

# Colorado Lawyers Committee

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved

## 2022 Annual Awards Luncheon

Mark your calendars for the 2022 Annual Awards Luncheon on **September 14, 2022** at the Grand Hyatt Denver.

We are delighted this year to honor **Jerome DeHerrera** (Achieve Law Group, LLC) with the 2022 Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award for his extensive pro bono representation of the plaintiffs in the famous Taylor Ranch lawsuit *Labato v. Taylor*. Jerome has donated more than 2,000 pro bono hours to this effort to assure the rights of families whose ancestors settled in the San Luis Valley.



Jerome DeHerrera

*photo courtesy of Hartmannphoto, LLC*

The Lawyers Committee will also honor three recipients of the **2022 Special Recognition Award:**

Angela Reyes

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)  
Seigneur Gustafson LLP

Four individuals have been nominated for the

### Individual of the Year Award:

Carolyn S. Powell (MCR Development)

Pascal C. Schunk (Schunk Law Firm P.C.)

Sarah B. Wallace (Ballard Spahr LLP)

Steven Williams (Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.).

Four law firms will be honored as nominees for the **2022 Law Firm of the Year Award:**

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Hernandez & Associates, P.C.

Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

## Events/Volunteer Opportunities

### Denver Legal Night, 5-8 pm

July 6

July 20

August 3

August 17

September 7

September 21

Sign up on CLC website

### Afghan Asylum Workshops

July 16

July 30

August 13

August 27

More details on CLC website

### Racial Justice Summit

September 29, 2022

University of Denver

Sturm College of Law

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

### Nonpartisan Election Day

Call Center

November 7 – 8, 2022

Stay tuned for details

## SIGN UP NOW For The CLC Awards Luncheon

**September 14, 2022  
Grand Hyatt Denver**

Tickets and sponsorships are available at [coloradolawyerscommittee.org](http://coloradolawyerscommittee.org)



Kristen Clarke

Another highlight of the 2022 Awards Luncheon will be our **Keynote Speaker, Kristen Clarke**, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. Kristen leads the Justice Department's broad federal civil rights enforcement efforts and works to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all who live in America.

## Task Force Updates

### IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

This has been a busy year for the Task Force. Our primary focus has been on offering workshops to help resettled Afghans apply for asylum: Over 2,000 Afghan refugees have arrived in Colorado since December, 2021. More than 200 volunteers, both lawyers and non-lawyers, have participated in the workshops. Four workshops have been held so far. Additional workshops are anticipated every other Saturday until the end of the year.



*Afghan Clinic*

### NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

On July 20th, more than 75 volunteer lawyers will convene at the Polsinelli law firm for a free CLE, followed by meetings where teams of lawyers will work with representatives of more than 33 small nonprofits to assess their organizations' legal health and answer their legal questions.

### DENVER LEGAL NIGHT

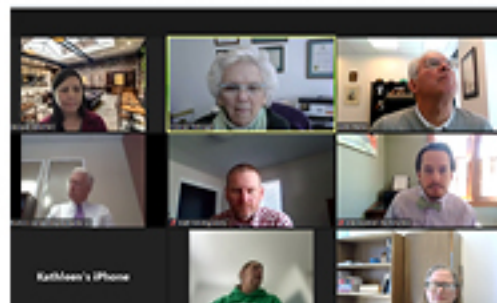
After more than two years offering this clinic by phone, we are finally returning to an in-person clinic. Please join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Centro San Juan Diego. You can sign up on the CLC website or email our Legal Night Coordinator, Alicia Drury at [adrury@coloradolawyerscommittee.org](mailto:adrury@coloradolawyerscommittee.org).

### THE CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE

These volunteers are exploring several systemic issues, including whether State and local school districts are complying with the Every Student Succeeds Act (which requires children in foster care remain in school) and whether local district attorneys are inappropriately denying diversion to children with family members who may have gang affiliations.

### THE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

This Task Force continues fighting to improve equity, access, and quality of education for all Colorado's children. Four subcommittees are active: Special Education, Charter Schools, School Finance, and School Discipline. If you're interested in volunteering, you do not need any special expertise.



*Special Education Subcommittee*

### ELECTION CALL CENTER

Once again this year, the CLC will partner with other organizations to offer a nonpartisan call center on Election Day and the day before where volunteers will answer calls from voters on how they can access the polls. Typical questions include: "Has my ballot been received?" "Where do I register?" and "Where can I drop off my ballot?" Volunteer signups will be available in late summer on the CLC website.

### THE HATE CRIMES EDUCATION TASK FORCE

After two years with only virtual presentations, it was nice this year to return to in-person events. Volunteers with the Task Force present a fictional trial on Colorado's Hate Crimes/Bias Statute at local middle and high schools. If you want to volunteer or know of a school that would welcome this free program, let us know. To learn more about how you can get involved, visit the CLC website.



*Hate Crimes Mock Trial*

### RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Formed in 2000, in response to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others, the Racial Justice Task Force was created to assure the CLC is doing all we can to promote racial justice. The Task Force has been working to strengthen CLC's relationships with the specialty bars and the law school diversity organizations. Volunteers are currently working on a DEI "best practices" survey that will be sent to all CLC contributing firms.

## Task Force Updates (cont.)

### SMALL BUSINESS PROJECTS

During the early days of the pandemic, CLC partnered with the Colorado Attorney General's Office and several other organizations, to launch a new program (Colorado COVID Legal Relief (CCLR)) which assisted more than 250 small businesses adversely impacted by COVID. This program has been replaced this year by the Colorado Small Business Legal Program which provides one-hour of free legal consultation for small businesses (10 employees or less). The program is hosted on the website of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). Let us know if you're interested in signing up to volunteer.

### TAYLOR RANCH

For more than 40 years, volunteers have worked to protect the rights of landowners in the San Luis Valley to access a 77,500-acre mountainous parcel known as the Taylor Ranch. This right was created in the mid-1800's when settlers on the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, then a part of Mexico, were promised access to the mountainous regions near their homes for uses necessary for their survival. More than 100 years later, Jack Taylor purchased and fenced off the land. After successful resolution of almost all the issues in favor of our clients (and three visits to the Colorado Court of Appeals), the ranch owner began intimidating the landowners by excessively tracking them, interrogating them, and treating them like trespassers. In 2020, a group of five volunteers from Ballard Spahr LLP joined the Taylor Ranch team to address the ranch owner's recent egregious behavior toward the landowners and prohibit the ranch owner's use of harassment and unreasonable interference with the landowner's easement. Later in 2021, several lawyers from Sherman & Howard L.L.C. agreed to take on related individual cases that could impact the easement rights of all landowners.



## YLD Updates

### HAVE YOU JOINED THE YLD?

The CLC Young Lawyers Division (YLD) offers younger lawyers and law students an opportunity to make a difference in our community and to participate in leadership roles within the Colorado Lawyers Committee. Membership in the CLC YLD is open without charge to law students, attorneys under 40 and those who have been in practice fewer than eight years. Joining the CLC YLD is a rewarding way to meet other young lawyers who also want to make a difference in the community and participate in the leadership of the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

### YLD LUNCHES WITH LEGENDS

Before COVID, the YLD offered a series of NITA-like trial skills CLE's. The last of these was held on February 20, 2020. Shortly thereafter, the YLD created the Lunches with Legends series where legends in the Colorado legal community answer questions from YLD members during a free, one-hour zoom meeting designed to inspire young lawyers on their path to greatness. During the series, we have been fortunate to speak with US District Court Judges Brooke Jackson and Christie Arguello, Magistrate Judge Kristen Mix, U.S. Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse and Jason Crow, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Melissa Hart, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold, former Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, Colorado Public Defender Megan Ring, former U.S. Attorney John Walsh, Judges Gary Jackson and Karen Steinhauser, Denver City Attorney Kristin Bronson, and renowned trial attorney Hal Haddon. We thank all our Legends for sharing their time and wisdom with us.



U.S. Representatives  
Diana Degette



Magistrate Judge  
Kristin Mix

## YLD Updates (cont.)

### YLD GRANT PROGRAM

The YLD continues to offer grants to assist YLD members in their efforts to further the CLC mission by 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. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis, based on need and availability of funding. Grants are generally limited to \$1,000 per lawyer/project. Apply on the CLC website.

### YLD RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

In September 2021, the YLD held its first annual Racial Justice Summit on criminal justice in partnership with the DU Sturm College of Law. The (virtual) event was a great success; a recording of the summit is available on the CLC website. Plan to join us for the **2022 Racial Justice Summit on September 29, 2022** from 4 to 7 p.m. at DU Sturm College of Law. The topic will be voting rights and racial justice.



2021 Racial Justice Summit

## Welcome New Board Members



Laurin Quiat  
BakerHostetler



Deborah Yim  
CWBA representative  
Primera Law Group

### Do you have 2-3 hours to help someone who needs to speak to a lawyer?

Come join us on the first and third Wednesday of every month at Denver Legal Night, at Centro San Juan Diego, 2830 Lawrence St, Denver. After more than two years by phone, Legal Night is returning to an in-person clinic. You can sign up on the CLC website for any of the following nights:

July 6	August 17
July 20	September 7
August 3	September 21

## Welcome McKenna Milton, Hill & Robbins Intern



The Colorado Lawyers Committee welcomes McKenna Milton, the 2022 Hill & Robbins Fellow who is working with the Lawyers Committee this summer. McKenna is a rising 2L at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law. She received her B.A. in Business Leadership from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

McKenna's work with the Lawyers Committee is made possible by Hill & Robbins, P.C. which founded this summer fellowship in 1996 to encourage and support law students doing public interest work in the Denver area. Thank you, Hill & Robbins, and welcome, McKenna!

### COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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