart. Justice Hart imparted wisdom on recovering from failures, collaborating with your team, and using your mentors, to a virtual crowd of over 60 people. We thank Justice Hart and all those in attendance! We are excited for the next session featuring Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser on August 5, 2020. [Sign up here](#) for this free Zoom event.



YLD BARRISTERS BEHIND THE BAR

As we are unable to gather for our usual mixers and celebrations, the CLC Young Lawyers Division is pleased to announce an exciting new virtual event series: Barristers Behind the Bar! This free mixology happy hour presentation is an opportunity for young (and not-so-young!) lawyers to enjoy a virtual mixer with one of Denver's top mixologists. On **Thursday, July 30th** from 5:30pm-6:30pm, Attendees will learn how to make their own drink under the instruction of Seven Grand's favorite bartender, Dylan Holcomb, who has been slinging drinks around the country for over 20 years. Registration includes a free virtual raffle ticket to win a \$50 gift card to Seven Grand Denver. You do not need to be a YLD member to attend. [Sign up now!](#)

Welcome New Fellow!

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is pleased to welcome **Karli Wurpel** as the 2020 Hill & Robbins Fellow. Karli is a rising 2L at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. Karli is a Chancellor's Scholar and President Elect of the International Law Society.

Prior to starting law school, Karli spent five years with Child Advocates--Denver CASA where she helped guide advocates and families through the child abuse and neglect system in Denver Juvenile Court. Thank you to Hill & Robbins, P.C. for your generosity in making this fellowship possible.



Task Force Updates

DENVER LEGAL NIGHT

Denver Legal Night is now virtual! To honor the many needs of our community while maintaining safety in the current times, Denver Legal Night is now offered remotely. The virtual clinics continue to be a success and have served almost 300 people since switching formats in April 2020. Instead of meeting in person at El Centro de 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 willing to help, please send them our way.



Denver Legal Night

Every First & Third Wednesday of the month Virtual!

(Phone conferences and consultations)

5:00 - 8:00pm:

45-minute time slots are scheduled for the appointments;
the volunteer lawyer calls the client at the assigned time

NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

The summer Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was scheduled for July 22, 2020 and we planned to conduct the Clinic via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to the present environment, only a small number of nonprofits signed up for the Clinic. As a result, we made the difficult decision to cancel the July Clinic and individually match attorneys with the four nonprofits who signed up. We look forward to hosting the Clinic again in February 2021.



IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

The Immigration Task Force answered a new call to action in the wake of COVID-19. Volunteer lawyers from Arnold & Porter, in collaboration with RMIAN and the National Immigration Project, filed a Habeas Corpus complaint and emergency Motion for Release of fourteen medically vulnerable detainees in ICE custody at the Aurora Detention Facility. The detention facility identified eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff, making the detainees all the more vulnerable. Nine of the fourteen detainees are transgender women who are HIV positive. The complaint was filed on April 20, 2020. The next day, ICE released eight detainees and by June 2020, two more detainees were released. Four individuals remain in ICE custody. The Judge denied the Motion for TRO and Habeas Petition, stating that the motion challenged conditions of confinement, so a habeas remedy was not permitted. The team is considering an emergency appeal to the 10th Circuit.

HOUSING TASK FORCE

The Housing Task Force is focused on a widespread issue of noncompliance with HB19-1106 by apartment owners. HB19-1106 places limits on landlords' rental application fees and on which portions of a tenant's eviction and criminal history can be considered in processing the rental application. Based on the number of non-conforming applications discovered, apartment owners are either unaware of or are ignoring the new rules. Task Force members are sending cease and desist letters to the noncompliant apartment owners and will consider further action if necessary.

Welcome New Board Members



Stacey Bowman
Husch Blackwell, LLP



Maria-Vittoria "Giugi" Carminati
NDH, LLC



Caleb Durling
Fox Rothschild LLP



Almira Moronne
CWBA (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP)



Camila Palmer
Elkind Alterman Hartson PC

Welcome New CLC Law Firm



Other News

DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH

The Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Judicial Institute (spurred on by **Judge Gary Jackson**) have created a Diversity on the Bench Coalition whose purpose is to make sure the state court bench in Colorado reflects the diversity of the people in Colorado. The Coalition will help lead a community-wide effort to comprehensively address a lack of diversity among Colorado state court judges and has asked the Colorado Lawyers Committee to participate as a Coalition Partner and designate a representative to serve on the Coalition. We are pleased that **Edgar Barraza** (Fox Rothschild LLP) has agreed to serve as the Colorado Lawyers Committee representative.

ONE COLORADO AWARD

One Colorado is honoring the Colorado Lawyers Committee with the 2020 Ally Award for our work on the Anti-Bullying Subcommittee and the Joint ID Task Force. The Award will be presented at a virtual event this fall. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is proud and grateful to be honored, and we look forward to continuing to support the important work of One Colorado.

2020 ANNUAL LUNCH CANCELLATION

In an effort to keep our community safe, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Awards Luncheon (originally scheduled for May 12th and subsequently rescheduled for September 24th). We look forward to honoring our 2020 nominees and award recipients at the 2021 Awards Luncheon on **May 19, 2021**. Details to follow!

COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

1401 Lawrence Street, Suite 2300, Denver, CO 80202
Connie Talmage, Executive Director (303) 256-2780

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

www.ColoradoLawyersCommittee.org

