

SPRING 2021

AMICUS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL

RIGHTING WRONGS

Colorado Law Clinics and Appellate Advocacy
Practicum Step Up Amid Pandemic and
Nationwide Injustice



Colorado **Law**
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Standing Together

This message marks the last one I will write for *Amicus* as dean. When I started at Colorado Law in 2016, I welcomed with enthusiasm the challenges I foresaw and set out to build on the strengths of the institution. I could not have foreseen the challenges of the last year or those ahead for us. But through it all, including the steps forward, I've lived a memorable experience that has yielded enormous personal growth. Serving as dean will remain a highlight of my life.

The events of the past year—ranging from a global pandemic and protests for racial justice to a contentious presidential election—have provided ground for renewed commitment to the unifying objective of all we do at Colorado Law: to advance knowledge about the law and, with that, the rule of law, in an open, just society.

As you'll see throughout this issue of *Amicus*, our community has not let up amid these unprecedented challenges. As we've grappled with the collective and individual effects of the pandemic and continual manifestations of racial injustice, Colorado Law students, faculty, and alumni have worked to help dismantle inequalities that are aggravated in a time of great fear and uncertainty. Our nine legal clinics and courses such as the Appellate Advocacy Practicum have helped hundreds of clients affected by racial discrimination, poverty, and other inequities. Our students, who despite the ordinary challenges of law school and adjusting to remote learning, have stepped up to challenge systemic inequality in ways that make a tremendous difference in the lives of our community members. I commend them.

“Students, faculty, and alumni have worked to help dismantle inequalities that are aggravated in a time of great fear and uncertainty.”

—Dean S. James Anaya

I'm proud of the progress made so far on the Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative, announced last July, which seeks to build a strong culture of confronting racism and to advance greater inclusion within the law school community and the legal profession. The initiative's nine objectives and related steps have generated myriad conversations, ideas, and progress. To name just a few actions we've taken: Professor **Deborah Cantrell** created and led the first 1L Anti-Racism and Intersectionality Caucus this fall; we've bolstered the Korey Wise Innocence Project (see Page 3), American Indian Law Program, and Immigration and Citizenship Law Program; invested in our legal clinics and Appellate Advocacy Practicum to advance greater access to justice (see Page 8); and engaged more than 500 people in important conversations about the law's role in racial justice with our Race and the Law lecture series. To supplement the initiative, student leaders formed the Council for Racial Justice and Equity, which has provided thoughtful feedback and recommendations to me and the administration. You can see our progress detailed at colorado.edu/law/initiative.

On top of everything else, over the last several months we have seen democracy tested, which has underscored the need for and importance of lawyers committed to the rule of law and justice in our society. At Colorado Law, we will continue to reinforce the core values of our profession, as part of our work entails being, as our vision statement says, “a supportive and diverse educational and scholarly community in a place that inspires vigorous pursuit of ideas, critical analysis, contemplation, and civic engagement to advance knowledge about the law in an open, just society.” I'm proud to be the dean of a law school committed to this vision and work, and look forward to continuing as an engaged member of the faculty.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. James Anaya'.

S. James Anaya, Dean

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On the cover: Neil Sandhu ('21)
and Danielle Trujillo ('21), students in
Colorado Law's Appellate Advocacy
Practicum, deliver oral argument
before the United States Court of
Appeals for the 10th Circuit in March
2021. Under the supervision of
lecturer Matthew Cushing, Sandhu
and Trujillo are representing a client in
an excessive police force case.



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New Books by Colorado Law Emeritus, Adjunct Faculty



Bill Pizzi

The Supreme Court's Role in Mass Incarceration

Routledge, 2020

In a new book, Professor Emeritus **Bill Pizzi** illuminates the role of the U.S. Supreme Court's criminal procedure revolution as a contributing factor in the rise in U.S. incarceration rates.

Noting that the increase in mass incarceration began climbing just after the Warren Court years (1953–69) and continued to climb for the next four decades—despite the substantial decline in the crime rate—Pizzi contends that part of the explanation is the Court's failure to understand that a trial system with robust rights for defendants is not a strong trial system unless it is also reliable and efficient.

The result is a criminal justice system so complicated and expensive that it no longer serves to protect defendants. For example, Pizzi points to *Anders v. California*, which effectively mandates full appellate review after all criminal trials, and *Baldwin v. New York*, which extended the right to jury trials to misdemeanor cases.

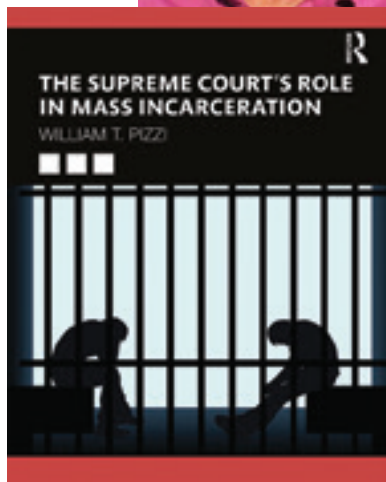
"Our criminal justice system is badly broken. We can put some of the blame on police and law enforcement policies, we can blame politicians who enact harsh laws—like the war on drugs—and we can put some blame on aggressive prosecutors," Pizzi said. "But we will never lower our incarceration rate by even half until we understand that not all pieces of the criminal procedure revolution worked well."

Pizzi contrasts the trial and pretrial systems of other common law countries, such as Canada and England, with those of the U.S., and demonstrates how those systems help keep incarceration rates much lower. The incentives in those countries are to keep charges low if possible, while the incentives in the U.S. are to charge as much as possible, Pizzi explained.

"In the case of Canada, whose crime rates are similar to those of the U.S., their incarceration rate has been stable for decades, while ours has quintupled since the late 1970s," he said.

The publisher describes the book as essential reading for both graduate and undergraduate students in corrections and criminal justice courses, as well as judges, attorneys, and others working in the criminal justice system.

Pizzi, who joined the Colorado Law faculty in 1975 and took emeritus status in 2010, is one of the nation's foremost scholars on comparative criminal issues.



T. Markus Funk

Rethinking Self-Defence: The 'Ancient Right's' Rationale Disentangled

Hart/Bloomsbury 2021

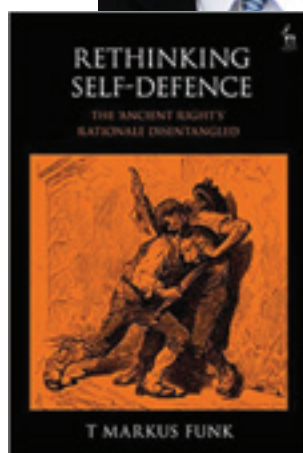
Adjunct professor **T. Markus Funk**, a former federal prosecutor and chair of Perkins Coie LLP's white collar and investigations practice, offers a comprehensive value-centric approach to thinking about the defense's deeper rationale.

Written in the midst of a searing national debate on this core criminal law and civil rights topic and drawn from Funk's Oxford University doctoral dissertation, the book tackles core issues such as the relative importance of the state's claimed monopoly on force, procedural justice and the need to shore up the justice system's legitimacy and creditworthiness, everyone's presumptive "right to life," and the importance of ensuring equal standing among citizens. In so doing, the book breaks ground by addressing public perceptions of "just" and "right" outcomes, as well as the emphasis legal systems place (and should place) on state power.

An adjunct faculty member at Colorado Law for more than six years, Funk teaches a course titled Foreign Corrupt Practices, Anti-Bribery and Anti-Trafficking.

Before joining Perkins Coie LLP, Funk served as a decorated Chicago federal prosecutor, section chief in the U.S. State Department-Balkans, clerk in a federal court of appeals and district court, and law professor.

During his time in public service, Funk and his team prosecuted "Operation Family Secrets," which National Public Radio lauded as "one of the most important criminal investigations . . . in American history," and whose charged criminal activities served as the basis for the 1995 movie *Casino*.



Korey Wise Innocence Project Grows Staff, Impact

A growing team that includes a veteran litigator and two postgraduate racial justice fellows is amplifying the Korey Wise Innocence Project's efforts to effect change for the wrongfully convicted in Colorado and across the nation.

Kathleen Lord, whose decades of experience includes positions with the Colorado State Public Defender and Federal Public Defender's Office, joined the project as a full-time legal fellow last September.

Since 2013, Lord has run her own law firm specializing in criminal defense, appeals, and postconviction proceedings in the state and federal courts. Before that, she was a deputy state public defender and chief appellate defender in the Appellate Division of the Colorado State Public Defender. In 2010, she joined the Federal Public Defender's Office.

Lord is the project's second full-time staff member. Among her duties are working with volunteer law and undergraduate students in screening applications submitted by incarcerated people and representing the project's clients in Colorado courts. She also assists Executive Director **Anne-Marie Moyes** with working with the state legislature and others to improve the criminal justice system, part of the project's efforts to avoid wrongful convictions.

"Kathleen Lord is one of the top appellate litigators in the state. Her expertise and depth of legal knowledge in Colorado, specifically, will add tremendous value to the Korey Wise Innocence Project's work," Moyes said. "We couldn't have dreamed up a better candidate."

Lord earned a JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law. She began her legal career as a litigation associate at Calkins, Kramer, Grimshaw & Haring, P.C.

Cynthia Sánchez ('20) and **Da'Shaun Parker** joined the project in March as postgraduate racial justice fellows. They will help supervise law student and undergraduate volunteers as they screen cases, work on cases in litigation, and create a new racial justice component of the program.

The racial justice component, launched as part of Dean Anaya's Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative, aims to bring the lessons learned from innocence cases in Colorado and nationally back to our CU

community, explained Clinical Professor and the project's Faculty Director **Ann England**.

Sánchez and Parker will also work to create relationships across campus and throughout the community to increase and strengthen the project's policy work.

Sánchez is a 2020 graduate of Colorado Law. During law school, she worked for several nonprofits, including Earthjustice and the Northwest Justice Project. She also worked in civil rights at Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP and most recently was a law clerk at the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Before law school, she worked as a paralegal at an immigration law firm after graduating from the University of Washington. She is excited to join the growing Korey Wise Innocence Project, help develop the racial justice component, and learn the world of wrongful convictions.

Parker earned his JD from the University of Mississippi School of Law. After hearing about Curtis Flowers' wrongful conviction case, he began volunteering with the Mississippi Innocence Project, where he continued to work throughout law school, first as a volunteer and then as a paid intern. He also interned with the Capital Appeals Project in New Orleans, working on death penalty cases at the postconviction stage. He received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and served in the National Guard for six years. He looks forward to diving into the project's casework and helping broaden its reach.

"We are so excited with the energy and hope Cynthia and Da'Shaun will bring to the project," England said.

The project will soon have a new home in the law school, thanks to a grant from the Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation that will finance a full renovation of the project's new office space on the second floor of the law school. The larger space will allow the project to accommodate its growing staff and better serve the growing number of volunteer law students and community members who investigate cases of possible wrongful conviction in Colorado. It will also allow for a collaborative workspace that provides a hub for student learning and engagement.



Kathleen Lord



Cynthia Sánchez ('20)



Da'Shaun Parker

Colorado Law Community Remembers Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Former Colorado Law Dean and current Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser speaks with Justice Ginsburg at the 2012 John Paul Stevens Lecture.

To commemorate the life and legacy of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died Sept. 18, 2020, Colorado Law faculty and leaders in the legal community shared stories and reflected on her impact.

Suzette Malveaux, Provost Professor of Civil Rights Law and director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, moderated a virtual discussion with Colorado Attorney General **Phil Weiser** and Colorado Supreme Court Justice **Melissa Hart**. The conversation touched on Justice Ginsburg's jurisprudence around the equal protection clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment, advocacy for gender equality, and memorable dissenting opinions.

Weiser, former dean of Colorado Law, served as a law clerk for Ginsburg from 1995 to 1996. Justice Hart, a member of the Colorado Law faculty before her appointment to the Colorado Supreme Court, clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens when Ginsburg served.

"Justice Ginsburg was a fierce advocate for constitutional principles," Malveaux said. "With the news of her death, we knew we wanted to expand our Constitution Day programming this year to include a discussion about her life and legacy. I am grateful to Attorney General Weiser and Justice Hart for sharing their reflections on Justice Ginsburg's career, character and integrity, and far-reaching impact."

In addition to law students, the White Center invited high school students from across the state to participate in the conversation, which was recorded and shared with high school teachers throughout Colorado to incorporate into their curriculum.

Weiser and Justice Hart also joined professors **Fred Bloom**, **Aya Gruber**, **Craig Konnoth**, and **Helen Norton** to share stories and reflect on Justice Ginsburg's far-reaching jurisprudence and monumental contributions to justice and equality.

Bloom shared a story about his interview for a clerkship in Justice Ginsburg's chambers 20 years ago.

"She was both smaller than I expected and a lot bigger, too—her quiet intensity, her immense wisdom, her subtle humor, and her undeniable steel more than filling any room that she ever entered," Bloom said.

Although he didn't land the clerkship, he fondly remembers talking with Justice Ginsburg in her chambers, followed by an unexpected meeting with Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I don't think all of her legacy is on the page. Even if we never read her opinions or her speeches again, we will forever think very differently about what it means to be a person

of impact and purpose in this legal profession of ours, and that's because of her," Bloom said.

Reflecting on Justice Ginsburg's impact on gender equality, Justice Hart said: "We talk a lot about what a remarkable feminist she was, and what a difference she made in the lives of women in this country, and that is certainly true. But she made a difference in the lives of every man in this country, too. Every single one of us, whether male or female, is better off because of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's time on this Earth."

Justice Ginsburg visited the University of Colorado Law School in 2012, when she delivered the keynote address of the Gathering of the Bench and Bar Conference and presented the White Center's John Paul Stevens Lecture. During the Stevens Lecture, she stated one of her most well-known quotes regarding women's equality.

While talking with Weiser, she said, "I am sometimes asked, 'When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?' and I say, 'When there are nine!' There have been nine men, and no one ever raised a question about that."

Recordings of the Stevens Lecture and the recent conversations remembering Justice Ginsburg are available at youtube.com/coloradolaw.

Clinic Pushes for Protections for Mobile Home Owners

The Sustainable Community Development Clinic played a leading role in developing recently passed legislation that supports mobile home owners in Colorado.

In June, Gov. Jared Polis signed into law Mobile Home Park Residents Opportunity to Purchase (HB20-1201) and Mobile Home Park Act Updates (HB20-1196), which provide critical support for mobile home owners across the state.

Student attorneys **McKenzie Brandon** ('21), **Diana Jenkins** ('21), **James Kadolph** ('21), and **Cam Netherland** ('20) crafted the legislation on behalf of a coalition that included mobile home owners, public health offices, and housing and anti-poverty advocates. The team drafted statutory provisions that provide mobile home owners protections related to utility billing, created new anti-retaliation measures, and put in place restrictions on the kinds of rules and regulations a park owner can require of mobile home owners.

The student attorneys also drafted legislation to create a mandatory framework that provides mobile home owners with a path to purchasing their mobile home park if a park owner decides

to sell or transfer ownership of the park. Colorado joins only 18 states with such legislation.

Mobile home communities are one of the most important sources of affordable housing in the state, explained Professor and Director of Clinical Programs **Deborah Cantrell**. They are particularly critical sources of housing for people who do not qualify for subsidized housing because of the range of restrictions placed on housing subsidies, such as citizenship status.

"I am incredibly proud of the sustained, detailed, and creative work of the student attorneys," Cantrell said. "They kept up their work full steam even when the pandemic closed down the state capitol. They exemplify Colorado Law's commitment to change for our communities."

For her supervision of the clinic's work developing this legislation, Cantrell received Boulder County Public Health's 2020 Healthy Community Award.

The Sustainable Community Development Clinic is Colorado Law's newest legal clinic,



Deborah Cantrell and students in the Sustainable Community Development Clinic, 2019-20.

formed in fall 2016. The clinic considers the role of sustainable development as reflecting commitments to social justice and to reducing poverty.

Professor-Alumnus Team Examines Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Communities

A report written by Associate Professor **Alexia Brunet Marks** and postdoctoral fellow and recent graduate **Hunter Knapp** ('20) seeks to protect Colorado food workers in their workplaces as they contribute their essential labor throughout the state's food system.

COVID-19 has exposed the particular vulnerabilities of these essential food system workers, who include those in farming, processing, warehouses and distribution, retail and food service, and last-mile delivery.

Recommendations in the Colorado COVID-Responsive Essential Food System Worker Policy Agenda, presented to Gov. Jared Polis in August, include providing paid sick leave, family leave, and personal protective equipment to essential food system workers; addressing workplace conditions; and closing gaps in state and federal laws and funding. Brunet Marks, who serves on the Colorado Coronavirus Farm and Food Systems Task Force, and Knapp worked with Project Protect Food Systems to write the report, which was published in the *University of Colorado Law Review Online Forum*.

"Food system workers (FSWs) have been undervalued, at best, and often exploited," the report states. "The cruel irony of this disregard

was thrown into sharp relief when, as part of the pandemic response, workers throughout the food system were deemed 'essential.' The 'Essential Worker' designation turns an inconvenient truth into an undeniable one: all people—and all Coloradans—rely upon food system workers to meet their basic needs in times of calm and crisis. Now that our collective dependence on FSWs has been laid bare, it is time to offer them dignity, respect, and support in tangible forms."

Knapp said he hopes that people who read the report see concrete steps the government can take to protect workers in the workplace, as well as workers and their families outside the workplace.

"That two-pronged approach can ensure that communities are able to stay safe and healthy while food system workers continue to provide their essential labor for the people of Colorado," he said. "Some priorities, like requiring businesses to post all COVID-19-related information in languages accessible to employees, demand immediate action, while others, such as empowering community-based health care systems, can create benefits for Colorado long after we persevere through the COVID-19 crisis."



Alexia Brunet Marks



Hunter Knapp ('20)

Nadav Orian Peer: Pursuing Social Justice Through Financial Reform

Associate Professor **Nadav Orian Peer** joined the Colorado Law faculty in 2019. His teaching and scholarship focus on the law of financial institutions, including banking, capital markets, and community development. His research explores policy proposals to increase access to credit in the fields of fair housing and climate mitigation. Here he discusses the role of social justice in financial institutions, funding climate mitigation, and the COVID-19 policy response.

Following the calls for social justice and police reform last year, and in the spirit of Dean Anaya's Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative, you redesigned your fall 2020 course on the regulation of financial institutions to focus on past and present racial discrimination in the financial system. Tell us about that. Why did you feel it was important to shift the course curriculum?

When we think of racial injustice, the legal fields that come to mind are probably voting, criminal justice, housing, education, and environmental torts. Over the past years, reading the work of law scholars and civil rights practitioners, it became increasingly clear to me that financial institutions law was an important piece of that nexus.

Who were you reading?

Folks like Mehrsa Baradaran (UCI Law), Lisa Rice (National Fair Housing Alliance), Sherrilyn Ifill (NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund), Stacy Seicshnaydre (Tulane Law School), and Richard Rothstein (Economic Policy Institute). Their insights came together with my longstanding interest in work on money and credit as public institutions by Christine Desan, Roy Kreitner, Morgan Ricks, and others.



Give us one example of financial discrimination you found especially powerful.

Take redlining in the mortgage market. For much of the 20th century, communities of color were formally excluded from mortgage credit. This exclusion has effectively deprived them of housing wealth, jobs, education, and a clean and safe environment. These are all things that basically attach to one's zip code, and were made available to white families, often through mortgages with public guarantees. In this way, the financial system worked as the infrastructure of broader racial segregation. Despite the fact that redlining has formally ended, the effects of this decades-long policy is still deeply felt today. After the events of last summer, it felt impossible to teach the

legalities of the mortgage market without bringing redlining and its legacy to the fore.

Did these inequities in the financial system play out during the COVID-19 economic policy response?

A key example we've witnessed since last March is the failure of minority-owned small businesses at more than double the rate of white small businesses (data from the Cleveland Fed). One of the factors driving this disparity is the design of the Small Business Administration's massive Paycheck Protection Program. The program was created by the CARES Act to keep small businesses afloat during the pandemic by providing them with substantial grants. It has disbursed some \$525 billion to over 5 million businesses.

The decision to administer the program through the banking system proved detrimental to minority-owned small businesses. These businesses often lacked the banking relations necessary to receive the grants in a timely fashion, so the program proved less effective for them. It is concerning to think of the long-term consequences of these failures on the well-being of communities.

In the course description for Regulation of Financial Institutions, you write that the knowledge of racist structures in our financial system is necessary for aspiring civil rights lawyers. Why is that the case?

For aspiring civil rights lawyers, understanding how the financial system works—how to read balance sheets, how loans are originated, the key regulatory frameworks—can be incredibly empowering. These skills open up areas of practice where students can bring their civil rights commitments to bear on the most basic processes through which resources are allocated in our society. I am thinking of fields like fair housing litigation, the Community Reinvestment Act, and regulation of government and state-owned enterprises.

Setting practice opportunities aside, what do you consider the deep takeaways from the course?

At the deeper level, I hope the course helps students appreciate the extraordinary public privileges that the financial sector enjoys in our economy, including through bank deposit insurance, central bank supports, and publicly guaranteed mortgages. Understanding these privileges helps see the responsibility that financial institutions have in affirmatively promoting equal access to credit, especially given the legacy of financial segregation. It also helps students see that lack of equal access to credit is not merely about decision-making by private businesses. The public supports received by financial institutions are so



significant that, in my view, unequal access to credit oftentimes amounts to public discrimination. The students were incredibly thoughtful and skillful in learning these issues. The course included a midterm research project, and I was amazed to see how they applied their learning in ways that were so powerful and original. Teaching is the best job ever.

Your work in financial institutions also intersects with environmental policy and climate change. This fall, you designed and taught a seminar on funding climate action, which explored legal and policy options available to fund climate change mitigation. You also serve on the board of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (GWC). Tell us about that.

Effective climate policy would require investments of trillions of dollars over an increasingly tight timeline. This naturally raises the questions of how these investments are going to be funded. One aspect was taking a deep dive into current modes of finance in the energy world. We looked into topics like ratemaking for energy utilities, the workings of wholesale energy markets, and the common use of tax credits in funding renewable energy. A second aspect of the seminar was taking a broader look at the critical role that government plays in promoting large-scale finance in other sectors. That brought us to areas like central bank asset purchases, and also—here it is again—to the mortgage market. The students and I tried to think how we can adapt these pretty powerful financial structures to the climate context.

As someone coming from a financial law background, how did you pick up what you needed to teach about climate and energy?

Teaching the seminar definitely required a learning curve, and one that was really made possible by the incredible environmental law community

we have here. My colleagues on the faculty and at GWC have been really generous in that respect (special thanks to **Alice Madden** ['89] and to professors **Sharon Jacobs** and **Mark Squillace**). And, of course, the students have a level of expertise and interest in environmental law that makes teaching a seminar like this a real feast. As of this writing, I'm just finishing reading the last papers from the seminar now. Did I say teaching was the best job ever?



A photograph of a courtroom. In the foreground, a wooden desk holds a silver laptop with a black keyboard and a small red and white sticker. To the left of the laptop is a clipboard with a yellow notepad. In the background, there are rows of blue upholstered wooden benches. The title 'Righting WRONGS' is overlaid on the image, with 'Righting' in a grey script font and 'WRONGS' in a large blue sans-serif font.

Righting WRONGS

Clinics and Appellate Advocacy Practicum Step Up Amid Pandemic and Nationwide Injustice

By Samantha Swantek ('21)

On Jan. 21, 2020, the United States confirmed its first case of the novel coronavirus disease known as COVID-19.

On March 13, 2020, in Louisville, Kentucky, Breonna Taylor was fatally shot in her apartment when plainclothes officers forced entry through the door. On May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, arresting police knelt on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, eventually killing him after he repeatedly pleaded three words that sparked an outrage: "I can't breathe."

On Dec. 22, 2020, Colorado confirmed the first U.S. case of a new coronavirus variant believed to be more contagious than the COVID-19 strain originally found in the country.

Living and learning in a community rippling with the tremor of severe illness, racial injustice, and national violence, University of Colorado Law School students, faculty, staff, and alumni have stepped up to address the inequality, quell the pain, and provide hope for the future.

The charge came from Dean **S. James Anaya**, who launched the school's Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative in July. The initiative has engaged hundreds of students, professors, alumni, and community members by examining such topics as wrongful convictions as a function of race, the implications of nationwide injustice, and the persistent effects of racism on marginalized groups.

An overarching goal of the initiative is to "expand the law school's role as a catalyst for direct action to combat racism and its manifestations around us, and to enhance the representation and inclusion of people of color and others from marginalized groups." The anti-racism agenda includes building awareness about racism and its manifestations, promoting anti-racist and inclusive curriculum and pedagogy, and combatting racism and its effects through public service and community engagement. These three objectives are present in the programming of the

Race and the Law lecture series, which focuses on the intersection between race and law to generate conversation on how law can be transformed to serve as a tool in achieving racial and social justice.

Professor **Helen Norton** presented on “Race and the Constitution,” discussing the Constitution’s treatment of race and equality. “What matters is the relationship between the government’s action and longstanding racial subordination,” Norton said. “It is both morally wrong and unwise to ignore how race has made a difference and continues to make a difference in American life.”

Clinical Professor **Violeta Chapin** titled her presentation “When Cruelty Becomes Ordinary,” highlighting three extraordinary facets of society that she believes Americans have come to see as ordinary: juvenile prisons, the death penalty, and the detention of immigrants. All three of these spaces result in extraordinary cruelty and injustice to children and people of color that has become widely accepted as a normal part of our society. “In this country I believe we must accept that we have a deep-rooted problem with prejudice, punishment, and power,” Chapin said. “We can do better. If we have hard conversations, we can find common ground and better solutions.”

Chapin serves as director of the school’s Criminal and Immigration Defense Clinic. The Clinical Education Program focuses on community engagement, public service, and providing legal aid to underrepresented and “othered” communities. Students and clinical faculty have been part of

the momentum to assist students and community members during the pandemic and a time of deep racial injustice.

In response to increasing prejudice facing people of color in the U.S., Chapin and her students worked to expand the university’s UndocuAlly program. The program, which began in spring 2017, provides training to faculty and staff on the University of Colorado Boulder campus about how

best to support undocumented students and staff. This summer, the Denver and Anschutz campuses began discussion to expand the programming to their students. Because of limits imposed on in-person trainings and community engagements, the Criminal and Immigration Defense Clinic is focusing

on curating comprehensive material for an online platform. With this, they plan to reach an increasing number of undocumented students and provide assistance related to education, financial aid, career services, and more.

“It’s exciting, and I’m glad that more people are interested in supporting all of our students, including our undocumented ones,” Chapin said. “Our goal is to get this information in the ears of everyone possible who touches the lives of our undocumented students. There has been a great deal of trauma surrounding the instability of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) that has been compounded by the uncertainty of the pandemic.”

The Criminal and Immigration Defense Clinic also provides direct legal assistance to students and young adults in the community who are eligible to renew their DACA benefits and, now, to submit initial DACA applications to U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services.

As for the criminal side, Chapin and her students worked extensively on a clemency petition in spring 2020 for a client housed in a Colorado prison, asking the governor to release their client. The client was sentenced to 48 years in prison for nonviolent property offenses, and during the 12 years he’s been incarcerated, he has completely rehabilitated his body and mind. He has been sober for over a decade and is one of only nine prisoners in the country to have a Level 2 CrossFit certification as a coach and athlete. The petition also focused in part on the unique dangers that COVID-19 brings to crowded detention facilities and how a deadly outbreak of the virus can serve as a death sentence for inmates who have not received one.

Amid a pandemic, it is imperative for government officials in every state to consider how to reduce the prison population safely and effectively to stop the spread of a highly contagious disease. The clinic believes that an effective way to do this is by granting clemency to nonviolent offenders who have shown exemplary conduct and community service in prison and have secured full-time employment upon their release. “Colorado’s Habitual Offender Statute is extraordinarily punitive,” Chapin said. “Because of this, our client was given an astronomical sentence comparable to most homicide sentences.”

Jails and prisons are an ideal breeding ground for the spread of COVID-19 because of their highly populated environment. The clinic’s goal is to minimize the number of inmates inside Colorado facilities, which will decrease overall community spread.



Violeta Chapin

"There needs to be a way for district attorneys in the state to come together and re-review sentencing for individuals who have done a lot of good while incarcerated," Chapin said. This, in turn, will lessen the vicious impact of the virus.

Also providing criminal-related legal aid is the Criminal Defense Clinic, under the advisement of Clinical Professor **Ann England**. Students work with indigent clients whose legal needs have been exacerbated by COVID-19.

"I have had indigent clients who have lost jobs because of COVID-19 and have subsequently fallen into homelessness and substance abuse issues," said **Lucas Dages** ('21). "These people may have meager financial means to begin with and were already at a disadvantage in our legal system, which was worsened by job loss."

Students in the Criminal Defense Clinic have also witnessed the ways in which the pandemic, as well as social and racial injustices, have affected the court system. "Courts have been forced to postpone trials and hearings, which puts clients in jeopardy of losing their employment because they have not yet resolved their cases," said **Nikki Nelson** ('22). "Because minorities are more heavily represented in the criminal justice system, these delays and their consequences have a disproportionate impact on those communities."

Because the needs of marginalized communities have been amplified, the Criminal Defense Clinic has taken advantage of the groundswell of meaningful criminal justice reform. Students have worked with clients in Aurora Municipal Court, encountering deep-seated issues of animus in the system. "The Criminal Defense Clinic plays a vital role in combating discrimination by working to ensure that 'innocent until proven guilty' actually means something for our clients," Nelson said. "The Aurora Police Department has demonstrated the pervasiveness of discrimination in the criminal justice system, so when we take clients to a trial in Aurora, we are fighting against an oppressive police regime."

In August 2019, Aurora police confronted 23-year-old Elijah McClain, a Black man who was walking home from a convenience store. After being placed in a chokehold and then sedated by paramedics, McClain died. "The media portrayal of the Aurora Police Department's response to Elijah McClain and the subsequent protests drew the community's attention to the fact that these things are happening in our state," Nelson said.

The Civil Practice Clinic, headed by Clinical Professor **Zachary Mountin** ('10), also works closely with low-income clients and people of color. In response to the pandemic, the clinic has begun

to represent tenants in housing and eviction matters who could no longer afford their rent due to COVID-19-related job loss.

"We helped a tenant negotiate an early termination of her lease so that she could transition to a more affordable situation," said **Matthew Forstie** ('21). "Our representation also helped the tenant avoid excessive fees that the landlord tried to impose."

The Civil Practice Clinic piloted representing people in unemployment insurance appeals. "One of our clients had lost her job due to COVID-19 but was then denied unemployment benefits even though she was qualified to receive them," Forstie said. "We represented her in a successful appeal funded by tuition made available by the law school for student-attorneys to work in the clinic during summer 2020."

Because of longstanding racial inequality, communities of color have less of a buffer to absorb the economic effects they are saddled with during a pandemic.

"Poor individuals are more likely to be working in jobs that expose them to the virus and are less likely to have access to health services," said **Kelly Reeves** ('22). "In the employment sector specifically, high unemployment means that employers have options to replace workers at even lower wages because employee bargaining power is slim."

Employees often rely on the ability to exit a job that becomes a risk to their health, but they need their jobs to survive no less than before the pandemic. "People are more willing to tolerate unfairness, some of which violates state and federal employment laws, and are less likely to come forward with complaints," Reeves said.

To help remedy this problem, the Civil Practice Clinic has started taking up wage theft cases on behalf of clients. "Unemployed people may not have the money to hire an attorney to address wage theft issues, so offering free or low-cost services helps people recover their stolen wages," Reeves said. "Even if the recovery is relatively small, the



Zachary Mountin ('10)



Angela Boettcher ('21) and Aja Robbins ('21) catch up with students in the Appellate Advocacy Practicum and lecturer Matthew Cushing after arguing virtually before the 10th Circuit.

pandemic has stretched people's budgets to the extreme, and this service is more important now."

The Civil Practice Clinic received grant funding to expand its housing and eviction defense representation last summer. The grant, provided by the Denver Foundation as part of its efforts to combat the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable people and communities, will allow Mountin to hire two students to represent people at risk of eviction. "As federal and state moratoria on evictions expire, this will allow the clinic to provide representation when tenants are most in need of assistance to negotiate with their landlords and stave off eviction," Mountin said.

"The Civil Practice Clinic's work is inextricably intertwined with issues of race and class," Mountin said. "We seek to provide access to justice for low-income and underrepresented workers and tenants."

The vast majority of the clinic's clients are racial and ethnic minorities, and many are immigrants. "Structural inequalities mean that those most at risk of wage theft or eviction are low-income individuals of color, and both wage theft and eviction perpetuate these already existing inequities," Mountin said. "Escaping the cycle of poverty is all the harder when you are not paid the full amount of your rightfully earned wages or picking up the pieces of your life after an eviction."

To this end, the Civil Practice Clinic is helping to ease the burden of standing up for one's rights and navigating unfamiliar systems. Students have spent countless hours gathering documents, talking to witnesses, and appearing at hearings on behalf of their clients. "There is no doubt that the burdens of COVID-19 have fallen unequally on the shoulders of those who were already on the margins," Mountin



said. "Actions at both the state and federal levels to guarantee workplace protections or freeze evictions for those affected have prevented the worst-case scenario, but many gaps in the system remain."

Sharing the charge to address inequities is the Appellate Advocacy Practicum, directed by lecturer **Matthew Cushing**. Students in the Practicum work and argue on behalf of clients involved in civil appeals before the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. Those who cannot afford a lawyer, or whose case isn't desirable enough to be taken on contingency, are often left without legal representation. The Practicum works with the 10th Circuit to take on cases that would otherwise fall through the cracks by offering free representation to those who could not otherwise afford it.

Cushing and his students brief and argue cases before the 10th Circuit, ensuring that individual rights don't rise and fall with the nonlucrative nature of the case. "A right is only a right if it has a remedy," said Practicum student **Neil Sandhu** ('21).

Under Cushing's supervision, Sandhu and **Danielle Trujillo** ('21) are representing a client who sued a Colorado city and some of its police officers claiming that an officer used "excessive force" when she shot the client while he stood in his yard. The client, who did not have an attorney when he filed his suit, had his case dismissed by the trial court. Sandhu and Trujillo appealed that decision to the 10th Circuit, briefed the legal issues on appeal, and appeared before that court for oral argument in March.

"The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Elijah McClain were a flash point in our country, but they were not the first injustices perpetrated by our government, nor will they be the last," Sandhu said.

Ignoring such injustices excuses behaviors that escalate and calcify over time, he added.

Through the Practicum, **Aja Robbins** ('21) and **Angela Boettcher** ('21) worked on the case of a client who asserted that he had been deprived of accommodations for his disability while incarcerated. Because of the pandemic, the client's situation worsened in a serious way. "His temporary accommodations were taken away due to lockdown, and the correctional facility refused to reinstate them after lockdown was eased," Robbins said. "Overall, the pandemic really strengthened our resolve to fight for him."

Many of the cases in the Practicum are taken up on behalf of low-income and minority litigants. "The pervasive racial injustice most certainly amplifies their legal needs," Boettcher said. "Not only do we see this through the acute injustices perpetrated by the criminal system and the carceral system more broadly, but we see this in so many indirect ways as lawyers."

Those injustices extend to the civil sphere as well, where inequities can easily be overlooked because representation in civil matters is not guaranteed by the Constitution.

A third case taken up by the Practicum was that of a Black man who was surrounded by officers when he pulled into a gas station. "Our client was the passenger in a car driven by his white wife," said **Andres Alers** ('21). "Suddenly, officers surrounded the car with guns drawn, demanding that our client turn over his license."

The officers ran a check on the client's license and, finding nothing, eventually released him. "They never explained why they stopped him, let alone why they approached with their guns drawn," Alers said. "Confused and distressed, our client filed a complaint against the officers." Although the client lost in front of the trial court, students in the Practicum were able to step in on appeal and represent him before the 10th Circuit, resulting in a favorable conclusion to the case.

The Practicum has helped several clients assert claims to redress discrimination. "Our Constitution and federal and state laws are meant to protect people from discrimination and being taken advantage of," said Practicum student **David Willner** ('21). "While our courts provide access to justice for civil claims, many clients cannot afford an attorney."

This is where programs like the Practicum and clinics come in. "I believe it is especially important for these programs to step in and help however they can right now," Willner said. The Practicum and clinical programs provide students with an

opportunity to increase the chances of success for a client. "This brings that person one step closer to finding justice for a violation of their rights," Willner said.

While many people and groups have shined a light on the systemic inequality in the U.S., especially in the context of criminal justice, there is still much work to be done in the civil sphere.

"We are in a time of collective trauma," Reeves said of the Civil Practice Clinic. "No group or community has been entirely spared, and that's important to acknowledge, but the stress of a mass collective trauma exposes the inequity in our systems and introduces new levels of scarcity."



Neil Sandhu ('21) and Danielle Trujillo ('21) celebrate after delivering oral argument virtually before the 10th Circuit.



The Exit Interview:

Dean S. James Anaya

This July, S. James Anaya will continue as a member of the faculty and Colorado Law will welcome a new dean. Here, Dean Anaya discusses his impressions from his time as dean, future research and scholarship, and lessons learned.

As dean, you've championed efforts to make Colorado Law more diverse, inclusive, and accessible for students from the full spectrum of economic, social, and cultural backgrounds, including by establishing the Leaders in Law and Community fellowship program and launching the Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative. Can you reflect on the significance of these efforts, and explain why you think it's so important that Colorado Law reflects the diversity of our state and country?

We cannot fully implement our educational, research, and public service missions without a diverse and inclusive community of students, faculty, and staff. A Colorado Law education is more complete with a learning environment that is nurtured by the experiences and perspectives of diverse backgrounds and identities, especially those that have been

marginalized. In welcoming each year our first-year students, I've urged each of them to make an effort to get to know students from backgrounds truly different from their own, promising not just enduring friendships but also lifelong enrichment. By working to enhance greater diversity among our students, furthermore, we are contributing greater diversity in the legal profession, which is much needed. If the profession, including lawyers and judges, continues to inadequately reflect the identities of all of those it serves, it will continue to fall short.

We established the Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) fellowship program, which provides full tuition scholarships and other support for a number of students each year, as a leading component of our diversity and inclusion efforts. The students in the program are from underrepresented backgrounds or have

overcome significant obstacles in their path to law school.

A commitment to diversity is about deliberate efforts—such as the LILAC program—to be inclusive of those from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in legal education and the profession because of barriers, especially those grounded in discrimination, that have impeded success. And it includes a resolve to both defeat and correct those barriers by enhancing representation of students of color and others from marginalized groups.

Diversity among our faculty and staff is important for similar reasons, as well as to better provide for an environment of inclusion for our students. Our students cannot easily have a sense of belonging if they do not see themselves represented



Members of the Colorado Law community participate in an Indigenous cultural celebration at a September 2017 event marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

among the faculty that teaches them or the staff that serves them. Diversity is also necessary for our research and public service activities to generate a diversity of perspectives and to address the range of concerns of all of those we serve.

With the events of last spring and summer that brought on greater awareness of persistent racism, our diversity and inclusion efforts led to our Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative. The initiative includes a series of objectives and steps to align learning and service at the law school with a commitment to confront the manifestations of racism in society and to enhance inclusion of those from groups that have been underrepresented in legal education and the legal profession. As I said in announcing the initiative, “As educators of future lawyers who will have important roles in society that will inevitably bear on issues of equality and racial justice, and with our public service

mission, we have a special obligation to work to embed anti-racism in the legal education we provide, and to confront racism and inequality in society in every way we can. We also have an obligation to be fully inclusive of those from groups that have endured racism and its continuing effects or that are otherwise marginalized.”

What other accomplishments as dean brought you the most satisfaction, and why?

I am pleased with the initiatives we’ve taken to generate and enhance programming that connects the law school globally. Our LLM degree program, which we reestablished at the beginning of my deanship, attracts students from all over the world to study alongside our JD students. The presence of international students in the law school adds to our diversity and enriches the learning environment. We’ve established agreements with the University of Chile

and University of Trömsö (Norway) for students from those universities’ law schools to join our LLM program for their last year of law studies. Additionally, we’ve revived our student exchange program with the Bucerias Law School in Germany, and we’ve established a new one with Comillas Pontifical University in Spain.

I’m also proud that we’ve been able to attract official meetings of international institutions to the law school. The law school hosted a meeting of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at which the members of this body discussed and heard testimony relevant to its study on challenges faced by Indigenous people in business and access to financial services. Highly memorable was the week of official hearings of the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the first time the commission had held a session



Steve Moore ('79), staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund; Jim Anaya; and John Echohawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund.

of hearings at a law school. These events brought to our community rare exposure to the workings of international diplomacy and institutions.

Several of our students are gaining direct international advocacy experience through the Maya Land Rights and Development Project, which I established with the help of talented postgraduate deans fellows, **Alex Kinsella** ('15) and **Patrick Lee** ('18). Students in the project work with Maya Indigenous leaders in Belize to advocate for the protection of Maya lands and resources through proceedings involving both international and Belizean domestic forums.

Another project of note is our partnership with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) to advance implementation in the United States of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The law school has had a long relationship with NARF, a nonprofit national law firm based in Boulder that advocates for Indian nations. It's been an honor for me to support and be involved with this new partnership with NARF, which, under the supervision of Professor **Kristen Carpenter**, engages our students in original research and innovative advocacy.

I'm pleased also to have contributed to the improvement of our physical space. We're fortunate to have a marvelous building that is an important element of our vibrant community. When I first came to Colorado Law I noticed that the ground level of the building, which faces the east parking lot, was not what it could be. Student leaders of our law journals worked with members of our staff, architects, and contract workers to redesign the ground level into an attractive space that includes a new state-of-the-art suite of offices and lounge space for the journals, a new conference space with an adjoining kitchen and lounge, and improved library space. This level of the building, once commonly referred to as the "basement," now more frequently is referred to as the "Garden Level."

What has it been like to lead Colorado Law through the COVID-19 crisis?
What core values and guiding



Dean Anaya and Colorado Law alumni Ashleigh Kaspari ('19), Daimeon Shanks ('19), and Alex Kinsella ('15) during a trip to Belize.

principles have you kept at the forefront?

It's been highly challenging and time consuming. There's been no playbook or precedent to draw from. We've had to create our own. Leading through a pandemic was nothing I expected or was prepared for. I'm fortunate to have a wonderful group of faculty and staff members who've been at the forefront with me in the job of ensuring continued success as a first-rate law school. I'm especially indebted to the extraordinary efforts and leadership of Associate Deans and Professors **Mark Loewenstein**, **Amy Griffin**, and **Fred Bloom**, and of Senior Assistant Dean **Jennifer Sullivan**. I also can't say enough about our IT team, led by **Jon Sibray**. He and the dedicated members of his team have done herculean work to ensure the technological infrastructure and coaching on the use of the technology to enable us to continue successfully with our educational mission. I've marveled at how our faculty adapted quickly to teaching in the COVID environment, and at how our students have adapted their learning.

Early in the pandemic I articulated the following values to guide our adaptation to our new reality: *safety and health of our students, faculty, and staff; academic and instructional integrity and excellence; inclusiveness, with constant attention to the disadvantages faced by some; commitment to the public interest; maximization of professional preparedness and employment opportunities; flexibility and adaptability*. I've frequently returned to this list, as well as to whatever sources of fortitude I can find, including my caring wife, Jana, who's been very busy in her

own right defending against evictions as a Colorado Legal Services attorney, and, of course, my steadfast companion in those stress-reducing walks, our dog, Kay Kay.

As you turn your focus to teaching and scholarship, what topics do you hope to examine with regard to international human rights and issues concerning Indigenous peoples?

I will first be completing new editions of my co-authored coursebook, *International Human Rights: Problems of Law, Policy, and Process* (Wolters/Kluwer), and of my single-authored book, *Indigenous Peoples in International Law* (Oxford Univ. Press). I'll then turn to a book project I've had on the back burner: a comparative examination of the domestic legal developments concerning Indigenous peoples, and their theoretical foundations, in select countries across the world. I may propose a new course on comparative law on Indigenous peoples based on this latter research project.

Alongside my research and teaching, I intend to return to direct involvement in outreach projects such as the Maya Land Rights and Development Project referred to earlier.

What's one lesson you've learned during your deanship that you will take with you as a member of the faculty?

I've learned the incredible importance of the law school support staff. As a faculty member at other law schools before becoming dean at Colorado Law, I had little awareness of all that goes into making a law school run and the vital role of dedicated and talented staff. I will never take that for granted again, and as a faculty member I'll continue to find ways to show appreciation for our staff.

What does Colorado Law mean to you?

The University of Colorado Law School is now a part of my identity. It's been my high honor to serve as dean, and the experiences I've gained over the last five years will be part of me for the rest of my life.

100 YEARS LATER:

A Look Back at U.S. Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge's Time in Boulder

By Daniel Rutledge Pollitt



Wiley Rutledge in his Colorado Law graduation cap and robe.

In the early 20th century, my grandparents, Wiley Blount Rutledge Jr. (1894–1949) and Annabel Person Rutledge (1888–1984), spent nine formative married years in the Rocky Mountain states—three in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and six in Boulder, Colorado. Wiley did not know it at the time, but those nine years of Rocky Mountain residence turned out to be an important qualification for his ultimate appointment as the 83rd associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. As shown below, that qualification was “geography.”

Wiley earned his law degree from the University of Colorado Law School in 1922 and spent two years in private practice at a Boulder law firm, Goss, Kimbrough, and Hutchinson (now known as Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC), before accepting a professorship at Colorado Law in 1924. Two years later, he accepted a professorship at Washington University Law School in St. Louis, later serving there as dean from 1931 to 1935. The following four years, he served as the University of Iowa Law School dean. He was appointed by President Franklin

D. Roosevelt to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1939 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943, where he served until his death in 1949. Rutledge was the only Colorado Law alumnus to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Getting Started (September 1920)

Born in Kentucky, Wiley grew up in Tennessee and North Carolina, went to college in Wisconsin, taught high school in Indiana, and developed a bad case of tuberculosis in early 1916. He then returned to North Carolina, was partially cured, married his college sweetheart, and was

ordered by his doctors in the summer of 1917 to “go West” for his health. His first stop was a high school teaching job in Albuquerque for three years, where he saved enough money to afford tuition at the best law school in the Rocky Mountain states.

Wiley arrived in Boulder by himself by train in early September 1920. He was 26 years old and eagerly anticipating the study of law at Colorado Law and new Rocky Mountain geography. Boulder had a population of about 11,000 and was the home of the University of Colorado. The Rutledges did not know anyone in Boulder but made friends quickly and ultimately lived in Boulder for six years. For the short term and in Annabel’s absence, Wiley rented a room in a rooming house run by a Mrs. McKenzie for \$5 a week.

Wiley immediately got busy. He closed the deal on an already-contracted-for Boulder property at 1145 Grandview Ave. in Boulder’s residential University Hill neighborhood a few blocks south of downtown. Wiley wrote Annabel: “The house seems ideal to me for our purposes and I am more pleased than ever with it.” Wiley and

Annabel lived in the Grandview Avenue house for a little more than three years, until fall 1923. Five years after that in 1928, the property was bought by a University of Colorado professor named Katherine Tepley, a native of Russia who, after being exiled in 1905 because of her socialist and political activities, moved to Boulder, Anglicized her name, lived in the house for over 25 years, and became a Boulder institution. Amazingly, the Grandview Avenue house still exists in much the same condition it did when the Rutledges bought it 100 years ago. A plaque on the house’s exterior honors the Rutledge and Tepley years of residence.

Just after Labor Day, Wiley started teaching part time at a prestigious high school in Boulder named Colorado State Preparatory School but popularly known as Boulder Prep. The University of Colorado started the school in 1877 to prepare students before they enrolled in the university. In 1920, Boulder Prep was located downtown at 1720 Pearl St. During the 1920–21 school year, Wiley taught commercial arithmetic, commercial law, stenography, and bookkeeping in the school’s business department. This was Wiley’s sixth semester of teaching high school





Wiley and Annabel at their Boulder home at 1145 Grandview Ave., c. 1922.

business classes in his fourth high school in his third state in less than five years. Wiley also joined the First Baptist Church of Boulder, located at the corner of Spruce and 16th streets, where he received “a hearty welcome and the people seemed friendly.”

Wiley and Annabel exchanged many letters in September 1920 before Annabel arrived in Boulder. In one letter, Wiley wrote: “Can’t walk a block now without someone speaking to me . . . makes me feel like I’m in the South.”

Two Years as a Colorado Law Student

(September 1920 to June 1922)

Later, in September 1920, Wiley started law school. The law school was in the middle of campus in the Guggenheim Law Building and had about 90 students, five full-time professors, an academic quarter system, and a three-year curriculum. Based on his previous three terms in 1915 at Indiana Law School, Wiley was admitted as a second-year student and thus took only two years of law studies at Colorado. Tuition was about \$25 per quarter. During Wiley’s first quarter at the law school, he took only two classes, which started at 8 a.m. and then 9 a.m., to balance his job at Boulder Prep. Those classes were Code Pleading and Irrigation, a serious course on the law of Western water rights. Wiley’s professors soon recognized he was a serious and bright law student.

Wiley’s first law school quarter was very successful: He scored 97 in the Irrigation class and 90 in Code Pleading. In December 1920, Wiley bought a new suit and ties for \$14.50.

On Jan. 6, 1921, Wiley and Annabel splurged and spent \$1 on tickets to a University of Colorado basketball game.

Wiley soon took law classes in municipal corporations and criminal law taught by Professor Herbert S. Hadley. Hadley quickly became Wiley’s favorite teacher and a role model. A progressive Republican and former governor of Missouri, Hadley joined the University of Colorado Law School faculty in 1917 partly to recover from his own tuberculosis. Wiley later wrote of Hadley:

[I] owe more professionally to Governor Hadley than to any other person
[He] had the greatest influence upon my thinking, not only in law school, but throughout the period of my education
[He taught] law not merely as a science but also as an art in the process of living [and] an instrumentality for justice and social progress.

In the summer of 1921, Wiley did not teach at Boulder Prep. Instead, he took a full course load at the law school’s summer school consisting of Property II (grade 98); Constitutional Law (98); Wills (92); and Use of Law Books (1 credit, grade 95). On Aug. 31, Wiley acquired a Colorado fishing license, bought special fishing shoes, and withdrew \$10.25 from the bank to fund a fishing expedition in the Colorado mountains with law school classmates, likely including Clay R. Apple. This 1921 expedition was the first of Wiley’s many Colorado mountain fishing trips, which Wiley and his friends came to call “seminars.” As a resident of Boulder, Wiley soon discovered that it was “simply impossible to escape getting out into the hills now and then.”

Wiley started his second and last law school year at CU in September 1921. In the fall quarter, he took four courses and received the following grades: Property III (95); Appellate Practice (98); Private Corporations (with Professor Hadley, 94); and Conflict of Laws (98). It is unlikely Wiley continued to teach at Boulder Prep during the 1921–22 school year. If he did not, Wiley’s high school teaching career came to an end in June



1921. Boulder Prep closed in 1937, and the old school building was soon demolished.

On Feb. 4, 1922, Wiley joined the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. Also in February, Annabel became pregnant. During Wiley's last law school quarter in the spring of 1922, Professor Hadley was unable to teach his class in criminal law. Wiley, as a third-year student, taught Hadley's class to the first-year students.

In the summer of 1922, Wiley graduated from the law school along with 26 other students. His law school record included grades of 90 or above in at least 16 classes and 98 in four classes. Wiley and Annabel thought about their future and decided to stay and live in Colorado. In June 1922, Wiley took the Colorado bar exam in Denver along with 50 other people. Wiley wrote that he did not expect "high marks" because of the exam's "tricky questions," but he did pass.

Wiley then started his Colorado job search in earnest. This search took him to many giants in Colorado law, including James H. Pershing in Denver, William Kelley in Greeley, and Fred Sabin in La Junta. Wiley wrote that the country around Greeley was the "finest in the West. Looks like a chunk out of the heart of Indiana or Illinois flat belt transplanted. See mountains in distance." Wiley also showed interest in teaching at Westminster Law School in Denver, which merged into the University of Denver College of Law 35 years later.

Two Years as a Colorado Lawyer

(September 1922 to September 1924)

In the fall of 1922, Wiley accepted a job offer with the Boulder law firm of Goss, Kimbrough, and Hutchinson (GKH). He was 28. Founded in 1891, GKH was the best law firm in town. The firm's third named partner, **Dudley Hutchinson** (a 1915 graduate of Colorado Law), was just a few years older than Wiley and soon became Wiley's lifelong friend. In 1922, the law office occupied Suite 4 of the Willard Building at the corner of Broadway and Spruce Street. This building still exists.

Joining GKH and staying in Boulder—a town the Rutledges had come to know and like—was the most practical decision Wiley and Annabel could have made in the fall of 1922, especially as Annabel was seven months pregnant. Of the four lawyers at GKH, Wiley was the least senior and only associate. Like many new lawyers in small firms, Wiley was pressed into duty in many unfamiliar legal circumstances.

In late October 1922, Annabel's mother came to Boulder to help with the late stage of Annabel's pregnancy. On Nov. 5 in a Boulder hospital, Annabel delivered the Rutledges' first child—a girl named Mary Lou in honor of Wiley's deceased mother, Mary Lou Wigginton Rutledge.

During his first year of practice in Boulder and as a new lawyer, Wiley engaged in civic activities. In December 1922, he gave a speech to the Boulder Lions Club about the law of industrial relations. In 1923, he became involved in local politics; by mid-May, he was president of the Democratic League of Boulder. In July 1923, he organized a league dinner in Boulder featuring Josephus Daniels, a North Carolina newspaperman and nationally prominent Democrat, as guest speaker. He also arranged for Colorado U.S. Sen. Alva B. Adams to speak to the league in September. However, Wiley did not enjoy his personal involvement in organized party politics as much as his public speaking. Wiley later wrote that he was not "active politically" after 1926 when he left Colorado. Nevertheless, Wiley was always avidly interested in legal and political issues, and his reluctance about organized party politics never affected his involvement in such things as child labor law reform and FDR's "court-packing" plan. Wiley also taught a "brotherhood" class at his Baptist church.

On March 13, 1924, Wiley and Annabel bought a property with a brand-new house at 968 8th St. at the southwest edge of Boulder's University Hill neighborhood near their previous home. The Rutledges were the first occupants of the house, which was built in a classic bungalow style popular in Boulder at the time.

Wiley had very few, if any, criminal cases during his two years at GKH. However, he did handle two interesting criminal extradition proceedings, whose outcomes he later characterized as "the guilty man went free and the innocent one was sent back for trial." One of these cases involved extradition of a Tennessee minister and schoolteacher who was attending summer school in Boulder and featured, Wiley later recalled, "one of my earliest mistakes in the practice of law." Although the extradition papers were in proper order, Wiley discovered conclusive proof his client was not guilty of the charged Tennessee crime. He decided to put the extradition matter to the Colorado governor on the basis of actual innocence. However, the governor himself was temporarily absent from the state and Wiley agreed to let the Colorado attorney general hear the matter in the governor's stead. At the hearing, the attorney general also concluded Wiley's client was not guilty but saw the extradition papers were formally in order, and therefore ruled the Tennessee man could be extradited. Wiley wrote

that his agreement was “foolish . . . [but] I was caught. I had agreed [the attorney general] should act and I did not feel that I could back out of the agreement. I have always regretted [making the agreement], for I am quite sure that if the governor had [ruled] he would not have taken the technical lawyer’s view.”

In the spring of 1924, a Colorado law school professor resigned from the faculty effective that September. The law school offered the position to Wiley, who accepted and returned to his favorite profession—teaching—but at the law school level instead of the high school level. GKH still exists as a thriving law firm in Boulder under the name Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC, is the oldest continuously operating law firm in Colorado, and has offices at 921 Walnut St. Wiley’s friend and 1922–24 colleague Dudley Hutchinson worked at the firm for 50 years until his death in 1967.

Almost 20 years later, Wiley summed up his two-year experience at GKH as follows:



I then considered and still regard the firm as the leading one in the community, and one of the outstanding ones of northern Colorado. The practice was largely civil, consisting principally of a general practice with emphasis upon estate work, taxation, title work, and considerable actual litigation. The firm represented 2 of the local banks and other important business interests as well as many individuals. The period was one of intense business activity in that region and we were literally flooded with business during the whole time. Consequently, I was given a volume and variety of experience which many young men don’t get in 5 or 10 years. On becoming a member of the faculty at the university in the fall of 1924, I continued to give a considerable amount of time to the firm so far as was consistent with my obligations to the university, chiefly in winding up matters upon which I had started before deciding to go into teaching. Some of these required attention during the entire period of my connection with the law school. There were a few clients who insisted upon bringing their business to me after I went to the university. These relations were so personal in character that I could not refuse to serve.

Two Years as a University of Colorado Law School Professor

(September 1924 to September 1926)

In the fall of 1924, Wiley started his new job as associate professor of law at the University of Colorado. Wiley left his office at GKH on a Saturday and began teaching the following Monday. He was 30 years old and returning to the university after a two-year absence, this time as a professor, not a student. Not counting the dean, there were five professors on the law school faculty; Wiley was the least senior and the only associate professor. During the 1924–25 school year, Wiley taught many subjects, including torts, criminal law, bills and notes, damages, conflict of laws, and partnership. Later, Wiley wrote that he “taught around the curriculum” during his first year on the law school faculty.

In October 1924, Annabel became pregnant again. That fall, Wiley attended a speech given by William Jennings Bryan in a Boulder theater in support of the national Democratic ticket. In the summers of 1925 and 1926, Wiley taught both summer sessions of law school. On June 28, 1925, Annabel had her second child in Boulder, another girl, named Jean Ann (my mother). In 1925, Wiley prepared legal documents for the First Baptist Church of Boulder as it was building a large new church building at 1237 Pine St., which still exists today.

During the 1925–26 school year, Wiley continued to teach at the law school. His annual salary was \$3,600. Wiley’s teaching was well received by both his faculty colleagues and students, and he began to build a good reputation. During this second year, Wiley also taught courses in public corporations and agency. Business administration, public and private corporations, and corporate governance became Wiley’s area of expertise during his law school teaching career. The Rutledge family also acquired a fox terrier named Bow-wow. In December 1925, Wiley was a member of the local Boulder committee of the Woodrow Wilson Commemoration, a national project of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. On Dec. 28, 1925, this committee held a commemorative luncheon at the Hotel Boulderado.

In April 1926, toward the end of his second year on the Colorado Law faculty, Wiley and Annabel’s lives changed forever. Herbert Hadley, Wiley’s old law school professor and then chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, reached out with a job offer. Hadley wrote Wiley that he had

heard of the “very considerable success” Wiley had had as a law school teacher and suggested “if at any time you should decide that you would like to make a change, you let me know.” In August 1926, Hadley offered Wiley a job on the Washington University Law School faculty to start in September at a salary of \$4,250 annually. Wiley got the Colorado law school dean’s blessing to leave on good terms, accepted Hadley’s offer, and resigned from the University of Colorado effective September 1926. On Aug. 27, Wiley gave his last University of Colorado law school exam as a full-time faculty member.



Wiley Rutledge, center, with colleagues, c. 1940.

In late August 1926, the Rutledges quickly packed up their 8th Street house, put their possessions in storage for later transport to St. Louis, and prepared to leave Boulder. Much later, the 8th Street house was replaced with a handsome new house on the old Rutledge property.

On about Sept. 8, 1926, the entire Rutledge family of five—Wiley, Annabel, 2-year-old Mary Lou, 1-year-old Jean Ann, and Bow-wow the dog—boarded a train in Boulder and left Colorado heading east. This departure was almost nine years to the day after Wiley’s lonely and virtually penniless September 1917 arrival in Albuquerque and six years to the day after Wiley’s September 1920 arrival in Boulder. Early in the morning of Sept. 10, 1926, Wiley arrived at the St. Louis train station to start his new job at Washington University and begin a new life outside the Rocky Mountain region.

After Wiley and Annabel left Boulder in September 1926, they never again returned to live permanently in any part of the Rocky Mountain region. Although they visited Albuquerque once or twice after 1926 and remembered friendships made there, they returned to Boulder for lengthy temporary stays again and again. Indeed, the Rutledges loved Boulder. They spent many summers at the Boulder Chautauqua in the 1930s and 1940s; Wiley taught many summer school quarters at the University of Colorado Law School between 1927 and 1942; and everyone in the family loved to fish in the Colorado mountains. Wiley once wrote about Boulder:

There is something about living in an environment which is small enough to become acquainted with which makes one feel at home, and therefore comfortable and relaxed. And I know too from Colorado days that the daily vision of the skyline and the reach of space brings one into closer kinship with the entire physical universe. . . . I doubt whether anything will ever quite take the place of the skyline running north along the Continental Divide from Boulder toward Laramie.

Wiley’s ties to Boulder were so close he once represented 12-year-old Boulder native and future prominent Boulder County attorney **Neil King** (’56) in Neil’s father’s (former Colorado Law Dean **Edward C. King**) absence when Boulder police temporarily detained Neil in 1945 for allegedly throwing green apples at a city bus. Wiley’s 1945 defense of the leader of the “green apple gang” was later praised by the Boulder County Bar Association as follows: “We know of no other case where a sitting Supreme Court Justice acted so directly to protect the civil liberties of an errant juvenile.”

When FDR appointed Wiley to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943, he quipped that one of Wiley’s prime qualifications was “geography.” However, the nine years Wiley and Annabel spent in the Rocky Mountain states from 1917 to 1926 did more than add to Wiley’s geography; they shaped Wiley’s legal career.

Wiley and Annabel are buried in Boulder’s Green Mountain Cemetery.

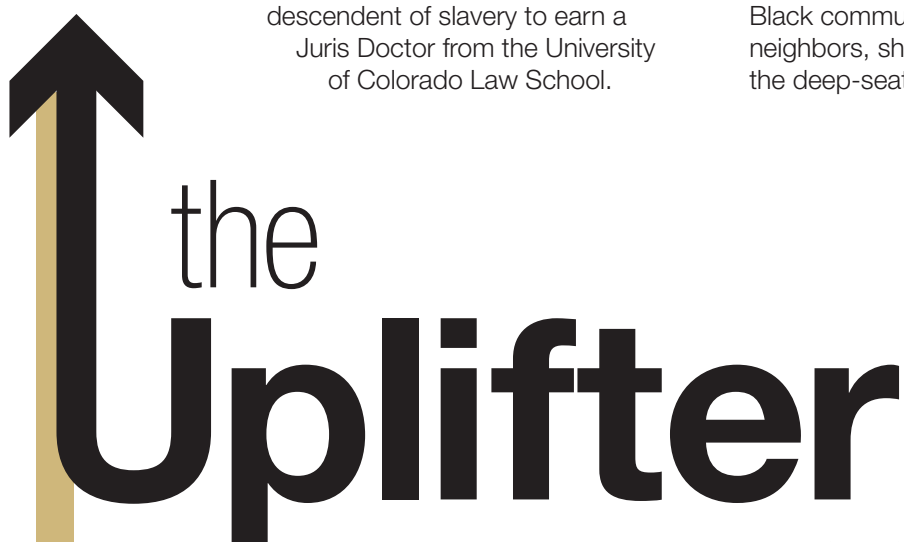
For further reading: Salt of the Earth, Conscience of the Court: The Story of Justice Wiley Rutledge by John M. Ferren



Velveta Golightly-Howell ('81) has achieved many firsts throughout her life. She was among the first group of Black students to integrate the Alabama public school system at age 12, and then among the first Black students admitted to the University of Alabama undergraduate and law schools. She went on to become the first in her family to attend law school and was the eighth female American descendent of slavery to earn a Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado Law School.

Trailblazer Award. Most recently, she became the first Colorado Law alumna to be inducted to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, recognizing a lifetime of service, mentorship, and professional success.

Growing up in Alabama in the 1960s, Golightly-Howell experienced the perverse effects of racial discrimination. While she felt supported and loved in her all-Black community of church, family, and neighbors, she was also acutely aware of the deep-seated racism throughout the



the Uplifter

By Julia Roth

Golightly-Howell continued to break barriers throughout her career. After being appointed by Denver District Attorney Dale Tooley, she became Colorado's first Black female prosecutor. She was the third Black attorney employed at the Denver City Attorney's Office and the first attorney of color hired at an international labor organization, where she practiced labor and employment law.

At the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the General Counsel for the Rocky Mountain Region, where she was selected as the first Black female lawyer and only the second African American, she became the first attorney of color to receive the office's highest recognition for exceptional performance.

In 2020, Golightly-Howell became the second Black recipient of the Colorado Women's Bar Association's Mary Lathrop

U.S. Heeding her wise parents' advice—"Where opportunity does not exist, create it"—she sought to open doors for herself and others.

Inspired by her own mentor and lifelong friend, legendary attorney **Brooke Wunnicke** ('45), Golightly-Howell has mentored hundreds of law students, young attorneys, and other young professionals. She first experienced the power of mentorship during the second semester of her 2L year, when she accepted a one-year, paid internship with the Denver District Attorney's Office. She and three white male Colorado Law classmates worked under the tutelage of Wunnicke, Colorado's first female appellate chief deputy and barrier breaker herself.

"Brooke role-modeled how you treat people and how you carry yourself. She



modeled for us how to be a reputable lawyer—one whom judges respect and colleagues trust,” Golightly-Howell said.

Many others have encouraged and made space for Golightly-Howell along the way, including law school classmates Hon.

Claudia Jordan ('80), who encouraged her to apply for the internship with the Denver DA, and Hon. **Bill Ritter** ('81), who served as an intern alongside her and with whom she remains friends.

Golightly-Howell has found particular joy in helping students and attorneys of color navigate the ins and outs of law school, the legal profession, and life. She's sought to create the community that she wished she'd had in law school as a first-generation law student and newcomer to Colorado.

“For me, my path and purpose were revealed when I was 6 years old,” she said. “My purpose is to open the door for others to come through.”

Whether they are formally matched with Golightly-Howell through Colorado Law's mentorship program or meet more informally, students know they can turn to her for guidance on professional and personal matters.

“I met Ms. Velveta at a mixer with alumni and incoming 1Ls. She walked right up to me and gave me her business card and started talking to me,” said **Rosaline Martinez** ('22).



“I had only been in Colorado for a week at the time and was feeling really vulnerable. It was nice to be approached by someone who took an active interest in me and was really kind.”

As they started talking, they realized they had a lot in common. They were both born in Alabama, had similar backgrounds, and came to Colorado Law as first-generation law students. Within a few weeks, Martinez and her roommate attended dinner at Golightly-Howell's home with her family.

“We were both strangers in a strange land—she knew exactly how I felt,” Martinez said. “I did not know many lawyers before law school. Having someone like her welcome me with open arms into her family was very helpful. It was really nice to feel cared about.”

José García-Madrid ('22) recalls meeting Golightly-Howell at a 1L orientation event. “Velveta was one of the few nonstudent, nonfaculty members,” he said. “Because she is a woman of color, I wanted to talk to

“My purpose is to open the door for others to come through.”

—Velveta Golightly-Howell

her. In the first 5 minutes she told me she had a get-together at her house planned for students and invited me.”

Naomi King ('21) was matched with Golightly-Howell through the mentorship program as a 2L. Even after the official 12-month commitment, they kept in touch and talk regularly.

“When we first met, she was very forthright. She said, ‘I’m here to really see you grow. Let’s get to know each other for real.’ That is what I signed up for: a real, authentic connection—someone I could be candid with,” King said.

Golightly-Howell's counsel to students runs the gamut from how to stand out as a summer associate, navigating different legal careers, advocating for oneself, and balancing parenthood with a successful

legal career. She also introduces students to her vast network of attorneys throughout the state.

“Vel is so generous with her space and resources. The last time I was at her house, she invited another attorney and his wife to have brunch with us. She wanted to make sure we connected with him,” García-Madrid said. “She really understands community. It’s especially critical to build community among lawyers of color.”

Golightly-Howell is also an important part of the system of support for students of color, García-Madrid said. Last summer, students turned to her for support and conversations around systemic racism in the U.S. She served as a sounding board for the student-led Council for Racial Justice and Equity, created by student leaders to supplement Dean Anaya's Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative.

“It was so valuable talking with her about this festering wound in our country, and hearing about her lived experience of fighting racism her whole life,” King said. “I appreciated having those conversations with her about the decades of work it took to get to this point and how it can be reversed so easily. Velveta inspires me to speak up and take action.”

Student leaders have learned from Golightly-Howell's example of uplifting others and sharing the spotlight.



“Learning from Vel about community and how to support each other has really helped us in our work on the Council for Racial Justice and Equity,” García-Madrid said.



Velveta Golightly-Howell ('81), Brooke Wunnicke ('45), and John Howell, Golightly-Howell's partner for more than 40 years.

Equally important, he added, is pointing out other students doing the work who may not be as vocal about it.

"Velveta's example has encouraged us to share the spotlight and help others build up their leadership," he said. "We feel it's a duty we owe to people like Velveta."

Making space for others

Golightly-Howell is passionate about increasing access for people from marginalized groups in government work, particularly where they have a seat at the table for important decisions that affect national and international policies and legal processes. At the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights, she worked to recruit a diverse staff that represented many racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and religious groups.

"I felt that when you had a multiplicity of different minds, lived and professional experiences, and aptitudes that are committed to working towards a mission and purpose, you're going to come up with much better decisions and much

broader impact at the organization," she said.

She's also worked to increase access for law students in government work. While serving as the director at the Office of Civil Rights for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., Golightly-Howell contacted **Alexia McCaskill**, senior director for professional development, to partner on an internship program for Colorado Law students.

"That was Vel's way of opening up access to students within that office. She is always thinking about ways that she can support Colorado Law students, and particularly students who have identities that are underrepresented in the profession," McCaskill said.

Even with increased efforts by law schools and firms to increase diversity, many Black attorneys don't feel good about their experiences, Golightly-Howell said. Through her mentorship, advocacy, and engagement, she aims to instill the same sense of confidence and belief in oneself

that her family, teachers, and community instilled in her.

"I remind them, 'You can do whatever you want to do as long as you work hard for it,'" she said. "I remind them to keep their faith."

"As a Black woman, she knows the importance of having people that make way and make space for you in a profession that doesn't sometimes or oftentimes reflect you," said McCaskill, who oversees the mentorship program. "She has a very keen understanding of the importance of students, regardless of their identities and backgrounds, having someone they can go to to ask questions of and feel supported by, and who can create for them a sense of belonging. She's always thinking of how she can help people belong and be that resource."

In between mentoring students, Golightly-Howell serves on the Law Alumni Board, where she is involved in efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion at Colorado Law and recruit students from marginalized backgrounds. This January, she launched Sister-to-Sister: International Network of Professional African American Women Inc., a nonprofit that serves as a network for professional Black women and provides communal spaces, education, training, mentoring, and other offerings. The nonprofit builds on the Colorado Sister-to-Sister group Golightly-Howell founded nearly three decades ago, which has connected hundreds of women in and outside the U.S.

It all goes back to Golightly-Howell's lifelong commitment to bringing people together, building up their confidence and self-esteem, and nurturing relationships with others.

"I jokingly say that even though Velveta is a mentor in a program I run, she finds these ways to mentor and support me," McCaskill said. "It's who she is. It's intentional the way she supports and engages, but not forced or studied. It's what comes to her naturally. It always seems to arrive at just the right time."

If you are interested in mentoring a Colorado Law student, please contact Alexia McCaskill at alexia.mccaskill@colorado.edu.

40th Annual | Colorado Law **Alumni Awards**

Virtual Celebration on June 17, 2021

The University of Colorado Law School will celebrate eight alumni and friends at its 40th annual awards celebration on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The ceremony will be held virtually.

Register at **colorado.edu/law/awards**.

The Colorado Law Alumni Awards recognize distinguished alumni and friends for their contributions to the legal profession, service to their communities, and dedication to the law school. Proceeds from this year's event benefit the Dean's Fund for Excellence, which supports Colorado Law's areas of strategic importance, including the Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative, and the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund, which supports scholarships awarded annually to students who have demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, and service to the law school community.

Nominate a colleague for next year's awards at **colorado.edu/law/nominate**.

Congratulations to this year's honorees.



John Echohawk
Dean's Choice: Richard Schaden
Adopted Alumnus Award



Hon. Gary Jackson ('70)
Dean's Choice:
Sonny Flowers Award

This is a new award that recognizes alumni who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion among the law school and legal profession, specifically including the advancement of people from underrepresented groups.



Jacki Cooper Melmed ('03)
Distinguished Achievement—
Public Sector



Whiting Dimock ('96)
Distinguished Achievement—
Education



Carolyn Fairless ('98)
Distinguished Achievement—
Private Practice



Tyrone Glover ('09)
Distinguished Achievement—
Small/Solo Practitioner



Ryan Haygood ('01)
Distinguished Achievement—
Special Recognition for
Outstanding Leadership in
Civil Rights



Daniel Vigil ('82)
William Lee Knous Award



Letter from the Law Alumni Board Chair **Hiwot Covell ('09)**

Dear Colorado Law Alumni—

Oh, what a year it has been! Many of us have now been working from home offices, kitchen tables, couches, and other creative workspaces for what seems like an eternity. What felt novel a year ago has become more taxing as the days, weeks, and months drag on. We've found new ways of connecting—I've lost track of the number of meetings, depositions, happy hours, birthdays, and banquets my computer has hosted—and I commend each of you for making it work. I've seen countless times how our community has made the most of this situation by being adaptable and resilient.

Our Law Alumni Board, which includes 27 of my fellow alumni, has worked to make the most of our situation, too. The members of this board commit their time to advising the dean, promoting and supporting the best interests of Colorado Law, and assisting different stakeholders of the law school. I appreciate their work and am grateful to know this spectacular group of people.

Since we knew this year would be unlike any other in our history, we invested in the board, putting together standards and protocols to help Law Alumni Boards of the future. We also set new goals for the board. We committed this year to learning more about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging at the law school so we can find ways to contribute to the school and our alumni. I am proud of the work we have done and look forward to what we will accomplish next. We are assisted in our work by a devoted group of professionals from the law school, including **Georgette Vigil, Jill White, Peter Sanders, Jennifer Sullivan, Lisa Parks, Julia Roth, Yesenia Delgado, and Jon Sibray**. I thank them for their service.

While we remain virtual for the foreseeable future, I want to remind you that there are so many ways to stay connected to the law school. Consider planning your reunion (virtual or in person if it's far enough out), mentoring a student, speaking on a panel, nominating your fellow alumni for a Law Alumni Award (nominations accepted online at colorado.edu/law/nominate), or nominating yourself or fellow alumni for the Law Alumni Board (email lawalumni@colorado.edu).

The Race and the Law lecture series concludes in May, but recordings of the sessions are available at colorado.edu/law/race-and-law-series. While the lecture series is coming to an end, we hope the lectures have inspired critical thinking on these topics.

Finally, I have one ask for each of you. Connect with someone today—set up a virtual coffee, watch a show together, or have a phone call with an old friend. Connections are powerful and they just may be the highlight the day for both of you.

Law Alumni Board

The members of the Law Alumni Board act as representatives of Colorado Law alumni and promote the best interests of the law school by stimulating interest in, building loyalty for, and increasing support for the law school in the community and among its alumni and students. The 2020-21 board chair is Hiwot Covell and the chair-elect is David Stark.

Desta Asfaw ('11), Holland & Hart LLP

The Hon. **Nikea T. Bland** ('05), 2nd Judicial District

William "Bill" R. Buck ('83), retired

Michael Carrigan ('94), Holland & Hart LLP

Amber Cordova ('02), T-Mobile

Hiwot M. Covell (Chair) ('09), Sheridan Ross P.C.

Darla L. Daniel ('01), Alpine Bank

Mark Fogg ('79), Childs McCune

The Hon. **Thomas R. French** ('77), retired

Tim Galluzzi ('14), Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC

Stanley Garnett ('82) Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Velveta Golightly-Howell ('81) Golightly, Howell & Associates

D. Jeffery Grimes ('89), Astex Pharmaceuticals

Greg Hearing ('12), Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

John V. Howard ('87), Bounds Green Mediation

Marisa Hudson-Arney ('01), Condit Csajaghy LLC

Aditi Kulkarni-Knight ('15), Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Caitlin McHugh ('12), Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Kristin Moseley ('97), Porzak Browning & Bushong LLP

Richard Murray (Immediate Past Chair) ('07), Polsinelli

Lisa Neal-Graves ('06), retired

Gregory J. Ramos ('92), Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Siddhartha Rathod ('07), Rathod I Mohamedbhai LLC

David W. Stark (Chair-Elect) ('73), Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Beale Tejada ('12), Crane & Tejada, P.C.

Keith Tooley ('86), Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C.

Sarah Wallace ('99), Ballard Spahr LLP

Andrea Wang ('01), U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado

CLASS ACTIONS

1948

The Netflix miniseries *The Liberator* tells the story of General **Felix L. Sparks** ('48), who lived through World War II to lead the U.S. Army brigade that liberated the Dachau concentration camp. After the war, Sparks attended law school and settled in Delta, Colorado, where he transitioned from his own law practice to serve as district attorney. After a stint on the Colorado Supreme Court, he returned to Delta while serving as a member and, later, commander of the Colorado Army National Guard. Sparks died in 2007 at age 90.

1968

The city of Boulder announced it will rename its municipal center for **Penfield Tate II** ('68), the city's only Black mayor. Tate, who died in 1993, was a humanitarian who advocated for equality for all. His stance on protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation cost him his political career. The artist Thomas "Detour" Evans recently painted a mural of Tate (pictured) on the Boulder Public Library.

1970

The American Board of Trial Advocates' Colorado chapter awarded the Hon. **Gary Jackson** ('70) its 2020 Judicial Excellence Award. Jackson also received the 2020 Greco Award by the County Court Judge Association. Named after the late Judge Anthony Greco, the award recognizes county judges who exemplify the traits to which all judges should aspire. Jackson, who retired in December 2020, has been a leader in the profession and a strong proponent of diversity in the legal profession and on the bench throughout his 50-year career. He has been recognized with several awards, including the Colorado Bar Association Award of Merit, which is the highest recognition for a lawyer in the state.

1971

Betty Nordwind ('71), executive director of the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, received the prestigious Spencer Brandeis Award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association Family Law Section. Nordwind, who has contributed 37 years of work and leadership to the Harriett Buhai Center, is the 27th honoree of the Spencer Brandeis Award and the first lawyer from a nonprofit organization to be chosen.

1973

The Klamath Tribal Council honored **Donald Wharton** ('73) at its regular tribal council meeting in Chiloquin, Oregon. Wharton, an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the Klamath Tribes. His work over the years has been instrumental in helping secure Klamath tribal treaty rights.

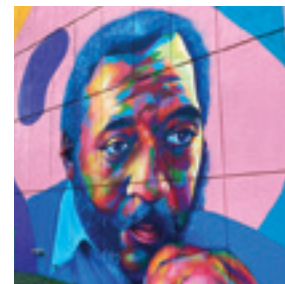
1975

Betty Arkell ('75) joined Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C. as equity shareholder. She brings extensive corporate finance and M&A transactional experience to guide startups and established companies through the entire corporate lifecycle in corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.

1981

Missouri Lawyers Media selected **Jamie Zveitel Kwiatak** ('81) as a recipient of its 2020 Corporate Award, which recognizes women who serve as general or in-house counsel and advise businesses on complex legal matters. A shareholder at Polsinelli PC, Kwiatak is known nationally as an expert on laws and regulations governing employee benefit plans and programs; executive compensation arrangements; employee stock ownership plans; and as a mentor to other women attorneys.

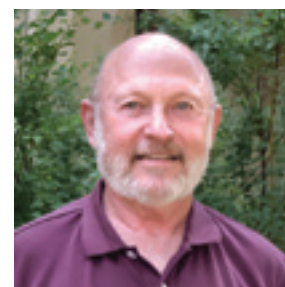
Velveta Golightly-Howell ('81) received the Colorado Women's Bar Association's Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award, given to an outstanding female attorney who has enriched the community through her legal and civic activities. Golightly-Howell, a true trailblazer who exemplifies the fire and passion to persevere, achieve her goals, and mentor the



Mural of Tate ('68)



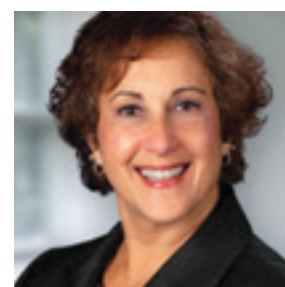
Nordwind ('71)



Wharton ('73)



Arkell ('75)



Kwiatak ('81)



Submit a Class Action

lawalumni@colorado.edu

Please send your submissions by **June 30** for inclusion in the next issue. If your contact information or communication preferences have changed, update them at

colorado.edu/law/reconnect.



Yoo ('98)

younger generation, has spent her life enriching the community around her, legal or otherwise. A testament to her impact, she became the first Colorado Law alumna inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in March 2020.

1985

Sonny Cave ('85) was recognized as one of Arizona State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences College Leaders, a distinguished group of alumni who have achieved successes in business, research, and community service. Cave is executive vice president, chief compliance officer, chief risk officer, and board secretary for ON Semiconductor. He manages worldwide legal affairs, corporate compliance and ethics, enterprise risk management, securities and insider trading, and intellectual property, as well as governmental and external affairs.



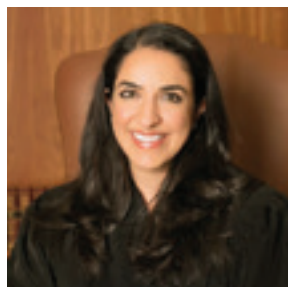
Ross-Amato ('00)

1986

The Hon. **Donald Quick** ('86) was appointed to serve as chief judge of the 17th Judicial District (Adams and Broomfield counties), effective Jan. 23, 2021, upon the retirement of Chief Judge Emily Anderson.

1997

Gillian Dale ('97) started a new job as associate general counsel with United Launch Alliance, an aerospace company in Centennial, Colorado.



Blanco ('03)

1998

Julia Yoo ('98) became the president of the National Police Accountability Project (NPAP), the only national organization devoted to representing victims of law enforcement misconduct. A veteran civil rights litigator and advocate based in San Diego, California, Yoo has defended more than 100 victims of police and law enforcement misconduct among other civil violations. Yoo is the first woman and the first person of color to lead NPAP in its 21-year history.



Glover ('09)

2000

Jenifer Ross-Amato ('00) has joined the Alternative Delivery Advisory Services team at WSP, an engineering consulting firm. She will advise public entities in implementing major infrastructure projects. Ross-Amato was previously deputy general counsel at RTD, where she led the legal teams in overcoming legal and regulatory challenges to complete the Eagle P3 and N Line commuter rail projects. She served as interim general counsel for five months through the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tsuda ('09)

2001

ROI-NJ named **Ryan Haygood** ('01) as one of its 25 ROI Influencers: People of Color 2020. Haygood, a national voting rights and civil rights

attorney, serves as CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

2002

Stacey D. Mueller ('02) joined Fox Rothschild LLP as partner. Mueller defends employers against single-plaintiff, class, and collective actions, and provides strategic counsel on employment and human resources issues, including wage and hour compliance, personnel policies, employment agreements, and employee handbooks.

2003

The Hon. **Susan Blanco** ('03) was appointed to serve as chief judge of the 8th Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties), effective Jan. 12, 2021, upon the retirement of Chief Judge Stephen E. Howard. Before taking the bench in January 2017, Blanco served as a deputy district attorney in the 8th Judicial District and was in private practice from 2007 until 2017.

2004

Meshach Rhoades ('04), partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP, was named chief diversity officer of the firm. Rhoades will lead the execution of the firm's strategy on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as ongoing and new initiatives to build and sustain a culture of inclusion and belonging.

2005

Michelle Harden ('05) received the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association 2020 Professionalism Award. Harden is a partner at Messner Reeves LLP in Denver, where she is involved in several practice groups, including litigation, crisis management, employment law, and health law.

2008

Emily Wright ('08) was selected as the new magistrate judge for the 1st Judicial District in Juneau, Alaska. Wright will be responsible for serving Juneau, a capital city of 32,000 people, and the home and land of the Auk Kwaan and Taku Kwaan people.

2009

Jonathan Friesen ('09) became chief privacy officer at Geisinger Health System, where he will oversee patient and data privacy across the organization. Geisinger Health System is one of the nation's largest health service organizations, serving millions of residents throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Tyrone Glover ('09) joined the law firm of Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP, where he practices civil rights and criminal defense law.

Jessica D. Tsuda ('09) joined Fox Rothschild LLP as counsel. Tsuda advises on a broad range of employment and human resource issues.

2010

Scott Drusch ('10) became a senior associate at Brown Dunning Walker Fein PC. Drusch is a trial attorney with 10 years of experience representing clients in courtrooms and arbitrations throughout Colorado. He also serves as general counsel for business and real estate matters.

Benjamin Nolte ('10) joined the Amazon Web Services (AWS) finance team in September and is helping to build the AWS energy vertical. The methodologies and strategic insight he gained through experience in manufacturing, chemicals, and oil and gas will be used to help grow the AWS energy platform.

Veronique Van Gheem ('10) married Arash Jahanian on Aug. 8, 2020. The couple reside in Denver, where Van Gheem is senior assistant legal counsel for the Colorado Judicial Department.

2011

Lindsay Dunn ('11) joined Wells, Anderson & Race, LLC as an associate attorney. Dunn's practice focuses on civil litigation, extra-contractual insurance defense, insurance coverage opinions, and other civil matters.

Alan Huntington ('11) has joined the staff of Independent Living of the Genesee Region in New York as its program specialist. In this role, Huntington coordinates Continuum of Care for Western New York services in partnership with the Homeless Alliance of Western New York.

2012

After about six years in corporate law firms, **Missy Black** ('12) made the switch to in-house attorney at Axiom Legal, a leading provider of contract attorneys in the Bay Area. In this capacity, she takes on temporary assignments at companies throughout Silicon Valley. Black was first placed with Agilent Technologies Inc., a research, development, and manufacturing company in Santa Clara, California. Since February, Black has tackled a wide variety of employee and business issues, including being on the front lines of Agilent's proactive COVID-19 response.

David E. Cline ('12) was promoted to partner at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. A member of the Corporate Practice Group and Venture Best team, he focuses on counseling high-growth companies and investment entities in a variety of industries on mergers and acquisitions, raising or investing capital, structuring and restructuring, governance, and succession and intergenerational planning.

Tacy Hass ('12) was promoted to principal in the Seattle office of Foster Garvey PC, effective Jan. 1, 2021. A member of the firm's real estate, land use, and environmental practice, Hass advises a wide range of corporations, developers, institutional investors, and government entities on real estate transactions and litigation. Hass

also represents homeowners associations and developers of residential, commercial and mixed-use condominium projects.

Gordon McLaughlin ('12) was elected district attorney of Colorado's 8th Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties), becoming the first Democratic district attorney in at least 50 years. McLaughlin has served as a career prosecutor and deputy district attorney in Larimer County for seven years. He has tried more than 60 criminal jury cases, including cases of first-degree murder.

Jason Obold ('12) and **Caitlin Stafford** ('15) welcomed their son, Lincoln Edward Obold, on April 30, 2020. Big sister Eleanor is very happy to have a little brother. In addition, Stafford joined the Resource Conservation Unit of the Colorado Attorney General's Office earlier that month.

Justin Plaskov ('12) joined Jester Gibson & Moore, LLP as of counsel. His practice focuses on advising and representing people in employment-related matters, as well as individuals and families who need assistance with wills, trusts, and estates.

Joshua J. Pranckun ('12) was elected shareholder at Polsinelli PC. Pranckun is a member of the firm's Medical Devices/Mechanical Engineering Patent Prosecution Practice Group.

2013

Shira Cooks ('13) started a new position with Amazon at its Seattle headquarters as corporate counsel, providing product and commercial counseling for Amazon's new strategic enterprise offerings.

2014

David M. DiGiacomo ('14) was promoted to partner at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. DiGiacomo is a member of the Corporate Practice Group, co-leader of the firm's Cannabis Industry Team, and a member of the Venture Best team. He helps startup and early growth companies navigate entity formation, corporate finance, contract negotiations, compliance, investment and capital, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, and other transactional matters.

Leah Gould ('14) joined the University of Virginia School of Law as director of public service. Gould, a former U.S. Navy lieutenant, previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, prosecuting criminal cases such as firearms, Hobbs Act robberies, narcotics, trafficking, child exploitation, and white-collar crimes. She was recognized by the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation as a 2020 Prosecutor of the Year.

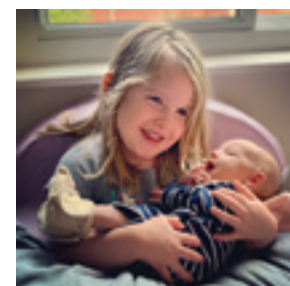
Jaclyn Hester ('14) was named partner of Foundry Group, a Boulder-based venture capital firm. Hester joined the firm in 2016 and works closely with early-stage venture capital fund managers and startup founders as they launch and scale their businesses.



Van Gheem ('10)



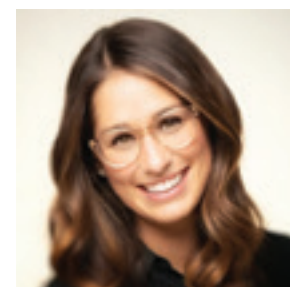
Hass ('12)



Children of Obold ('12) and Stafford ('15)



Plaskov ('12)



Hester ('14)



Adams ('15)

Brittany McNamara ('14) joined Allen & Curry, P.C. as an associate. She focuses her practice on civil defense litigation.

Elizabeth Neville ('14) joined Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of imperiled species and their habitats in North America, as its first senior Gulf Coast representative. Neville's work will focus on vital biodiversity and conservation issues affecting the Gulf Coast regions of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

2015

Cassady Adams ('15) joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Oregon (Portland) as an assistant U.S. attorney. Adams' role includes prosecuting violent crime and drug-trafficking offenses. She previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Montana.



Anderson ('16)

Adam Hepp ('15) received the Arapahoe County Bar Association's Tommy Drinkwine Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award in recognition of his commitment to the improvement of the community and enthusiastic service to clients, the public, and the bar association. Hepp is deputy district attorney in the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office.



Liu ('17)

Courtney McShane ('15) joined Moye White LLP as an associate in the firm's real estate section. McShane previously was an associate at an Am-Law 100 firm, where she focused her practice on commercial leasing, purchase and sale, and real estate finance.



Ong ('17)

2016

The Colorado Hispanic Bar Association named **Sonia Ramirez Anderson** ('16) as its Outstanding New Hispanic Lawyer for 2020. Anderson, an associate at Husch Blackwell LLP, was also named the Denver Bar Association's 2020 Pro Bono Star. Since 2016, she has donated hundreds of pro bono hours to the Denver community, representing local nonprofits and indigent clients.



Zehner ('17)

2017

Moqi Liu ('17) joined Donahue Fitzgerald LLP's Walnut Creek, California, office as an associate. A member of the firm's business and corporate practice, Liu focuses on incorporation and corporate governance, equity and debt financings, public and private securities issuances, and mergers and acquisitions.

David A. Ong ('17) joined Coombe Curry Rich & Jarvis as an associate attorney. Ong will focus his practice in civil litigation and construction defect.

Michael Zehner ('17) is proud to have joined Beltzer Bangert & Gunnell LLP, a boutique construction law firm, as an associate attorney. Zehner looks forward to further developing his construction practice from this expert and entrepreneurial platform

In Memoriam

Jack Kent Anderson ('54)

Howard D. Cline Jr. ('57)

Arthur Conrad Daily ('68)

Douglas Allen Donofrio ('86)

Kent Reed Douglass ('72)

Mary Yeager Duvall ('45)

John W. Easley Jr. ('70)

Bernard G. Fehringer ('69)

W. Harold "Sonny" Flowers ('71)

Jackson S. Francis ('68)

Alexander Brooks Gibson ('19)

James Mathews King ('76)

James Ian Keith Knapp ('67)

Walter Kowalchik ('67)

Thomas M. Ledingham ('59)

Carol Sue Matoush ('67)

Leonard H. McCain ('56)

Edward McCarthy Jr. ('56)

Harry Mendenhall ('71)

John C. Ohrenschall ('64)

Hon. Morris W. Sandstead Jr. ('67)

Thomas Davis Smart Jr. ('68)

John Clifton Todd ('49)

Karen Marie Wardzinski ('80)

Merritt C. Warren ('49)

Donald Carmichael, former faculty

Hon. Stephen Williams, former faculty

Deaths reported July 1–Dec. 31, 2020.

Breanna Boss ('21)

By Ileana Jiménez ('21)

Breanna Boss, a third-year student at Colorado Law, died Sept. 17 due to a medical condition.

Bre was my first law school friend. We met on a camping trip before our 1L year started and bonded over our shared bad—and rainy—experience there. As we drove back to Boulder, we talked about getting coffee each week to check in, and, for a while, we stuck to our plan. As happens with law school, though, we both got a bit busy in our respective lives, and our weekly coffee check-ins became monthly, then semesterly. I was lucky to connect again with Bre later in law school. But, from my first encounter with Bre, I knew we were going to be lifelong friends. I just didn't know that "lifelong" would be so much shorter than I anticipated.

Anyone who knew Bre came to know her fierce advocacy, brilliant wit, and beautiful smile. While I can't speak for others, I know that every time I saw Bre, she brightened my day. Despite the heaviness of law school, she was always so light and cheerful. It seemed that nothing was too heavy for her to carry, and she carried it all with such elegance. Those who truly got to know her, though, knew she struggled with self-esteem and feelings of imposter syndrome. It always struck me when Bre spoke about imposter syndrome because I looked up to her and often felt like it was I who was the imposter.

Even as she battled these feelings, Bre accomplished so much during her time at Colorado Law! To name a few, she was a teaching assistant for Professor Megan Hall's legal writing class—and a cherished mentor to the 1Ls she assisted; she was a volunteer for the Korey Wise Innocence Project; and she was an articles editor for the 92nd volume of the *University of Colorado*



Law Review—which is now dedicated to her memory. She was passionate about defending immigrants and the indigent. Anything Bre put her mind to, she accomplished. Her persistence and dedication to

contributing to and improving our legal community was apparent in everything she did. She wasn't afraid to participate in legal discourse, even if that meant trying to grapple with applying the law in front of a packed classroom (she even won an award as a 1L for her contributions to classroom discussion). She wasn't afraid to take on everything that stirred her passions, even if that meant getting only three hours of sleep. Bre was fearless in all her pursuits.



Bre left a huge mark on my life and the lives of everyone else in our law school community. But what I cherished the most about Bre was her ability to get along with anyone. She and I were polar opposites in so many respects, yet despite our differences, she accepted every part of me as I was. She didn't try to change me or guilt me for my choices. She took me as I was, and I grew because of her. Because that was exactly who Bre was: a fiercely loving, compassionate, and accepting person.

I had the privilege of being Bre's roommate for the couple of months leading up to her passing. When we moved into what she called "our vacation home," we wanted it to truly feel like home for us. She filled her room with plants. Like Bre, I am also obsessed with houseplants. I would come home weekly with a new plant, and she would help me figure out the optimal placement for each new baby. This may have been a simple gesture to Bre, but it always brought me such joy and made me feel like we were building this home together. Even now, I am surrounded by the plants she raised and the ones we carefully positioned together. The vacation home doesn't feel much like home without her, though. Every day I'm reminded that one of the most brilliant future lawyers will never get to accomplish her dream or change the lives of the clients she would have represented. I keep her in mind through all I do, trying my best to live up to her legacy. Bre is so deeply loved and missed. The Class of 2021 will never be the same without her.

Angela Boettcher ('21) contributed to this piece.

Hon. Stephen F. Williams

*The Hon. **Stephen F. Williams**, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit who served for nearly two decades on the University of Colorado Law School faculty (1969–86), died Aug. 7 due to complications from the coronavirus. He was 83. Here, his former colleagues at Colorado Law reflect on his life.*



I first met Steve in Bozeman, Montana, nearly 23 years ago at the then-annual seminar for federal judges and law professors hosted by the Foundation for Research into Economics and Environment. Steve was a speaker that year, and I was struck by the almost relentless rigor of his thoughtways on applying microeconomics to law. I was not aware at the time that Judge Williams was a Democratic environmentalist who voted for George S. McGovern for president in 1972, and had joined in a vigil against the Vietnam War, but who evolved later in the decade into a born-again

conservative. Two attributes struck me at that time. First, the enduring and endearing character of Steve's unfailing courtesy and geniality when entering into argument and discourse. Like good wine, his affability and convivial geniality improved with time. The second was his formidable intellect and the outstanding razor-sharp quality of his mind. Despite his towering intellectual superiority, he was a very modest man, bereft of haughtiness. There was nothing abrasive or caustic in how he



dealt with contrary opinion. Every summer Steve brought his court work, his wife, Faith, and their dogs to their house in Boulder and sought the company of a few of us. Our brown bag meetings with him were invigorating, challenging, and a high point of our daily round and common task.

—Lakshman Guruswamy

I first met Steve Williams when I joined the faculty at Colorado Law in 1975. Steve was a valued colleague who gave me insightful advice on the academic work I was just beginning. After he went to Washington as a judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals in 1986, we remained friends and met to attend theater or enjoy picnics during his summer visits. Like many others, I benefited enormously from corresponding and conversing with this truly extraordinary man.

I do not say “extraordinary” merely because Steve was brilliant. He certainly was an incisive analytic thinker, but he combined his capacity for abstraction with great attention to the concrete and the specific. This is evident in his judicial opinions, where Judge Williams worked skillfully with complex doctrines while paying close attention to the factual record. Especially in his work in administrative law, he insisted on the importance of honest attention to the specific costs of attempting to implement grand designs. Thus Steve’s respect for specifics allowed his high intelligence to be humane.

This humane intelligence is evident in two of the most admirable achievements of Steve’s remarkable career. While still on the bench but at an age when most are in retirement, Steve embarked on studies of the failed efforts in pre-revolutionary Russia to avert the coming tyranny through the institutions of liberal democracy. Steve somehow found the time to visit Russia and learn the language. One of the many lessons that emerges in the two resulting books is that ambitious reformers must take account of specific cultural traditions.

In his personal interactions, Steve was unfailingly polite and curious. He had the kind of self-confidence that allowed him to try to understand ideas even if he strongly disagreed with them. He was a model jurist and scholar.

—Robert F. Nagel

I first met Steve Williams in the mailroom when I arrived in Boulder in 1985. “A fellow traveler,” said a voice behind me that turned out to be Steve, and he added: “I see you subscribe to the *National Review*”—back then it was William Buckley’s biweekly commentary on politics—and he added, “You show courage in letting your colleagues know you read that publication.” I told him I hoped nobody would hold it too much against me.

Two years later Steve was put up for a judgeship on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. I had taught at Wyoming, and the state’s congressional delegation (Alan Simpson and Dick Cheney) phoned me about Steve. I told them that Steve—despite being a professor and Boulderite—was a conservative, a free marketer, and not a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Steve and Faith moved to D.C., but in a sense they never left Boulder. They kept their home on the Hill and returned every summer. And Steve took to D.C. his Boulder habits—bicycling to work carrying his vegetarian sack lunch. Their abode in D.C. was as basic as their Boulder home, bookshelves holding paperbacks dating back to college years. A succession of CU law deans made sure Steve had a workspace in the summertime, and I and others would lunch with him, sitting around the duck pond near the law school.

Two words best describe Steve, and I’m going to start with the one most people would put second: Steve embodied kindness. He became a vegetarian after learning what happens when animals are butchered; when my son experienced teenage difficulties, Steve would inquire, “And how is Master David doing?” conveying both fatherly understanding and regard for David.

What is the first word people use to describe Steve? Something like smart or thoughtful. He spoke in complete sentences; he wrote learned opinions citing relevant precedents; he made classical allusions (references to Homer and heroes like Ulysses, Penelope, Achilles, and Pericles), and he quoted Shakespeare. Steve was open minded, not because he lacked strong views but because he always considered many views. Judge David Tatel (a colleague on the bench) said Steve “defends his positions tenaciously and respectfully and gently, but always with an open mind to the views of others.” I speak for Steve’s colleagues at CU when I say amen to that.

—Christopher Mueller

Sonny Flowers ('71)

By Bob Grant ('76) former district attorney, 17th Judicial District

William Harold Flowers Jr. "Sonny." Sonny Flowers—his very name makes you smile. Made him smile, too. Wide and often, many times accompanied by his signature laugh. He would smile when he was praising; he would also smile when he was eviscerating your argument, followed generally by, "So what's your point?" When Sonny smiled, you smiled too, couldn't help it, even if he were tearing your position apart.

I met Sonny in the first week of January 1977. We were both part of the incoming class of deputy DAs of a new administration. From the first day, Sonny stood out, not only because he was 6-foot-4, Black, and had a full Afro, but because he was serene and confident while the rest of us were as nervous as cats in a dog park. We were both older than the rest of the newbies and bonded pretty much instantaneously. We dove into entry level trial work with little training. One learning experience of those days that stuck with Sonny throughout his career as a litigator occurred during a trial he had with another young lawyer. After losing, he stormed back to our trial office and threw his books and file across the room. He yelled, "That #\$%&* out-niced me! That will never happen again!" And it didn't. After a couple of years gaining trial experience, Sonny left and began his distinguished career as a litigator, mentor, and role model.

Early in his life, Sonny felt the sting of discrimination. Growing up in Boulder in the late '50s, he was the only Black student in his junior high school. Ostracized by upper-middle-class white students, he became depressed and bitter. He lived in a house built by his mother and grandmother on Goss Street. His mother, Ruth Cave Flowers, was a formidable woman. She completed her studies at Boulder High but couldn't get a diploma due to her race. Ruth went on to complete a degree at CU and would later earn a PhD and a law degree. She was a career educator and the first Black woman to teach at Fairview High. Seeing the anger and depression her son was experiencing, she took her child to Spain for his ninth grade year so he could experience a multiracial environment free of discrimination.

This immersion served to cement Sonny's resolve that something had to be done about America's rampant racism. In the mid-'60s he became what some described

as a "Black militant." He aligned himself with the Black Panther Party in New York City, was shot by the police there, went to New Mexico where he was bayoneted by a National Guardsman during a campus protest, and returned to Boulder to confront racism in his hometown. He partnered with Penn Tate ('68), then a student leader and later the first Black mayor of Boulder, and met with the university chancellor to demand money for diversity programs. Sonny, clothed in his Panther finest, sat down with a scowl on his face. Together they made their arguments, then Sonny took out his pistol and placed it on the table. Penn pointed to the door where a few dozen students stood awaiting the outcome. "After we leave here," he said, "those people are either going to follow me peacefully, or they are going to follow him." They got their money.

Sonny's militancy may have dimmed over the years, but his resolve never did. He used his law degree to help clients, mentor students, and foster diversity in his community throughout his life. Sonny Flowers, his name makes you smile—so does his legacy.





Laurence Gendelman ('15)

Hometown: Centennial, CO

Professional title: Partner, Gendelman Klimas, Ltd.

Lives in: Lakewood, Colorado

What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

In 2019, I represented four transgender Central American asylees who were detained at the Cibola County Correctional Facility in New Mexico, being held in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Two of the cases moved forward to a final hearing with me representing them in their removal proceedings. After grueling video hearings, my clients prevailed and were granted asylum. There are no words powerful enough to communicate the feeling of the moment that an immigration judge grants your client asylum.

My second proudest accomplishment would be serving as the president of the Colorado LGBT Bar Association during 2020, a year riddled with unexpected challenges as an organization. With the tremendous leadership of the board, the association continued to operate profitably throughout the year, hosting virtual programs, social events, CLEs, and even a virtual annual dinner. It was an honor to serve in this role for such an important organization with a mission so close to my heart.

What advice would you give to law students as they prepare to graduate and to recent graduates?

My advice: Decide what you want out of your career and get it—don't ask anyone for permission.

My legal career was not the result of success in formal application or interview processes. Rather, I decided what job I wanted, and I asked for it. At the first firm I worked at as an attorney, I applied to be a paralegal because I felt desperate for a job and was running out of time before graduation. I walked into the interview with the panache of a soon-to-be law



school graduate, interviewed for an attorney position (disregarding mention of the paralegal job I had applied for), and accepted an offer as an associate attorney upon passing the bar. When applying to my next position, I emailed the partner of a firm to inquire if I could work for them (though no job was posted), went to lunch with the partners, and accepted an offer within a week or so. When I decided to start my own firm, I was surprised by the number of friends and colleagues that doubted my abilities. Nonetheless, I took the plunge, and the firm grew from one employee (myself) to eight in under four years.

What do you know now that you wish you had known in law school?

You already have what it takes to be a lawyer. In law school, I dedicated an unreasonable amount of time to worrying about what other people were doing, how they were studying, what internships they were applying for, etc. When it came to finding a job after graduation, I

likewise spent too much time concerned with what everyone else was telling me about how to find the right postgraduation job. Listening to other people in law school, for me, created far more anxiety than it did benefits. Ultimately, I was too busy listening to everyone else's advice. In listening to others, I was silencing my own intuition and forgetting what I already knew. It was not until I became more intentional about how (and if) I would internalize other people's opinions, perceptions, and experiences that I could tune into my own intuition. In practice, this still holds true for me.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Other than law, my life passion is for reptiles, most specifically iguanas of all types. Yes, I am the weird lizard guy at the office. I have a 4-foot green iguana named Artemes that

loves to bask in the sun; with me while working from home; on occasion she will come to the office to hang out with the staff. I am in the process of finding a panther chameleon to adopt, as well.

For my 30th birthday, I flew to the Galapagos Islands to see the marine iguanas (think of the *Planet Earth* episode where the racer snakes are chasing the iguana up the rocks). To date, that remains my favorite experience. Once international travel becomes feasible again, I plan to go to Komodo island to spend some time with the Komodo dragons.

What would your autobiography be called?

My staff have a running joke that if I were to write a book, it would be called *What Your Wife Is Telling Her Gay Jewish Divorce Attorney But Not Telling You*.

Would you like to be featured as the Last Word? Email Julia Roth at julia.roth@colorado.edu.



Make a Difference as a Giving Society Member

Colorado Law Giving Societies honor and thank alumni and friends who advance the law school's mission through generous financial support to the Colorado Law Dean's Fund for Excellence during a fiscal year (July 1–June 30). Consider joining the Colorado Law Giving Societies with your gift of \$1,500 or more to the Dean's Fund for Excellence.

Dean Anaya will allocate all gifts to the Dean's Fund to the Anti-Racism and Representation Initiative through June 2021. These gifts will support scholarships, efforts to improve the recruitment of and climate for Black students and other students from marginalized groups, and a wide range of programs and actions to address racism and its ongoing effects.

Make your gift at giving.cu.edu/lawdean or with the envelope insert.

For more information, please contact

Peter Sanders

Assistant Dean for Advancement
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Calling all 2021 Reunion Classes to Celebrate

This year, we will celebrate 20 class reunion groups because last year's classes opted to delay celebrating due to COVID-19.

We are excited to have a new, digital tool for reunion classes. The Digital Reunion Memory Book allows you to connect with classmates and learn more about what they have been up to since graduation. You can search for hobbies and interests you share with other classmates, and view a map highlighting the cities where your fellow alumni live.

Learn more at colorado.edu/law/reunions.

Reunion Classes in 2021

5th	2015 and 2016
10th	2010 and 2011
15th	2005 and 2006
20th	2000 and 2001
25th	1995 and 1996
30th	1990 and 1991
35th	1985 and 1986
40th	1980 and 1981
45th	1975 and 1976
50th	1970 and 1971

We look forward to helping you and your classmates connect this fall!