

University of Colorado Law School

2024–25 Impact Report



Colorado **Law**
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Thank you!

Dear friends of the Law School,

At the heart of our mission are two enduring priorities: student success and faculty excellence. These pillars not only define who we are but also shape the future of legal education and the profession itself.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've seen remarkable progress in both areas. Scholarships have opened doors for talented students who might otherwise be unable to pursue a legal education. Endowed positions and programmatic support have empowered our faculty to innovate, mentor and lead in their fields. Your support has made a tangible difference, and we are deeply grateful.

Looking ahead, we hope you'll continue to stand with us. One of the most meaningful ways to ensure lasting impact is through planned or legacy gifts. These commitments are simple to arrange and have the power to transform lives for generations. They help ensure that our students become not only future stars of the legal world, but also leaders who do good in their communities and beyond.

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive and more impactful Law School. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Lolita Buckner Inniss
Dean, University of Colorado Law School

Robert Garelick
Assistant Dean for Advancement,
University of Colorado Law School



2024–25 National Law School Rankings, Specialty Program Rankings

Top
50
in national rankings
(48th out of 200)

“A”
rating for business law
(The National Jurist’s
preLaw Magazine, 2024)

#7 in environmental law
(U.S. News and World Report, 2025)

#10 best for state and local clerkships
(Princeton Review, 2025)

Nationally recognized programs in technology and intellectual property law; natural resources, energy and environmental law; American Indian law; juvenile and family law; public service law; and entrepreneurial and business law

Welcoming the Class of 2027

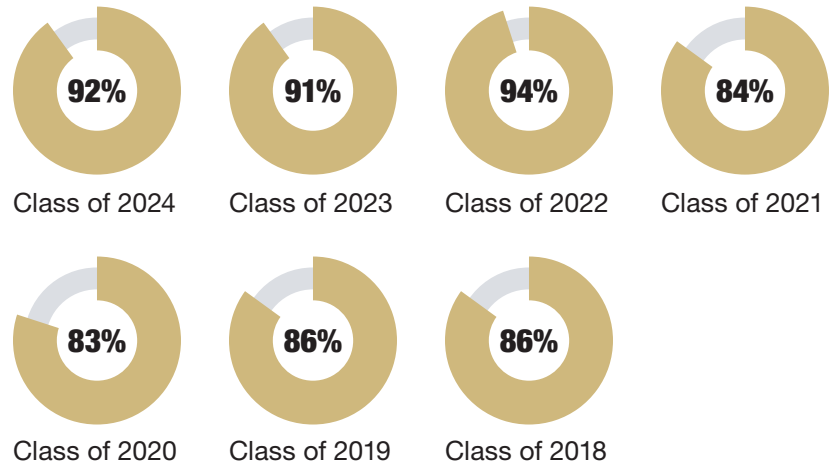
- 2,894** applicants
- 190** enrolled first-year students
- 6.56%** acceptance rate
- 25** incoming LLM and Master of Studies in Law students
- 3.79** median cumulative GPA
- 164** median LSAT score
- \$34,416** resident tuition (2024–25)
- \$42,246** nonresident tuition (2024–25)

Class of 2024 Highlights

- 93%** of graduates report full-time employment 10 months after graduation
- 88%** of graduates report full-time, long-term jobs that require bar passage — higher than any Colorado Law class since 2011, and nearly four percentage points higher than the next best class (2023)
- 77** graduates are working in law firms, and 47 report employment at a National Law Journal 500 law firm, while five additional grads will join an NLJ 500 firm after clerkship — a third of all employed 2024 graduates (up from 22% of employed 2023 grads)
- 31** graduates are clerking for judges

Graduating Classes: Success and Employment

Graduates reporting full-time, long-term jobs that either require bar passage or for which a JD degree was an advantage, including post-JD degrees.



Colorado Law Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss

Colorado Law in Action

New Faculty



Jonathon Booth

Historian of democracy, race, law and policing in the U.S.; teaches Criminal Law, American Legal History, and Law and History of Policing.



Laura Dolbow

Specializes in patent, health and administrative law; focuses on how agencies and courts interpret and apply legal standards.



Samantha (Sam) Funk

Legal writing professor with experience in commercial litigation, civil rights and Title IX investigations.



Vanessa Racehorse

Expert in American Indian and Indigenous Peoples law, human rights and environmental justice; member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.



Cara Shaffer

Legal writing professor with a background in litigation and legal skills instruction; former director of Legal Writing Center at South Texas College of Law Houston.

Faculty Retirements

Ann England
Mark Loewenstein
Chris Mueller
Pierre Schlag

Research Centers

The Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law

- Thirteenth annual John Paul Stevens Lecture featuring Judge Stephen A. Higginson, The Nuremberg Trials: Lessons for Law Students, Lawyers and Judges
- 33rd Annual Ira C. Rothgerber Conference, Immigration & National Borders, keynote by Prof. Hiroshi Motomura (UCLA Law)

Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment

- Martz Symposium on Public Lands & Ruth Wright Distinguished Lecture with Bob Anderson, covering public lands, water, tribal sovereignty and energy transition
- Conference on the Colorado River, Turning Hindsight into Foresight, discussing post-2026 water rules, tribal updates and regional water management

Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Policy and Entrepreneurship

- Inaugural Space and Spectrum Policy Conference, exploring orbital sustainability, spectrum management and debris mitigation
- Flagship Conference, Examining the New Federalism in Technology Policy, focusing on state, federal and international tech governance



Programs and Initiatives

Korey Wise Innocence Project (KWIP)

- Exonerated James Garner after 15 years and celebrated Yonas Ande’s release with the Denver Conviction Integrity Unit
- Helped pass two innocence-related state bills
- Reviewed old convictions using discredited forensic techniques and expanded Legislation Inside program

American Indian Law Program (AILP)

- Strengthened curriculum with Comparative Law and Tribal Law courses
- Led Native Access to Vote initiative, reaching over 3,500 voters
- Advocated for Indigenous rights globally and locally, including voting rights, Maya land rights and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Co-hosted educational sessions at the National Congress of American Indians

48 Active Student Groups

Allow students to pursue interests beyond the classroom, deepen their knowledge of specific areas of law, gain leadership experience and collaborate with fellow students, faculty, alumni and legal professionals

Schaden Experiential Learning Program

9 Law Clinics

American Indian Law | Civil Practice | Criminal Defense | Immigration
Entrepreneurial Law | Environmental Law | Juvenile Family Law
Technology and Policy | Community Collaboration Law

3 Student Competitions

Moot Court | Mock Trial | Transactional Competitions



Law Journals

Colorado Law Review

- Vol. 96, Issue 4 article by Prof. William Aceves, Ending the Paper Chase at the U.S. Supreme Court, featured in *The New York Times*
- Published 23 articles, including AI-focused issue from Ira C. Rothgerber Jr. Conference and natural resources scholarship

Colorado Environmental Law Journal

- Partnered with GWC for 2024 Martz Symposium & Ruth Wright Lecture
- Key publications: Greenwashed Forest Management and Wildfire Resilience (Sarah A. Matsumoto), Tribal Co-Stewardship and Federal Public Lands Planning (Monte Mills & Martin Nie)

Colorado Technology Law Journal

- Published Phil Weiser’s Developing a True North for Regulating AI, Jelena Laketić’s Internet Infrastructure and Content Moderation in the Shadow, and student-authored works on generative AI and digital athletes

Colorado Law Homecoming 2024

Alumni Engagement & Volunteerism

By the Numbers

9,105

Total Alumni

8

Reunions

159

Total Reunion Attendees

2025 Law Alumni Award Banquet

- Hosted 44th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Downtown Denver
- Celebrated six alumni for contributions to the legal profession, community service and dedication to Colorado Law
- Net proceeds of \$73,381 supported students through the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund

2025 honorees:

Michael McCarthy '75 | William Lee Knous Award

Sara Hoverstock '04 | Corporate Counsel

William Leone '81 | Private Practice

Amy Parsons '99 | Special Recognition

Marissa Kardon Weber '19 | Recent Alumna

Eric Williams '05 | Public Service

Law Alumni Board

28 Colorado Law Alumni serve as advocates and ambassadors for Colorado Law, fostering alumni engagement, championing the school's mission and supporting the broader legal and academic community

Board Committees:

Management: Chair, chair-elect and immediate past chair guide board initiatives

Fundraising: Strategic planning; 100% giving since FY21; FY25 netted \$1M+

Nominating: Reviews alumni award nominations; vets new board members

Admissions: Contacted 52 students; 23 accepted (44% success)

Banquet: Utilized network for sponsorship outreach

Engagement & Outreach: Launched Specialty Happy Hour

Inclusion: Promotes community and equitable opportunities

Graduating Class of 2025

The Power of Philanthropy

By the Numbers

Total raised:

\$6,645,513

Distinct donors:

1,053

Firm giving:

18 firms with current-use or endowed scholarships

Scholarship+ Celebration

- Gathered students, donors, faculty and staff for an evening of connection and gratitude at the St Julien Hotel & Spa
- Honored scholarship and fellowship recipients whose achievements are made possible through donor generosity
- Highlighted the profound influence donor support has on students' education, opportunities and future contributions to the legal profession

"Thanks to the William J. Bowe Memorial Scholarship, I am able to fully engage in my academic and extracurricular pursuits, reducing the need to work long hours outside of school. This financial support not only eases my financial burden but also allows me to fully immerse myself in the rigorous study of law, a privilege I deeply appreciate and will not take for granted."

— Savannah Stewart '26

Student Support

277 scholarships awarded in 2024–25

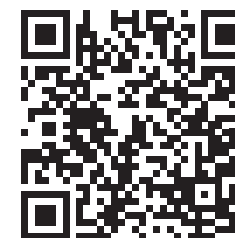
199 students received scholarship support

100% of 3L applicants funded

145 privately funded scholarships

77 fellowships awarded

See all scholarships



Highlight: Leaders in Law and Community Public Service Fellowship

This fellowship is Colorado Law's only full-ride, 3-year scholarship supporting high-achieving students from underrepresented or financially disadvantaged backgrounds, with many choosing Colorado Law over Ivy League options, thus strengthening the school's national reputation.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

In the 2024–25 academic year, Colorado Law's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) made 25 awards — a total of \$162,500 — to alumni, easing their burden of educational debt. Through forgivable loans of \$6,500, LRAP provides partial loan repayment support to graduates who pursue qualifying public interest legal work. Awards are renewed annually and forgiven after a year of eligible employment, ensuring that dedicated alumni can focus on serving the public good without being deterred by financial constraints.



Lasting Legacy: Planned Giving at Colorado Law

Legacy giving creates a meaningful connection between your values and philanthropic goals and our law school community, supporting students through scholarships or fellowships, funding endowed chairs and professorships, advancing programs or centers and opening doors to experiences that shape the Colorado Law journey. Including the law school in your estate plans ensures your impact endures for years to come.

Legacy Gift Opportunities

A bequest in your will or trust

Retirement assets, including IRA qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) or required minimum distributions (RMDs), or by naming Colorado Law as a beneficiary of your 401(k)

Gifts using donor advised funds or appreciated securities

Real estate gifts, including land or residential or commercial property

Gratitude in Action

Dan Vigil (Law'82) has seen Colorado Law from almost every angle — as a student, alum, staff member and instructor. Above all, this multifaceted perspective has given him gratitude for his own experiences and the desire to pay it forward.

“Education is one of the most important things that a young person can participate in. It can make dreams come true.”

Dan's connection to CU started in 1979, when he enrolled as a student at the law school. After graduating and going into private practice, he returned only a couple years later to serve as assistant dean — and later associate dean — for student affairs until 2003. He was also an instructor for several courses during that time, from criminal law to legal writing, touching the lives of countless students along the way.

In 2021 he received the William Lee Knous Award, Colorado Law's highest alumni honor recognizing outstanding achievement and sustained service to the school.

To honor his time at Colorado Law and give back to a place that has meant so much to his life, Dan has made a generous estate gift to the Dean's Fund for Excellence. He hopes his gift will give the school flexibility to invest in students and initiatives as needs and opportunities arise.

“The law school opened doors for me,” he said, describing his experience practicing and teaching law as well as serving in impactful appointments on Supreme Court committees and the Colorado Lottery Commission. ***“All of these things wouldn't have happened had I not attended CU's law school. It had a tremendous impact on my life.”***

Now, Dan says he's excited about the legacy his estate gift will create, as well as its potential to inspire others.

“It's important to return the favor and show appreciation and gratitude — and that's why I want to give money back.”

Thank You

Please consider a gift to Colorado Law:



giveto.colorado.edu/campaigns/49803

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