

COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved



ELECTION CALL CENTER

Every two years, the Colorado Lawyers Committee co-sponsors a Nonpartisan Election Call Center where volunteers answer phone calls from Colorado voters on the national 866-OUR-VOTE hotline. Typical questions include, "Has my ballot been received?" "Where do I register?" and "Where can I drop off my ballot?" The 2020 Call Center took place in person on November 2nd and Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. (It was wonderful to be in person!) The Call Center was held in the Capitol Ballroom (capacity 650) and we took considerable steps to assure the safety of our volunteers: each

of the 25 volunteers per shift sat at a separate table; the tables were sanitized by hotel staff at the end of each shift; and masked volunteers used their own laptops to answer calls. One-hundred volunteers answered almost 500 calls. Overall, the event was a great success!



Apply Now! YLD Board Opening

Are you interested in serving on the YLD Board? There is a currently an opening due to the departure of our former YLD Chair, Abby Hinchcliff, who has accepted a new position with the Colorado Attorney General's office. Abby has been a long-term, ardent support of the YLD and the CLC's broader efforts, including helping to form the CLC Racial Justice Task Force. Thank you, Abby, for all you've done for the YLD and the CLC!

To be eligible to serve on the YLD Board, applicants must be YLD members and must practice at a CLC contributing law firm. If you know someone who is interested in joining the YLD Board, encourage them to **apply**. The deadline is March 26.

HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: CCLR

Since June 2020, the Colorado Lawyers Committee has partnered with the Colorado Attorney General, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, 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. The program matches volunteer lawyers with small businesses that need limited legal advice regarding COVID-19 related issues. Since inception, more than 200 businesses have applied for assistance and almost 200 volunteer lawyers have 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. The team is currently discussing what this program will

look like as the pandemic begins to dissipate. If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who needs small business legal assistance, please visit the [website](#) today!



CU/DU LAW STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT

The PR & Membership Team is planning a CU/DU lunchtime Zoom event to promote CLC and help law students network. The event will be sponsored by the Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR) at DU Law. This will allow students to receive credit for attending. A short 15-minute presentation by one of our criminal justice-focused volunteers will take place before students move into breakout rooms to spend the majority of the time networking with CLC and YLD volunteers. Students will be able to hear about ways to incorporate public interest work into their practice. Stay tuned for more information.

LUNCHES WITH LEGENDS



John F. Walsh
Wilmer Hale



Hon. Christine Arguello
U.S. District Court Judge



Rep. Jason Crow
U.S. Representative

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 U.S. District Court Judge Brooke Jackson, Colorado Public Defender Megan Ring, Representative Jason Crow, and U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello. Next month, we will host former Colorado U.S. Attorney John Walsh. We thank all of our Legends for sharing your time and wisdom with us. As a reminder, you do not need to be a member of the YLD to attend. All are welcome! [Click here](#) to sign up.



Young Lawyers Division Board Meeting via Zoom

WELCOME NEW YLD CHAIR ELECT

We are delighted to announce that Cait McHugh has been selected as the new YLD Chair Elect. Cait is a partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP where her practice focuses on civil and commercial

litigation. She is a 2012 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School and has been on the YLD Board since 2018. Congratulations Cait.



TASK FORCE UPDATES

JAIL WAIT UPDATE

Great news from the Jail Wait Litigation Team. In 2019, the team executed a 2019 Consent Decree settling a ten-year lawsuit, on behalf of individuals presumed incompetent, who were sitting in jail for as long as six months waiting for the state to provide evaluations and restoration services. The settlement provides for

significant fines for the State's non-compliance. Approximately \$1.5 million was recently donated to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) for community mental health housing; CCH has agreed to hold 25 beds for people in jails with mental illness who have been presumed incompetent or determined

incompetent. Additionally, funds from the consent decree will fund the hiring of an expert criminal defense lawyer to advocate for treatment in the community, release from jail, and/or dismissal of criminal cases. Congratulations to the entire team on their continued success!

HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The Hate Crimes Team made a presentation for the [Denver Symposium on Race](#) on February 3rd. The team was able to conduct the entire presentation via Zoom and used breakout rooms for jury deliberations. They continue to promote the program to schools and prepare for virtual presentations this Spring. If you know of a middle school or high school that might be interested in having a virtual Hate Crimes presentation in grades 7 through 12, please contact [Connie Talmage](#).

IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

The Task Force is advocating for public or state funding for legal counsel for detained immigrants, similar to the Denver Legal Services Fund, but on a state-wide level (HB 21-1194). The Task Force will host a screening of the documentary "The Facility" in April, a film by Jeremy Flood about the Aurora

Detention Center. We encourage you to attend! The ICE in the Courthouse Subcommittee has been busy educating Colorado sheriffs and judges about SB20-083 that prohibits ICE arrests at the courthouse and requires court security to maintain records of law enforcement visits to the courthouse.

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

The Racial Justice Task Force recently created three dynamic subcommittees: (1) The Advocacy Subcommittee, chaired by Martha Fitzgerald (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP) 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 reaching out to over 30 community organizations to identify the existing DEI training efforts in the state. (3) The Internal Subcommittee, chaired by Christine Hernandez (Hernandez & Associates), will conduct a survey of DEI in CLC contributing law firms and will meet with Specialty Bar Presidents to discuss strengthening their relationships with the CLC.

NONPROFIT LEGAL CLINIC

Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was held on February 23rd via Zoom. Fifty volunteer lawyers met (in virtual breakout rooms) with representatives from 19 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 this coming July.

FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Foster Care Subcommittee has been meeting with the State regarding possible litigation to force the State to create appropriate placements for foster children in detention and to provide required mental health services to these children.

DENVER LEGAL NIGHT

To honor the many needs of our community while maintaining safety in the current times, Denver Legal Night is still 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

1,000 people since switching formats in April 2020. 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!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Aaron Boschee
Achieve Law Group, LLC



Jess Black Livingston
Hogan Lovells US LLP



Dan Malone
Haynes and Boone, LLP

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FIRMS



ANNUAL LUNCH UPDATE

In an effort to keep our community safe, the Colorado Lawyers Committee made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Awards Luncheon. We look forward to gathering sometime this fall when it is safe to honor our wonderful nominees and award recipients at the 2021 Awards Luncheon. Stay tuned for more details.

SAD NEWS: PASSING OF GERRY NIEDERMAN

We were deeply saddened at the end of last year to learn of the passing of one of our beloved Board and Executive Committee members. On November 15, 2020, Gerry Niederman, passed away peacefully at the age of 69 in San Diego, California. Gerry dedicated his life to expanding access to health care for all and practiced law as a shareholder at Polsinelli PC in the Denver office, where he represented health care organizations and related nonprofit entities in Colorado and throughout the United States. He also proudly served on philanthropic boards, including the Colorado Lawyers Committee and was an invaluable member of the CLC Executive Committee. He will be greatly missed.



THANK YOU TO THE KING FOUNDATION

Several years ago, Colorado Lawyers Committee received a \$5,000 grant from the King Foundation to support Denver Legal Night. Recently, the King Foundation reached out to us and asked us to apply for a \$5,000 grant for general operating expenses. We completed the application and were awarded \$10,000!! Thank you to Iris Eytan for connecting Colorado Lawyers Committee with the King Foundation!