

Colorado Lawyers COMMITTEE

Pro bono legal advocacy for children and the underserved

Transition of Leadership for Colorado Lawyers Committee

The Colorado Lawyers Committee announced that it has tapped former Denver City Attorney **Kristin Bronson** to serve as its next Executive Director. Ms. Bronson will start May 1, 2023, and will replace **Connie Talmage** who is retiring after serving 22 years in the position- half of the 44 years of the Lawyers Committee's existence.

Connie has served CLC and the Colorado Legal Community with distinction. During her tenure, she has increased the membership of CLC, created a vibrant Young Lawyers Division, and greatly expanded and enhanced the Chair's Roundtable. These are just some of the most consequential of her many contributions to the organization.

As Executive Director, Ms. Bronson will oversee all aspects of CLC, a nonpartisan consortium of over 70 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities through pro bono legal advocacy, negotiation and litigation.

Also re-joining the executive team as CLC's Chief Operating Officer is **Kathleen McCrohan** who served as the Committee's Associate Director from late 2016 to early 2022. She returned on April 1, 2023. Ms. McCrohan was most recently the Director of Public Interest Advising at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Connie Talmage
Executive Director



Kristin Bronson
New Executive Director



Kathleen McCrohan
Chief Operating Officer

Executive Committee Changes

Over the past few months, CLC saw changes to the composition of the Executive Committee. After 10 years on the Executive Committee, **Rebecca Fischer** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.) has decided to step down. **Tim Macdonald** recently left Arnold & Porter to accept the position of Legal Director for the ACLU of Colorado. **Tamir Goldstein** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.) and **Suneeta Hazra** (Arnold & Porter) have joined the Executive Committee to fill the vacant seats. Thank you, Rebecca and Tim, for your many years of service to the Executive Committee!

SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Awards Luncheon

Join in celebrating the many accomplishments of our volunteers at the 2023 Awards Luncheon on **Wednesday, September 27** at The Ritz-Carlton, Denver. The Keynote Speaker will be Justice Melissa Hart with the Colorado Supreme Court. Sponsorship and ticket information will be available soon.

Justice Melissa Hart
Colorado Supreme Court



Task Force Updates

Asylum Workshops

In 2021, the United States evacuated thousands of Afghans to the United States who are seeking protection from persecution. More than 2,000 Afghans resettled in Denver. In 2022, the CLC partnered with Catholic Charities Denver to help Afghans complete their asylum applications. In March 2022, the Subcommittee conducted a training for almost 200 lawyers and non-lawyers. Our initial goal was to process 400 applications; we were able to complete 604 applications! Forty-one interpreters and more than 350 volunteers (half lawyers, half non-lawyers) spent 5,468 hours (valued at over \$1 million). The project is a great source of pride for CLC and our partner Catholic Charities Denver. A volunteer appreciation celebration took place on December 5th. Thank you to Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. for hosting the reception and providing food and beverages for all the volunteers. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers for donating your Saturdays to provide critical help to our new neighbors.



Housing Task Force

CLC is investigating racial discrimination by Homeowner Associations (HOAs) which has resulted in foreclosures, with minimal due process, for fines for minor HOA infractions combined with excessive attorney's fees. The Housing Task Force is looking for a litigator with HOA experience to lead this investigation with Andy Bardwell, our pro bono statistician. If you are interested, please contact **Connie Talmage** at ctalmage@coloradolawyerscommittee.org

Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic

The Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic was held on February 22, 2023 at Holland & Hart LLP. This is a half-day program for small nonprofits with limited operating budgets, where teams of volunteer transactional attorneys meet with representatives of participating nonprofits to evaluate their organizations' legal health. Twenty-six nonprofits received legal advice and information from 56 lawyers and 5 students. The next clinic is planned for July 25, 2023. Sign up will be available soon on the CLC website.



OEDIT Small Business Legal Program

The OEDIT Small Business Program (SBP) is up and running. This program started in 2022 after the very successful Colorado COVID Legal Relief Program which provided free legal services to more than 250 small businesses during COVID. The SBP provides one hour of free legal services to businesses with fewer than 10 employees. So far, it has served 104 small businesses; 89 lawyers have signed up to volunteer. The SBP program is coordinated by the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up at <https://oedit.colorado.gov/small-business-legal-assistance>

School Discipline Subcommittee of the Education Task Force

The School Discipline Subcommittee, in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center and the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, has launched a new education pilot program. The Expulsion Pro Bono Project is providing direct representation to students facing expulsion from school districts across the state. The intent of the project is to help students faced with expulsion and to collect data on the lack of due process in expulsion hearings, to assist with future legislation or litigation. Under Colorado law, starting in third grade, students can be expelled from school for a calendar year with minimal procedural safeguards. Students have a right to an expulsion hearing and related appeal rights, but many families do not have legal assistance to navigate this process. Moreover, many of the hearings proceed with little or no due process (no evidence is offered to support the expulsion, the hearing officer is not neutral, hearsay evidence is permitted without the opportunity to cross examine witnesses, etc.). Six law firms (The Harris Law Firm, Ireland Stapleton, Holland & Hart, Holland & Knight, Davis Graham, and Moye White) have identified at least four attorneys who will take these cases. Training for volunteers was held on January 13 and 24. Volunteers will compile data after each case, which we will use to urge the legislature and governor to implement reforms. If you have any questions about the project, please reach out to **Jennie Wray** at jwray@harrisfamilylaw.com, Chair of the CLC School Discipline Subcommittee.

Welcome New YLD Board Members



Erika Carter
*The Harris Law Firm
PR & Membership*



Jared Ertle
*Stinson LLP
Fundraising & Events*



Russ Johnson
*Sherman & Howard L.L.C.
Fundraising & Events*



Jenn Kinkade
*Ireland Stapleton Pryor
& Pascoe, PC
Fundraising & Events*

Thank You YLD Board

Thank you to our former YLD Board members! Over the past few months, we have said goodbye to several YLD Board Members: **Alexis Hailpern** (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP), **Alyssa Levy** (Fisher & Phillips LLP) and **Alex Mancero** (Ria Digital). Each of you made a significant impact on the success of the YLD. Thank you all for your years of dedication to the YLD!



Alexis Hailpern
*Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck, LLP*



Alyssa Levy
Fisher & Phillips LLP



Alex Mancero
Ria Digital

Thank You YLD Board Law School Representatives

With another law school graduation scheduled this spring, our two law school representatives on the YLD Board will be leaving us. Thank you to **John Ellis**, 3L at University of Colorado Law School and **Hannah Goldstein**, 3L at University of Denver. We appreciate your years of dedication to the YLD. Good luck as you both begin your legal careers!



John Ellis
Univ. of Colorado



Hannah Goldstein
Univ. of Denver

YLD Casino Night

The 5th annual YLD Casino Night was held on Friday, February 24, 2023 at Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC. Thank you to Rathod Mohamedbhai LLC for hosting our event. Attendees enjoyed drinks, a Tequila tasting, great food and friendly gambling. With the help of a Silent Auction filled with almost 40 exciting items, a paddle raiser and a wine pull, the night was a huge financial success for the YLD. Proceeds from the event support the many task forces and projects of the Colorado Lawyers Committee, including the YLD Grant Program which allows YLD Members to 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. Thank you to the entire YLD Fundraising & Events team for planning another successful event!

YLD Racial Justice Summit

The Second Annual Racial Justice Summit was held on September 29, 2022. Topics at the event included access to the ballot, redistricting and gerrymandering, voter registration, voting rights legislation and a call to action. Martha Tierney (Tierney Lawrence LLC) and Richard Westfall (Westfall Law, LLC), Co-Chairs of the CLC Election Task Force, were moderators. The Keynote Speaker was Judd Choate (Director, Division of Elections, State of Colorado). Panelists included Hassan Latif (Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition's Board of Directors), Denise Maes (Founder of Maes Solutions LLC), Olivia Mendoza (Deputy Director of Litigation and Policy, National Redistricting Foundation), and Professor Douglas Spencer (Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research at University of Colorado Law School). A reception and nonprofit fair followed the presentation.

Welcome New Firms

**WILSON
SONSINI**



Welcome New Board Members



Stephanie Adamo
Foley & Lardner LLP



Sam Edwards
Crowell & Moring LLP



Suneeta Hazra
Arnold & Porter



Matt Morr
Ballard Spahr LLP



Mike Theis
Hogan Lovells US LLP

Denver Legal Night

Denver Legal Night returned to in-person clinics in July 2022. A big thank you to Firehouse Subs for donating food to our volunteers for some of the clinics and for many of the Afghan Workshops. There are several new members on the Denver Legal Night team with the departure of **Erika Carter** (The Harris Law Firm) and **Madalia Maaliki** (Richards Carrington). The following volunteers are now helping facilitate Denver Legal Night: **Edgar Barraza**, **Shannon Calhoun** (Sherman & Howard L.L.C.), **Alicia Drury**, **Anton Kraynly**, **Meredith O'Harris** (Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.), **Angela Reyes**, **Stephen Robin** (Foley Hoag LLP) and **Whitney Wolfe** (Merriam Law Firm, P.C.). Thank you to the entire team for your hard work and dedication to Denver Legal Night!

Did you know?

Anyone can volunteer at Denver Legal Night! You do not need to be a practicing attorney to make a difference at Centro San Juan Diego on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Reach out to **Alicia Drury** at adrury@coloradolawyerscommittee.org to learn more ways to get involved.

May 3	June 7	July 5
May 17	June 21	July 19

Thank You Carolyn Powell

Carolyn Powell served on the staff at CLC through February 2023 during a transition period as Associate Director. Carolyn will remain actively involved through the Chair's Roundtable and Denver Legal Night. She will also remain on the Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic Steering Committee as the ACC-Colorado liaison. We thank you for all that you did for CLC over the past several months!

COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

1401 Lawrence Street, Suite 2300, Denver, CO 80202

Connie Talmage, Executive Director (ctalmage@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)

Kristin Bronson, New Executive Director (kbronson@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)

Kathleen McCrohan, Chief Operating Officer (kmccrohan@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)

Kaitlynn Sartor, Office Manager (ksartor@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)

Alicia Drury, Data Manager and Legal Night Administrator (adrury@coloradolawyerscommittee.org)