

# HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

University of Colorado Law School | Newsletter



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## CU HEALTH LAW MAKING BIG “MOVES”!

The Colorado Health Law Program is growing and making a big impact. Some of last year’s many “firsts” include:

- ✚ Law Faculty Approved Health Law Certificate
- ✚ Launched Colorado Health Equity Project
- ✚ Hosted Future of Health Innovation Conference
- ✚ Team Competed in National Health Law Transaction Moot Court Competition
- ✚ New Courses: “Corporate Transactions in Health” and “Poverty, Health and Law” Practicum

This coming year will be no less exciting! Thanks to a generous gift from **COPIC Insurance** we host a Job Series Colloquium bringing leaders from all over the industry to have lunch with students monthly. We are adding a second **Health Law Moot Court** competition. And we are working on more interdisciplinary course and degree options.

Industry experts including those on CU’s new **Health Law Advisory Board** tell us the job market for lawyers with expertise in health law is expanding. Our students will be ready. I welcome all input and hope to see many new faces this Fall!

*Dayna Bowen Matthew*



Prof. Matthew & CHEP Team Move Children’s Hospital Family To New Home

In August 2013, 10 Denver attorneys, 6 law students, 2 public health graduate students, together with 3 physicians and 2 social workers at 3 safety-net clinics launched the Colorado Health Equity Project. This group formed three medical-legal partnerships to provide legal representation, training, and advocacy on behalf of low-income patients in Denver. CHEP cases included housing, benefits, and immigration law. Their goal: to improve poor patients' health by removing legal barriers. As you will see, their success was nothing short of remarkable:

## CU LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE REPRESENTING LOW-INCOME FAMILIES:

### *Students Assisted a Family with Disabled Son Find Handicap Accessible Housing*

Student Attorneys: Eden Rolland & Karin Ross; Public Health Student: Nicole Tuitt; Supervising Attorney: Siddhartha Rathod – Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC

Kevin, the son of two loving parents was born with laryngeal stenosis, a congenital disease that causes an abnormal narrowing of the central pathways. The family was living in a small one bedroom apartment mostly filled with medical equipment and supplies. They desperately needed help to avoid eviction and a handicap accessible apartment large enough to accommodate Kevin's medical equipment to allow him the room needed to grow. CHEP students and supervising attorney, Siddhartha Rathod, worked tirelessly to avoid eviction,

raise charity funds, arrange medical care for Kevin, and relocate the family to a handicap accessible apartment. On moving day, the entire law firm of Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC turned out to help this family to a brand new start!



CHEP Supervising Attorney Siddhartha Rathod with a Happy and Smiling Baby Kevin

## CHEP FEATURED SUPERVISING ATTORNEY:

*Siddhartha Rathod – Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC*

Often the help CHEP can offer to clients turns out to require more than just legal representation. Siddhartha Rathod went “above and beyond” for the Gallegos-Gonzalez family. Beyond protecting their housing rights and arranging care with Children’s Hospital, he worked with students to draft a letter summarizing the family’s plight, and found churches and religious organizations to help stave off eviction until the family could find work and resume paying their bills. Although the students assigned to this case worked hard, Siddhartha continued his *pro bono* representation to help this family even after the students’ completed their course work. Siddhartha taught our students so much more than

## CHEP CASEWORK SUCCESS CONTINUED:

### *CHEP Improved the Lives of a Family of Three Living in Deplorable Conditions*

Student Attorneys: Amy Ellis & Laura Schneider;

Public Health Student: Katie Lohmiller; Supervising Attorney: Diego Hunt, Holland & Hart

A family of three, living without hope in deplorable, bedbug and roach infested conditions had been denied or terminated from social security and Medicaid. After obtaining emergency services to move them into a less expensive, clean apartment, and successfully appealing Medicaid and SSDI denials, the family is receiving regular medical care and living in a habitable dwelling. This team raised over \$1,700 in donations to help with moving and exterminator expenses and even helped shop for groceries and household goods.



#### *CHEP Wins A Case for Asylum*

Student Attorney: Kathleen Snow  
Supervising Attorneys: Robert Shikiar, UPI & Pia Dean, Keeya Jeffrey – Holland & Hart.

An East African refugee fled to Colorado seeking asylum from her home country where her father, a member of the ruling military, arranged a forced marriage and female genital mutilation in accordance with the strict Moslem sect to which the family belonged. When she resisted, she was beaten, threatened, and disowned by the family. CHEP wrote a brief, arranged and prepared witnesses, winning asylum before the immigration court.

#### *CHEP Gets Visitation Rights for A Mother*

Student Attorney: Kelly Edwards;  
Supervising Attorney Teresa Locke, Holland & Hart

A mother of three children had lost parental rights due to long-term methamphetamine addiction. However after our client successfully completed rehabilitation treatment, CHEP identified a family reintegration therapist, enforced an existing court order, and the entire family is currently in therapy and doing well. Our client now enjoys supervised visitation with her children and has a realistic possibility of rebuilding her family life.

## CU LAW STUDENTS ADVOCATE FOR LOW-INCOME PATIENTS AT THE COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE



CU Law Students Meet with Senator Irene Aguilar and Pia Dean at Colorado State Capitol

CHEP students also work to advocate legislative policy to improve health and reduce disparities for low-income Colorado families. This year students worked with Colorado State Representative McCann and Colorado State Senator Aguilar to support six bills. For example, CHEP students worked with Senator Aguilar to successfully pass a bill increasing workforce capacity for low-income Coloradans in rural areas.

## ALEJANDRO VERA: FIRST TO EARN NEW HEALTH LAW & POLICY CERTIFICATE

In April 2014, the Law faculty approved a program of law study allowing students to earn a Certificate in Health Law and Policy (HLP). In May 2014, Alejandro Vera, became the first CU graduate to boast the HLP certification on his transcript. Alejandro's work experience embodies the commitment to public service core to the HLP certificate. In addition to an internship in the Governor's Health Policy office, he completed legal internships at Boulder County Legal Services and the Boulder Center for Juvenile Justice. He provided outstanding immigration law representation to clients through CHEP. Alejandro also honed his transactional skills as a member of the CU Health Transactions Moot Court Team. He is trilingual and worked in international development with the United Nations and the Peruvian Ministry of the Environment. To earn the certificate, Alejandro completed 92 instead of the required 89 credit hours for graduation. Twenty of those hours were in health related courses that equip students for the post-reform health market. For more, about the expanding Health Law Program see website <http://www.colorado.edu/law/academics/areas/health>.

## HEALTH LAW SOCIETY UPDATE

On behalf of the health law program we would like to thank Eden Rolland the 2013-2014 Health Law Society President and all of the HLS officers for their hard work!

This year the HLS's first meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 2, 2014 from 12-12:50 in Room 205**. The Agenda for the meeting includes reviewing and voting on the HLS constitution and bylaws, as well as electing new officers. This year the HLS plans to send a group of students to attend the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) Conference in Chicago. Additionally, after the success of two blood drives coordinated through Bonfils last year the HLS plans to hold more blood drives this year at the law school.



Eden Rolland  
HLS President

## CU LAW STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH LAW TRANSACTIONAL COMPETITION

Congratulations to Carmen Feldman, Kathleen Snow, and Alejandro Vera who represented CU Law at the L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional (Moot Court) Competition last spring. The Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy sponsored the premier national health law competition at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. In this year's competition the students played the role of outside counsel advising a specialty hospital and physician owners on potential strategic opportunities.

Although the team did not place in the competition they earned very high marks for "team synergy". The students were coached by Mark Fogg (General Counsel, COPIC), Wally Stromberg (Davis, Graham, & Stubbs LLP), and Richard Murray (Polsinelli). The three coaches worked with the students to develop and polish their presentation and traveled to Chicago for the competition. Although the team did not medal in its first year, the team got very strong reviews from many judges and some suggestions that will make CU even more competitive next year. Overall, the team concluded the experience of collaborative work, on a realistic, difficult transaction was highly rewarding.

Coaches, Mark Fogg (COPIC), Richard Murray (Posinelli) and Wally Stromberg (Davis, Graham Stubbs) with CU Law Team



## ANNOUNCING: THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE INNOVATION CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 AT ANSCHUTZ INPATIENT PAVILION

The Second Annual Future of Health Care Innovation Conference hosted by the Silicon Flatirons Center will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Anschutz Medical Campus. Speakers at the Future of Health Care Innovation Conference will focus on the changing dynamics of health care, most notably in the areas of personalized medicine, telemedicine, more effective use of big data and information technology. Last year's conference highlighted changing models of care delivery. Mr. Glenn Steele, President and CEO of Geisinger Health System, gave the keynote address at the conference. The keynote address was followed by three panels: (I) Leveraging Electronic Health Records and Data Analysis to Improve Health Care Quality Outcomes; (II) Emerging Models of Integrated Care Delivery and Payment Mechanisms; and (III) Disruptive Innovation in Health Care. Don't miss this chance to network with Health technology leaders at Anschutz Medical Campus. Find registration and conference information here: <http://www.silicon-flatirons.org/events.php?id=1494>.



**Annie Harrington**  
**Associate**

**Patton Boggs LLP**

Annie Harrington graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2009. For the past 5 years Ms. Harrington has worked as an associate at Patton Boggs LLP specializing in food and drug law, healthcare law, energy law, and natural resource law.



Amy Ellis, '15  
*Legal Intern*  
SomaLogic



Amy Oligmueller, '16  
*Summer Associate*  
TOLMAR



Mitch Holditch, '15  
*Legal Intern*  
CDPHE



Kathleen Snow, '15  
*Legal Intern*  
Covidien



Carmen Feldman, '15  
*Law Clerk*  
Heizer Paul LLP



Matt George, '15  
*Summer Associate*  
Hershey Decker PLLC  
Kathleen Snow  
*Legal Intern*  
Covidien



Mary Kapsack, '16  
*Summer Associate*  
Polsinelli

**Scott Loftin**  
**Corporate Counsel**  
**DaVita HealthCare Partners**

Scott Loftin graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2011. Post-graduation Mr. Loftin worked as an associate at Miles & Peters, PC representing a variety of health care providers and organizations. Recently, he accepted the position at DaVita HealthCare Partners.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING HEALTH LAW EVENTS!

### Upcoming Events

Health Law Society's First Meeting  
➤ Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 12:00

Hot Practice Areas in Health Law Job Lunchtime  
Colloquium – 12 Noon in Room 307  
➤ Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> In-House Counsel

➤ October 8<sup>th</sup> ACA Practice  
➤ Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Federal/State Government  
➤ Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> Health IT

The Future of Health Care Innovation Conference  
➤ Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> @ AMC

Health Law Advisory Board Meetings  
➤ September 10<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30  
➤ February 11<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30

Kathleen S.  
Legal Intern  
Covidien

### Networking Events Around Town

Colorado Bar Association Health Law  
Section Luncheon

- September 17<sup>th</sup>
- October 15<sup>th</sup>

The Colorado Trust Health Equity  
Learning Series – Delores Royal with  
Alma Health Foundation

- November 13<sup>th</sup>



**COLORADO LAW**  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL

**HOT TOPICS IN HEALTH LAW JOBS LUNCHEON COLLOQUIUM  
SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> IN ROOM 307**



**Mark Fogg**  
- COPIC



**Sarah Meshak**  
- Boulder Community Health



**Scott Loftin**  
- DaVita HealthCare Partners



**Patrick O'Rourke**  
- University of Colorado