



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Special Update

April 1, 2009

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is pleased to offer a number of volunteer opportunities ranging in topic, duration and scope. Please visit our website at www.coloradolawyerscommittee.org to learn how you can get involved in these exciting efforts.



Legal Volunteers Carol Muck and Susan Curtis meet with clients at the 6th Project Homeless Connect at the University of Denver.

Project Homeless Connect. The 7th Project Homeless Connect will be **April 24, 2009** at the University of Denver. Project Homeless Connect links over 1,000 homeless individuals in Denver to housing, employment, medical services, public benefits, and many other valuable services. Lawyers, paralegals, and law students are needed to provide legal information and referrals at the Legal Resource Center. Additionally, volunteers are needed at **Homeless Court** to process and resolve individual warrants for municipal citations that may impede a person's ability to obtain housing and other needed services.

The last Project Homeless Connect was very successful: Over 160 people were served at the Legal Resource Center and 116 warrants were resolved at Homeless Court. To volunteer, please contact Susan Cole at susan_cole@aporter.com.

Public Benefits Investigations Task Force. This newly formed Task Force was created to examine the actions of county employees charged with investigating cases related to the overpayment of public benefits. In certain areas of the state, some investigators employ heavy-handed tactics (intimidation, bullying, impersonating officers and threatening arrest) when conducting investigations. The Task Force is currently investigating the factual allegations and researching federal and state law. The Task Force is co-chaired by Tucker Trautman (Dorsey & Whitney LLP) and Laura Hazen (Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC).

*You're Invited to
the Colorado Lawyers Committee
Annual Awards Luncheon
May 19, 2009
11:30-1:30
The Marriott City Center
1701 California Street
For more information, please visit
www.coloradolawyerscommittee.org*

Congratulations to Legal Night Volunteers. The Legal Night Clinics served record numbers in 2008. The clinics began in 2006 at Mi Casa Resource Center for Women and were later expanded to include clinics at Centro San Juan Diego. Volunteer lawyers staff the clinics and answer questions pertaining to family law, immigration, credit/consumer issues, real estate and housing. The Legal Night Clinics also serve as a great introduction for younger lawyers to the work of the Colorado Lawyers Committee. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the Legal Night Clinics served 2,145 people in 2008! Congratulations on this great accomplishment.

Welcome New Board Members

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is pleased to welcome the following new Board members:

Kathryn A. Reilly (Jacobs Chase Frick Kleinkopf & Kelley LLC)

Nina Y. Wang (Faegre & Benson LLP) *Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA)*

Alyssa Yatsko (Holland & Hart LLP) *Colorado Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Bar Association (GLBT)*

Scott Martinez (Holland & Hart LLP) *Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA)*

Jennifer H. Weddle (Holland & Hart LLP) *Colorado Indian Bar Association (CIBA)*

Erin C. Asborno *Colorado Women's Bar Association (CWBA)*

Mario T. Trimble (Kutak Rock LLP) *Sam Cary Bar Association*

MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*****NEWS*****

Homeless ID Swat Teams. Volunteer lawyers are still needed to represent homeless individuals who have been unable to obtain a state-issued identification card. Without a proper ID, the homeless can not secure housing, employment or other services. To date, over 21 lawyers have accepted cases, including a team of lawyers from Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. Training DVDs are available for those still interested in volunteering. To participate, please contact Lindsay Unruh (Reilly Pozner LLP) at lunruh@rplaw.com



Legal Volunteers staff the Election Day Call Center.

Legal Night. Volunteer lawyers are always needed for the twice monthly Legal Night Clinics. Upcoming clinics are **Tuesday, April 21, 2009** at Mi Casa Resource Center (360 Acoma Street) and **Wednesday, May 6, 2009** at Centro San Juan Diego (2830 Lawrence Street). New volunteers are welcome! No substantive expertise is needed. Please RSVP to Susan Cole at susan_cole@aporter.com.

Election Task Force. The Election Task Force has been closely following the work of the Election Reform Commission, an 11-member Commission created to study the different voting systems used throughout Colorado and suggest changes to the legislature. The Task Force has recommended increasing standardization of elections in Colorado (so voters in all counties have the same information and rights) and continuing the full range of voting options to include in person voting, mail-in ballots and early voting. If you are interested in volunteering for the Election Task Force, please contact Task Force co-chairs Martha Tierney (Kelly Garnsey Hubbell + Lass LLC) or Richard Westfall (Hale Friesen, LLP)

Nonpartisan Volunteer Opportunities on Election Day a Huge Success. The Colorado Lawyers Committee, in partnership with *Just Vote Colorado* (Colorado Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People and the Latina Initiative), the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado, the Colorado GLBT Bar Association, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, and the Colorado Indian Bar Association offered three nonpartisan volunteer opportunities on Election Day. Legal volunteers served as Election Judges, Poll Monitors and staffed a 1-800 call center. Thank you to the 150 lawyers and law students who volunteered on Election Day!

Contributions at the Election Day Call Center. Thanks to the generosity of the following individuals and law firms, the legal volunteers at the Election Day Call Center enjoyed delicious food and snacks throughout the day:

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP provided breakfast

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP provided lunch

Holland & Hart LLP provided dinner

Gale T. Miller provided snacks and water

Daniel A. Sweetser provided snacks and water

Colorado Lawyers Committee Hires Hill & Robbins Public Interest Paid Intern. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is pleased to introduce **Megan Wells Sheffer**, the 2009 Hill & Robbins Public Interest Intern. Originally from New York, Megan is in her second year of law school at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Megan has interned at the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network and is currently a representative of the International Law Students Association. Welcome Megan!

Hate Violence Teaching Tolerance New Volunteers Always Welcome!

The Hate Violence Task Force presents fictional trials for students across Colorado.

Through the program, students obtain a greater understanding of Colorado's hate crimes law and the importance of diversity.

To volunteer contact Tarek Saad (Holland & Hart LLP)



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