



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE

Special Update

October 20, 2011

The Colorado Lawyers Committee offers 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.

Recent Colorado Lawyers Committee Litigation

Five-week *Lobato* Trial Ends. Congratulations to Kenzo Kawanabe, Kathy Gebhardt, Alex Halpern, and the many volunteers for their hard work on the *Lobato v. State of Colorado* case. The trial, which ended on September 2, 2011 in Denver District Court, challenged the failure of Colorado's school financing system to provide a 'thorough and uniform' system of public education, as guaranteed under the State constitution. The parties were given 45 days to submit Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Jail Wait Complaint Filed. Volunteers from the Mental Health Task Force filed a complaint in Federal District Court in late August, challenging the failure of the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo to provide timely evaluations and treatment for individuals in jail (*Center for Legal Advocacy v. Bicha and Bernal*). Currently, individuals charged with a crime and awaiting competency evaluations remain incarcerated, often without restorative treatment, for periods of time that can exceed the possible sentences for their crime.

Torcido Creek Road Settlement. Congratulations to Larry Treece and his team of volunteers at Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, and Schreck, LLP for successfully settling the *Torcido Creek Road* litigation, subject to court

approval. This settlement restores the right of the plaintiffs to use Torcido Creek Road to access La Sierra, a parcel of land in and around San Luis, Colorado that has been the subject of a decades-long dispute (*Lobato v. Taylor*).



National Pro Bono Celebration
October 23 - 29, 2011

The third annual **National Pro Bono Week is October 23-29, 2011**. Sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, this national celebration showcases the remarkable impact *pro bono* lawyers have throughout the United States. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for making such a difference in the lives of Colorado's children and the underprivileged.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We Need You!

Legal Night Centro San Juan Diego	November 2 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Legal Night Mi Casa Resource Center	November 15 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Greeley Legal Night Our Lady of Peace	November 16 5:45 to 8:30 p.m.
Hate Violence Presentation Northglenn High School	November 17 9 to 11:05 a.m.
Legal Night Centro San Juan Diego	December 7 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Legal Night Mi Casa Resource Center	December 20 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Recent Colorado Lawyers Committee Litigation (con't)

Sixth Amendment Complaint Dismissed, Action Upheld. In December 2010, volunteers from the Sixth Amendment Task Force filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court alleging the unconstitutionality of a Colorado statute that requires individuals charged with a misdemeanor to meet with the prosecutor before an attorney is appointed for them (*Colorado Criminal Defense Bar v. Hickenlooper*). The defendants moved to dismiss for lack of standing (the two original plaintiffs are nonprofits whose members represent individuals impacted by the statute). After a hearing on July 28, 2011, Judge Kane dismissed the complaint, but not the action. Plaintiffs were given 60 days to file an amended complaint, including affidavits from individuals impacted by the statute. The parties are currently exploring possible legislation to resolve this matter without further litigation.



Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who provided legal advice, referrals and information at Project Homeless Connect on August 11th. Approximately 40 legal volunteers helped 209 clients at the event; 81 cases involving municipal warrants from Denver were resolved in Homeless Court.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is delighted to welcome new Board member

Lauren E. Schmidt

(Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP)



WELCOME NEW MEMBER LAW FIRM

We are pleased to welcome

Blain Myhre LLC

to the Colorado Lawyers Committee.

Please let us know if there's a speaker you'd like to hear!

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Awards Luncheon
May 22, 2012

The Marriott City Center
1701 California Street

Please let us know if there's a speaker you'd like to hear!

Other News & Events

One Hundred Clients Served. Hearty congratulations to Peter Schwartz and all the volunteers of the Non-profit Working Group Task Force who, in less than two years, have provided transactional type assistance to 100 nonprofit organizations that would not otherwise be able to afford legal services. Congratulations! If you're interested in volunteering for this task force, please contact Peter at peter.schwartz@dgsllaw.com.

Welcome New Associate Director. Please join us in welcoming **Liza Prado** as the new Associate Director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee. Liza received her law degree from Stanford Law School (JD '99) and practiced law for three years at Cooley Godward LLP in San Francisco before becoming a freelance writer. She is the author of over a dozen travel books and numerous magazine articles, including, most recently, several cover features for DU Law School's alumni magazine. Liza brings a high level of skill and enthusiasm to the position—we are delighted she has joined our team!

Colorado Lawyers Committee Law Firm Presentations. The Colorado Lawyers Committee welcomes the opportunity to meet with your law firm to discuss volunteer opportunities through the Colorado Lawyers Committee. To schedule a presentation, please contact Connie Talmage at 303-894-6363.



COLORADO LAWYERS COMMITTEE
1801 California Street, Suite 4900, Denver, CO 80202
(303) 894-6366 — Fax (303) 894-9239
Executive Director (303) 894-6363
www.ColoradoLawyersCommittee.org

