

Colorado Law at CU Boulder

Clinical Education Program Impact Report

2025

Civil Practice Clinic students Clara Yardley '25 & Ursula Davy '25 at the Denver City Courthouse



The Clinical Education Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL

Serving Colorado &
beyond since 1948



Chris Reynolds, Criminal Defense Clinic Alumnus

Celebrating Change & Championing Advocacy

This past year has been one of growth, transition, and meaningful impact for the Clinical Education Program at Colorado Law.

We celebrated the retirement of Professor Ann England, whose two decades of service in our criminal defense clinic shaped generations of student advocates. At the same time, we welcomed Professors Vivek Krishnamurthy and Sarah Matsumoto, whose leadership has already expanded our reach. Professor Krishnamurthy guided students in disability rights advocacy, including a petition to the Federal Communications Commission. Professor Matsumoto helped students in the Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Clinic secure a favorable decision in a case against the Bureau of Land Management. We also welcomed Professor Paige Wilson, who joined us as Director of the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. With a background in startup law and clinical pedagogy, Professor Wilson brings deep expertise in transactional practice and a passion for mentoring students as they support Colorado's vibrant entrepreneurial community.

Across our nine clinics, student attorneys completed 12,637 hours of pro bono legal work, serving clients across Colorado and beyond.

Just a few of our clinic highlights include:

- The Community Collaboration Law Lab led a student-driven initiative to establish a no-cost food pantry at Colorado Law, using legal tools and community engagement to address food insecurity within the law school.
- The Immigration Clinic supported DACA and TPS clients while partnering with local organizations for outreach.
- The American Indian Law Clinic engaged in global and local advocacy, including work at the United Nations and on voting rights in tribal communities.

We also launched our CLE Alumni Networking Events, reconnecting with alumni through CLE-accredited programming, and debuted our Clinic Newsletter to share updates and celebrate achievements.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to preparing practice-ready lawyers who lead with integrity and purpose. Thank you to our faculty, students, alumni, and partners for making this work possible.

Warmly,
Colene Flynn Robinson
Clinic Director



**Check out our
new clinic
video!**



12,637

Hours of Pro Bono Legal Work

9

Pro Bono Legal Clinics

12

Average number of Student Attorneys in a Clinic

97

Student Attorneys in the Fall

61%

JD Graduates Participating in Clinic

84

Student Attorneys in the Spring

269

Clients Served

Since 1948, Colorado Law has provided free legal clinics to students and the community. By handling actual cases, student attorneys make the transition from legal theory to legal practice. We take pride in the fact that our clinics provide free legal services to many community members who could not otherwise hire an attorney. Clinics play a large role in achieving our values of civic engagement and social responsibility.

While most clinic work takes place in Colorado, our reach extends far beyond. During AY 24–25, we engaged in projects across 14 U.S. states and 22 countries worldwide, including:

- The **Technology Law and Policy Clinic** partnered with Bolo Bhi in Pakistan to deliver a groundbreaking report shaping global conversations on content regulation and digital rights.
- The **American Indian Law Clinic** participated in non-partisan election protection and poll-watching for the 2024 presidential election at South Dakota polling sites with Native voters and a documented history of discrimination.
- The **Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Clinic** secured a federal court victory halting BLM's proposed logging program in old-growth Oregon forests, affirming strong NEPA standards and safeguarding critical habitat.



Two Decades of Dedication: Celebrating Professor Ann England's Legacy at Colorado Law



DeShawn Harrison (KWIP Fellow), Samuel Edgerton, Ileana Jiménez (KWIP Fellow) Zachary Levi, Jordan Vinovich, Becca Johnson

After more than two decades leading the Criminal Defense Clinic, Ann England has officially retired...well, almost. As the clinic transitions to new leadership, Ann's extraordinary contributions will remain a cornerstone of Colorado Law's clinical program. Fortunately, her next chapter keeps her close to home. Ann now serves as Director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project, continuing her unwavering commitment to justice. Her impact on generations of students and the clinic community is immeasurable, and we're grateful she's still part of our Colorado Law family.

Ann England's Stats:

2,200

Students Taught

24

Number of Clinics Taught

500+

Clients Served

21

Years of Service

Criminal Defense Clinic

The Criminal Defense Clinic empowers law students to advocate for justice by representing indigent clients facing misdemeanor and municipal charges in Boulder and Jefferson Counties. In alternating years, the clinic also dedicates its efforts to reviewing cases of wrongful incarceration, ensuring comprehensive legal support and addressing systemic injustices.

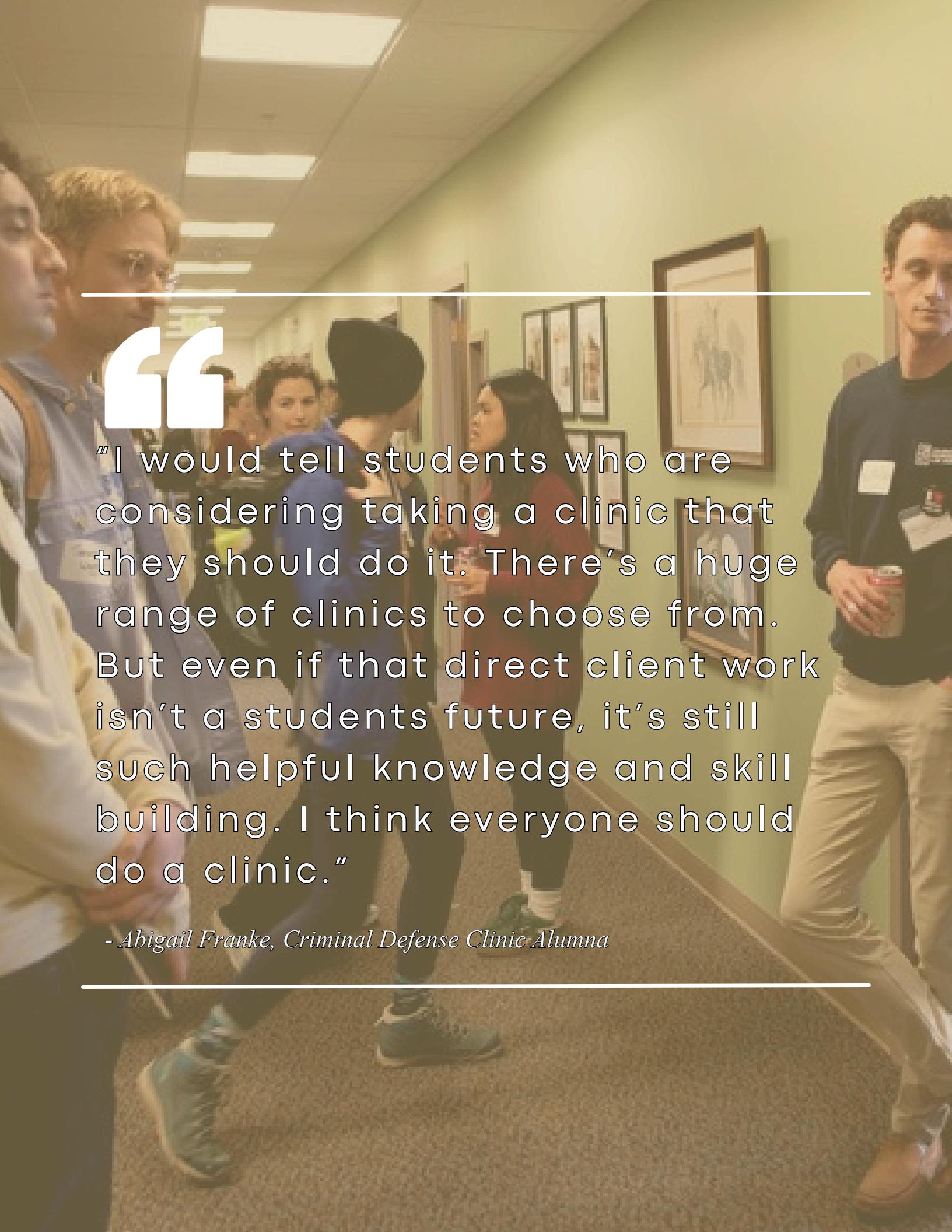
"True advocacy means defending dignity as much as freedom."

— *Madison Gallegos, Criminal Defense Clinic Alumna*



Madison Gallegos '25

Madison Gallegos, a student attorney in the Criminal Defense Clinic, represented a father charged with obstructing police officers after rushing to protect his son during a traumatic crisis. The case followed a devastating family tragedy and Madison honored the client's unwavering insistence on going to trial rather than accepting a plea. Securing a not-guilty verdict reinforced a powerful lesson that true advocacy means defending dignity as much as freedom. Madison credits Professor Ann England for shaping an approach rooted in humanity, courage, and respect, values that define the clinic's mission.



“

I would tell students who are considering taking a clinic that they should do it. There's a huge range of clinics to choose from. But even if that direct client work isn't a student's future, it's still such helpful knowledge and skill building. I think everyone should do a clinic.”

- Abigail Franke, Criminal Defense Clinic Alumna

American Indian Law Clinic



Hannah Anders '25, Professor Christina Stanton, Elodie Dodge '26

The American Indian Law Clinic, established in 1992 as a leading institution in its field, is dedicated to advocating for Indigenous individuals, Native Nations, and Tribal entities. We specialize in federal Indian law, Tribal law, and international engagements, including collaborations on global Indigenous rights initiatives brought before the United Nations. Guided by principles of self-determination and sovereignty, our mission is to uphold Indigenous rights through rigorous advocacy and client-centered legal representation.

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“Working as a student attorney in the American Indian Law Clinic assured me that this is the legal field that I am most passionate about...**AILC Clinic Director Christina Stanton's mentorship helped to transform me into a confident and sensitive advocate.**”

- Hannah Ahders, AILC Alumna and AILP Fellow

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Hannah Anders '25 (AILP Fellow), Emiliano Salazar '24 (Legal Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), Kristen Carpenter (Director of AILP, Distinguished Professor, Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss, Professor Christina Stanton, Ella Merrill '25, Sierra Meggitt '25

Student Attorneys from the American Indian Law Clinic recently attended the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a global gathering focused on advancing Indigenous rights. As part of this capstone experience, they supported clients by drafting speeches, conducting legal research, and responding to urgent issues like climate policy, resource extraction, and human rights violations.

Civil Practice Clinic

The Civil Practice Clinic at Colorado Law is among the institution's oldest clinics. Students here develop their civil practice skills while advocating for economic justice in diverse civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution contexts, including administrative complaints, judicial and administrative tribunals, negotiation, and mediation.

"The Civil Practice Clinic has not only given me the skills and practice I wanted, it has also led me to other internships, research projects, and a deeper passion for a new area of justice."

- Nicole Genevieve Ela, CPC Alumna



Civil Practice Clinic students Clara Yardley '26 and Ursula Davy '25 were assigned what began as a dispute over late fees but quickly escalated into an eviction case. During their investigation, they uncovered that the landlord had misapplied rental assistance and continued charging late fees, while habitability issues added further complexity. Over several months, the students prepared for trial by drafting motions, conducting discovery, and

pursuing additional rental assistance. Their persistence paid off: on the eve of trial, they secured a settlement that prevented the client's eviction and waived the erroneous fees. This case demonstrates the power of student advocacy and the life-changing impact of thorough, client-centered representation.

Judgements or settlements the CPC achieved for 11 clients in AY 24-25

\$107,369.80



Clara Yardley '26 and Ursula Davy '25

Juvenile and Family Law Clinic

The Juvenile and Family Law Clinic (JFLC) provides legal services for indigent children, youth, and families. Our clients are referred to us through the courts and Boulder County Legal Services. Children and families facing abuse, poverty, homelessness, and despair are among the neediest members of our community requiring quality legal representation. Student attorneys in the JFLC help meet that need.



Katy McClellan '26, Professor Colene Flynn Robinson and Hannah Wolf '26



Christopher Hooyma '25, Madison Fox '25, Professor Colene Flynn Robinson, Professor Christina Stanton, Eli Martinez '24, and Ryann Rael '25



Christopher Hooyma '25, Eli Martinez '24, Madison Fox '25 and Ryann Rael '25

In December 2023, students in the Juvenile and Family Law Clinic (JFLC), working with the American Indian Law Clinic (AILC), completed an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) adoption case for a family in Adams County. The case began in September 2022 and required the JFLC team to manage complex family law issues, extensive discovery, multi-jurisdiction coordination, and significant due process concerns. JFLC students drafted numerous pleadings, worked with state agencies, and guided the matter through the procedural challenges common in long child welfare cases.

The AILC provided specialized support on ICWA compliance, collaborating with the Tribe's ICWA coordinator to ensure that tribal rights and perspectives were fully incorporated. The final adoption hearing brought together family, friends, community members, and the Tribe through WebEx, marking a meaningful conclusion to a demanding case and highlighting the JFLC's commitment to client-centered advocacy in child welfare matters.

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“Thank you so much for your commitment to our family throughout this entire process. It can feel intimidating to navigate the legal system ... We felt so supported. Our student attorneys were so professional and were always willing to take the time and explain what was happening and what our options were. They took the initiative to reach out and communicate with us when there were updates (big or small) with the case.”

-Juvenile and Family Law Clinic Client

Community Collaboration Law Lab Clinic

The Community Collaboration Law Lab (CCLL) is Colorado Law's newest legal clinic, formed in the fall of 2016. Formally the Sustainable Development Clinic, the frame of CCLL is to consider the role of sustainable development as reflecting commitments to social justice and to reducing poverty.

Recently, the Community Collaboration Law Lab (CCLL), formerly the Sustainable Development Clinic, launched an initiative to establish a no-cost food pantry at the Law School, inspired by Boulder Food Rescue and CU's School of Education. Over four semesters, CCLL student attorneys conducted research, surveyed the Law School community, and developed a detailed proposal that received strong administrative support. This project

reflects CCLL's unique approach, combining traditional legal skills with creative problem-solving and community engagement, while fostering practical experience and civic responsibility among future lawyers. Although this project did not involve litigation, it required core lawyering competencies such as issue-spotting, fact-finding, institutional navigation and policy-oriented analysis. This demonstrates how lawyers can address community needs through structural and preventative solutions.



Jess Sneesby '26, Helen Boone '26 and Hannah Kresse '26

CCLL Highlights:

- Created underlying legal documents to help support 2 Colorado-based bands as part of the Law Lab's ongoing Local Musicians Project.
- Helped a Gunnison-based nonprofit update its bylaws.
- Continued ongoing work to support the Nueva Vida Mobile Home Park in Ft. Collins, including helping the nonprofit owner successfully apply for **\$2 million** in state funding to upgrade the park's water and sewer lines.
- CCLL helped launch two nonprofits. Both nonprofits received their tax exempt status, including Solar for Women, a group supporting women installers in the solar industry.



Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Clinic

Founded in 1978, the Getches-Green Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Clinic is one of the country's first environmental law clinics. Originally, clinic students worked under the supervision of staff attorneys at the National Wildlife Federation. In 2010, the clinic moved in-house to the law school, where the clinic continues its mission of training future attorneys through the representation of clients in environmental cases.



Professor Sarah Masumoto, Alexandra Nielsen '24, Luke Ruediger, Executive Director of Applegate Siskiyou Alliance and Adam Wolnski '25



Andrew Osgood '26 and Eric Nicholson '26

The Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law Clinic continues its advocacy on behalf of communities impacted by oil and gas permitting decisions around Colorado.

During a proceeding to consider land use code amendments, Andrew Osgood '26 and Eric Nicholson '26 offered comments on behalf of their client, about proposed reverse setbacks, inspection processes, and county authority. The team was pleased that many recommended amendments were adopted by Arapahoe county!

“Clinic gives you opportunities you just don’t get anywhere else in law school...you get to develop real-world skills like **client communication, workplace collaboration, and managing relationships**. It’s incredibly valuable and rewarding.”

- Bo Phillips, NRECC Alumna

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Technology Law and Policy Clinic

The Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic (TLP) offers students an interdisciplinary, hands-on opportunity to develop and execute strategic advocacy initiatives aimed at making an impact on cutting-edge technology policy issues in the public interest.



Victor Laudano '26 and Sarah Baldwin '26

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"Being confronted with the tension between new technologies and the ways in which the law has not yet caught up was one of the reasons I wanted to participate in the TLP."

- Tess Cartin TLP Alumna



Professor Vivek Krishnamurthy

Under Professor Vivek Krishnamurthy's guidance, the Technology Law & Policy Clinic advanced disability rights advocacy through high-impact regulatory and appellate work. In AY 2024-25, students partnered with leading organizations including the National Association of the Deaf and Hearing Loss Association of America to petition the Federal Communications Commission for new rules ensuring accessible telecommunications.

Building on prior efforts, the clinic also contributed to amicus briefs before the D.C. Circuit, challenging barriers to accessibility in federal regulatory processes. These projects exemplify the clinic's commitment to leveraging technology law for equity and inclusion.

Immigration Defense Clinic

Student attorneys in the Immigration Defense Clinic defend noncitizen clients in both state and federal court, including asylum seekers, DACA recipients and undocumented workers. Students learn, research and litigate cutting edge issues in immigration law and policy in the representation of their clients and to drive systemic change.



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"I came to law school to become a public defender. Many clients who go through the criminal legal system also have immigration-related issues tied to their cases, and I wanted to learn how to support them effectively."

- Hunter Parnell, *Immigration Defense Clinic Alumnus*

Katie Glynn has joined the Immigration Defense Clinic as its new staff attorney, becoming the latest addition to the team. With her expertise, the Clinic is poised to assist more clients this year, including members of the CU staff and student community.

Because of Katie, the Immigration Defense Clinic has taken on **11 more cases** this year. Currently, the Immigration Defense Clinic has **36 active cases**, and student attorneys have assisted more than **50 DACA recipients** (Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals) to renew their immigration protections.



"The clinics make representation **accessible**, and in immigration work, that access can change everything."

- Katie Glynn, *Immigration Defense Clinic Staff Attorney*

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“The Immigration Defense Clinic has been one of the most supportive and helpful spaces that has been offered to me as a student. They have supported me with DACA renewals and guiding myself and other family members of mine through the application process of applying for Green Cards.

- Immigration Defense Clinic Client

Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic (ELC) provides law students with practical experience in transactional law while offering pro bono legal services to local businesses lacking access to legal resources. The ELC pursues the following complementary student and client goals:

- Provide a rigorous and practical educational experience by serving as an inspiration for students interested in transactional law;
- Promote ethical values in transactional lawyers; and
- Provide outreach that connects to communities outside the law school and serves clients that would otherwise remain under-served by the practicing bar.

By assisting entrepreneurs when they need help the most, the ELC provides CU Law School students hands-on opportunities to make a difference in the community.



In August, Colorado Law welcomed Professor Paige Wilson as Director of the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. Paige brings deep expertise in startup and nonprofit law, having previously led the Entrepreneurial Business Law Clinic at Ohio State University and practiced corporate law at Gunderson Dettmer in New York City. Passionate about Colorado's entrepreneurial ecosystem, Paige looks forward to preparing students to confidently represent emerging businesses and nonprofits.

A Sampling of the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic Clients:



Antelope
RECOVERY



Intima
couples and sex therapy
Raquel Pérez, LPCC



CONFLUENT
BETTER IDEAS TOGETHER





“Entrepreneurship is really creative and I love seeing all the intersections with different areas of the law and being able to work with business owners and hopefuls to bring their ideas to fruition.”

-Veronica Chapman, Entrepreneurship Clinic Student '26

CLE Alumni Networking Events

Our CLE Alumni Networking events are part of a strategic initiative to strengthen connections with our Clinical Alumni. Offered at no cost, each session provides attendees with one CLE credit. Generously hosted by local law firms, these events take place in spaces provided free of charge, with lunch graciously offered to all participants. In addition, we extend the CLE opportunity to attorneys at the host firms, fostering broader engagement within the legal community



Professor Violeta Chapin and Clinical Education Program alumnae.



Professor Sarah Matsumoto

CLE Topics

- From Classroom to Courtroom: Tips and Techniques to Ease the Transition from Law School to Practice
- Core Clinical Values
- Representation in the Classroom, Curricula, and Courtrooms
- Trial Skills: Help us Do it Better

Thank you to our generous hosts, Berg Hill, Womble Bond Dickinson, & Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP.

Clinical Education Program Faculty and Staff



Colene Robinson
Clinic Director and
Director of Juvenile &
Family Law Clinic



Violeta Chapin
Director of Immigration
Defense Clinic



Deb Cantrell
Director of Community
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Clinic



Christina Stanton
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Katie Glynn
Immigration Staff Attorney



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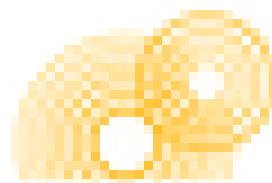
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"Every year, we watch students walk across the stage changed by the clients they've served. That is the **heart** of clinical education."

— Professor Ann England, recently retired Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic



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