

# AMICUS

University of Colorado Law School

Spring 2016

**Expanding  
Career Paths**



Dean Phil Weiser with the class of 1985 reunion attendees.

## COLORADO LAW 2015 REUNIONS

Ten classes—1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010—celebrated their reunions on October 16-17, 2015. Alumni traveled from places as far away as Arizona, New York, Texas, and Washington, D.C., as well as the Front Range and across the state, to join the festivities.

Colorado Law is deeply grateful to the class reunion committee volunteers (listed on page 21) who organized fantastic events and encouraged their classmates to give back to help future generations of Colorado Law students.

The 2015 reunions—the most successful to date—raised more than \$400,000.

**Congratulations to the class of 1985!**  
**They set the all-time record for a class gift with \$146,420 raised.**

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### CLASS GIFT PARTICIPATION

1st	1965	53%
2nd	1975	31%
3rd	1985	27%

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### CLASS FUNDRAISING RESULTS

1st	1985	\$146,420
2nd	1975	\$73,212
3rd	1980	\$65,557

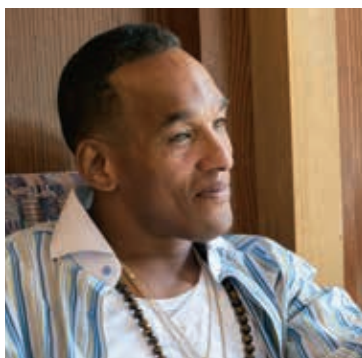
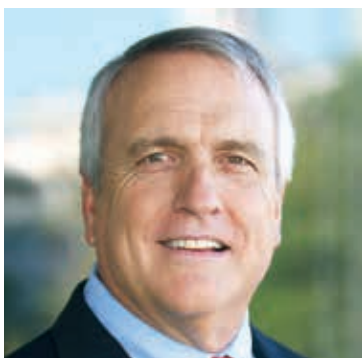




# AMICUS

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 1, SPRING 2016

EXPANDING CAREER PATHS



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**Electronic copies** available at [colorado.edu/law/alumni](http://colorado.edu/law/alumni).

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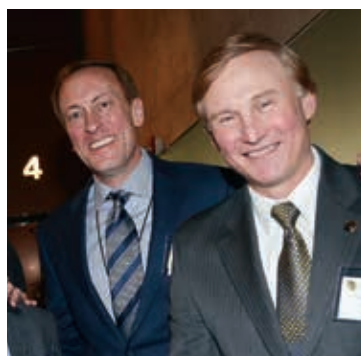
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# FORGING NEW DIRECTIONS

Dean Phil Weiser

This letter marks the last one I will write for *Amicus* as dean. For me, serving as dean will remain a highlight of my career. It offered me an opportunity to engage with our wonderful community and support our uniquely talented students. In recent years, the questions of how individual career paths have changed over time and how they are evolving more rapidly than ever are two of the most significant issues on which I have focused, making expanding career paths a fitting theme for my final Dean's Letter.

As recently as the early 1990s, when I was in law school, the "brass ring" was that entry-level lawyers would join a larger firm that would train them as professionals, provide them with institutional clients of the firm, and make them partner in a job that would last for life. Some of our graduating students continue to find opportunities with Colorado's large and dynamic firms, as well as law firms around the nation. By the Great Recession in 2008-09, however, the legal profession had reached a New Normal where that traditional vision was plainly unrealistic and not viable for the vast majority of students. In its place, we have the reality that career paths evolve, individuals in every type of practice need to continue to grow and adapt over the course of their careers, and legal education needs to meet the realities of a changing legal environment.

One of the greatest pleasures that I have enjoyed as dean, and which has significantly aided Colorado Law's charting of a new vision for today's law students, is getting to know our alumni and the ways in which their careers have changed over time. My visits across the United States—from Alaska to Florida—and my hosting of alumni here at the law school have made clear the interesting, inspiring, and entrepreneurial choices of our graduates. For a sampling of some of these discussions, see the list (page 9) of accomplished lawyers who have joined me for a Dean's Leadership Lunch over my five years as dean.

For today's students, we start from the premise that they need to "own their careers" and make purposeful choices about what paths they will take. To that end, I often quote the maxim attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." In that sense, our counsel to students has changed for the better in that we now tell students that they should imagine their professional journeys as starting and moving along any number of possible paths. To be sure, this is a scarier proposition than the old model, but it is also a more adventurous one, befitting of our spirit here in Colorado.

Today's expanding career paths offer a range of diverse lessons to be learned by law schools and legal employers. For starters, we all need to think harder and more broadly about which competencies, or learning outcomes, are critical for success. The traditional analytical rigor of "thinking like a lawyer" remains foundational, but success in today's world also calls for the development of a range of practical skills, specific domain knowledge in the areas where a lawyer works, and professional skills that include listening, empathy, and bringing a creative problem-solving attitude to bear.

Colorado Law is a national innovator in the changing model of legal education. We have a tremendous head start because we have long attracted and developed legal professionals who take a broader view on what it takes to succeed. As a result, our alumni have enjoyed fascinating career paths. In this issue, we spotlight a few of our alumni whose careers have evolved and expanded in interesting ways. In particular, we explain how we at Colorado Law are learning from their experiences to better serve today's students. If you have thoughts, suggestions, or reflections on this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me at [phil.weiser@colorado.edu](mailto:phil.weiser@colorado.edu).




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Colorado Law is a national innovator in the changing model of legal education. We have a tremendous head start because we have long attracted and developed legal professionals who take a broader view on what it takes to succeed.



# IN THE NUMBERS

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## Law School

0%

Percentage increase in Colorado Law's tuition in the past four years

101%

Percentage increase in scholarship funding to students in the past four years

#4

Colorado Law's national rank for financial aid (*Business Insider*)

#29

Colorado Law's national rank in law faculties' scholarly impact (*Brian Leiter's Law School Rankings*)

9.9:1

Student-to-faculty ratio

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## Employment

97%

Colorado Law students working in substantive summer legal jobs in 2015

#10

Colorado Law's national rank for helping law students network and find a job (*Business Insider*)

97%

Percentage of the class of 2015 graduates employed in all jobs\*

29%

Percentage positive change in full-time, long-term (year or more), JD-required or JD-advantage jobs between the class of 2011 (64.2%) and the class of 2015 (83.0%)\*

29%

Percentage positive change in full-time, long-term, JD-required jobs between the class of 2011 (56.0%) and the class of 2015 (72.3%)\*

\* as of March 11, 2016

# EXPANDING CAREER PATHS

By Sean Keefe ('17) and Julia Sevy, Program and Communications Manager, Colorado Law

**R**ainer Scarton ('16) sat in a black suit and tried to remain calm—it was on-campus interview season around the Wolf Law Building, and tensions were high. Scarton prepared his thoughts for his interview with DISH Network, an especially important interview because, unlike the rest of his interviews with Denver-based law firms, DISH Network was offering an opportunity to work in-house directly after graduation. “I always wanted to go in-house, but I never thought it would be possible right out of law school,” said Scarton. “Everyone said you need to get firm experience before you can make the move to in-house.”

When DISH Network’s Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary **R. Stanton Dodge** sat in a similar spot as Scarton two decades ago, the then-general counsel of DISH took a chance and hired the inexperienced Dodge to work at the young satellite TV provider. This August, Scarton will receive the same opportunity.

“I am fortunate that DISH has had a culture of taking chances on young individuals and letting them not only develop their legal skills, but also master each department of the business,” Scarton said.

Twenty years ago, it would have been much more difficult for Scarton or any recent law school graduate to find a job outside of a law firm. The traditional model for law school teaches students the “case method” approach, which emphasizes reasoning and critical-thinking skills. Traditionally, law schools did not seek to develop the professional skills recent graduates need to thrive in-house, relying instead on law firms to provide such training.

The old model dictated that associates worked under the tutelage of a partner at the firm, with the client picking up the tab for training younger lawyers (say, by charging for a young lawyer to watch a more experienced one in action). After five to 10 years, the most successful associates graduated into partner roles at the firm, and the cycle repeated. From the 1970s through the early 2000s, law firm jobs were viewed as the gold standard and were attractive to recent graduates.

When legal writing professor **Amy Bauer** graduated from law school in 2001, there seemed to be no other options or even conversations around anything except joining a law firm. “It was simple, like a logic game: law degree to law firm, it was like A to B,” she said.

Then, in 2008, the Great Recession hit. The economic downturn slowed the traditional law firm hiring wheel, cutting the rate of larger law firm hiring by 50 percent. Following this implosion of traditional jobs for recent graduates, law school applications nationwide began a downward trend, with a decrease in applications starting in the fall of 2010 and now approaching a cumulative 40 percent fall-off in applications.

In 2011, the University of Colorado Law School’s new dean, **Phil Weiser**, took stock of the changing dynamics of the legal profession and brought the philosophy of one of his favorite books, *Moneyball*, by Michael Lewis, to guide his leadership of Colorado Law. He engaged the entire community, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni, in a reimagining of legal education, leading to an Action Plan that highlighted Colorado Law’s commitment to being the regional leader and a national innovator. To illustrate his approach and engage the

student population, he held a viewing and subsequent discussion of the movie *Moneyball* at orientation. More recently, he has asked incoming students to read *Mindset*, a book by Carol Dweck, that highlights the need for individuals to take control of their education and career with an eye for continued improvement.

“In today’s environment, law school students have a range of opportunities and the ability to navigate their careers along a range of exciting trajectories,” Dean Weiser said. “For some students, that means working at a law firm; for others, it means seizing the opportunity to work in-house, in government, in a range of nontraditional jobs, or even to be a part of startup companies or nonprofit organizations. Our commitment to our students at Colorado Law is to help create awareness of the range of opportunities and support them in pursuing their interests.”

This paradigm shift among law schools, law firms, and the profession at large has led to a New Normal that focuses on developing and strengthening a wide range of core competencies that graduates need to succeed in a world where a training period at a law firm is no longer a standard gateway for other opportunities.

According to Dean Weiser, the dynamics of legal education are changing on two fronts. First, students must now take a more active role in

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“It’s critical for students to be proactive and have an entrepreneurial mindset when it comes to taking advantage of their careers. I wish Colorado Law had an entrepreneurial law program when I was going to law school.”

— MARC GRABOYES ('96)

owning, developing, and navigating their careers, becoming, in effect, “entrepreneurs in themselves.” Taking charge of one’s own “professional portfolio” means not only learning to think like a lawyer, but also developing practical learning skills (such as legal research, writing, and negotiation), subject matter expertise so that lawyers can be true partners to their clients, and a range of professional skills, sometimes called “soft skills” that include entrepreneurial initiative, a growth mindset, a creative problem-solving attitude, and good judgment. How to create the opportunities for students to learn these skills presents one of the most formidable challenges facing legal education today.

For **Stacy Carter** ('07), general counsel at Sphero, an entrepreneurial mindset has meant being open to change and applying knowledge from

FACING PAGE: Stacy Carter ('07) at the Sphero headquarters.





her work both in-house and at a firm to take on new responsibilities, leading to involvement in nearly all areas of a business. By expanding her world of work, Carter set herself up to be a jack-of-all-trades ready to lead Sphero's in-house efforts as its first attorney and general counsel. She now considers in-house practice as the best introduction for other opportunities down the road because it teaches lawyers to sit in the client's shoes.

"One thing I value in my outside attorneys now is to have a mindset of what it's like to be in-house and to be the client, managing getting the right legal answer while getting the business done and helping the company do the things it wants to do," she said. "Even if a student wants to go to a law firm, it's valuable to have that in-house experience to have more empathy for the client. I had four interns at Rally who came from Colorado Law, and at least two have gone on to work for law firms. I'm hopeful that their in-house experience helps them be better outside lawyers."

In addition to changing the mindsets of new law students and recent graduates, law schools need to be more innovative in preparing students for the new legal landscape by continuing to provide students with valued-added experiences that prepare them for real lawyering, Bauer said.

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"The CDO was outstanding in connecting me with the right people. But to land a job, especially one across the country, it is up to you to knock down doors and never say no. Especially chasing a nontraditional legal career path, you have to be willing to go the extra mile for yourself."

— LEANN LU ('14)

"Since Dean Weiser has taken over, he has had his finger on the pulse of the job market," Bauer said. "It is not enough to respond to the market; we have to foresee it."

During his tenure, Dean Weiser emphasized programs that engage the community and help students develop the skills they will need after law school. Most recently, Colorado Law implemented the Tech Lawyer Accelerator program, which trains students through an intensive four-week boot camp before placing them in in-house roles with companies ranging from small Denver-based technology startups to multinational companies in Silicon Valley, such as Cisco.

**Chris Gaddis ('04)**, head of human resources at JBS USA Holdings, Inc., a leading animal protein producer and exporter headquartered in Greeley, speaks regularly to students about the value of programs that teach these necessary entrepreneurial skills in law school. Gaddis attributes his continued entrepreneurial mindset, which began in law school, as integral to successfully transitioning from his legal role to human resources.

"The need to be more entrepreneurial has been the New Normal for many law students, myself included, all along. It may be the New Normal for the top of the class, but for those in the middle and the bottom of the class, we didn't have big firm offers and had to figure it out as we went," Gaddis said.

Though **Marc Graboyes ('96)** graduated with an undergraduate degree in entrepreneurship and small business management before attending law school, it was not until he transitioned from the law firm environment to an in-house role that he fully realized the value of an entrepreneurial spirit to a practicing lawyer.

Today, Graboyes has more than 10 years of in-house experience and is president and CEO of Next Frontier Biosciences, LLC. While the technical skills needed to succeed in business and law are vastly different, soft skills like interpersonal communication, proactivity, and professionalism are the keys to succeeding in both worlds, he said.

"The technical skills needed to succeed in a business environment are very different from those needed in a law firm environment. Those who can develop soft skills broaden their abilities and are able to succeed in either place," Graboyes said. "It's also critical for students to be proactive and have an entrepreneurial mindset when it comes to taking advantage of their careers. I wish Colorado Law had an entrepreneurial law program when I was going to law school."

Fast-forward to 2016 and it appears that law students and prospective law school applicants are drawn to the diverse career options available to JD degree-holders. In 2015, Colorado Law welcomed its largest class ever from an applicant pool that was up more than 10 percent at the same time that law school applications nationwide were down for the fifth consecutive year.

**Savannah Schaefer ('16)** came to law school interested in finding an alternative to the traditional large law firm career path, and said she had a lot of support in making that choice.

"I spent a large part of my law school career trying out different job paths, and thanks to Dean Weiser, fellow students, professors, the Hatfield Scholars program, and a number of generous attorneys, I found a direction that fits," she said. "Colorado Law has guided my sense of purpose and gave me the tools to pursue those purposes."

Schaefer will graduate soon and is more confident than ever in her decision to pursue telecommunications policy positions, including in the federal government in Washington, D.C. She attributes much of her confidence to the Career Development Office (CDO). With the help of the CDO, graduates have secured positions in a range of organizations, including Atlas Tower, California Coastal Commission, Catholic Health Initiatives, DaVita Healthcare Partners, DNA People's Legal Services, Ernst & Young, Ever West Real Estate Partners, Goldman Sachs, Molson Coors Brewing Company, Shareholder Representative Services, Webroot, and the Wyoming Attorney General's Office.

**Leann Lu ('14)** leveraged the connections that she developed her 1L year through the CDO to land a job at BlackRock, Inc., a multinational investment management corporation based in New York City. Throughout her time at Colorado Law, Lu emphasized her network and displayed an entrepreneurial mindset, securing coffee meetings and following up on leads she cultivated through her contacts.

"The CDO was outstanding in connecting me with the right people," Lu said. "But to land a job, especially one across the country, it is up to you to knock down doors and never say no. Especially chasing a nontraditional legal career path, you have to be willing to go the extra mile for yourself."



For law students who are unsure of the career path they want to take, the CDO, in addition to experiential learning opportunities and conversations with professors and members of the legal community, can help students think creatively about how to apply their passions and skills into a meaningful career.

“Coming into law school, I don’t know if I ever actually saw myself in the position I am in today. I wasn’t even confident that I wanted to practice law at all,” said **Cinque McKinney** (’12), assistant city attorney for human legal services at the City Attorney’s Office in Denver. “I was mostly interested in helping the most vulnerable populations in Denver, and I was intrigued by how a law degree could help me advance social justice and try to help those communities that are more vulnerable.”

Cultivating relationships with established lawyers built through the CDO sparked McKinney’s interest in the public sector. “Now that I’m on the other side of the hiring process, I’ve seen how important it is to foster relationships with people, especially when looking for a job in the public sector. Once people know who you are, what you’re about, and what your passions are, they are more inclined to be supportive of you and to help you realize what you want to do,” he said.

Once she identified family law as a practice area she was passionate about, **Tonya Luna** (’13), an attorney with Colorado Legal Services (CLS) in Colorado Springs, pursued experiential learning opportunities to gain on-the-ground training in that area. By taking an active role in Colorado Law’s Juvenile Law Clinic, interning at CLS, and utilizing resources offered by the CDO, Luna further distinguished her résumé for her desired career path.

“The two biggest skills I use are the research skills I developed in my first-year legal writing class and the courtroom, client-interaction, and time-management skills the Juvenile Law Clinic taught me. I would advise any law student interested in a similar career path to take a clinic,” Luna said.

The CDO also supports students in pursuing other nontraditional legal paths. **Ray Laws** (’16) arrived in Boulder with the goal of returning to his Fort Morgan farm after graduation and pursuing a legal career focused on agricultural land deals primarily along the South Platte River. Laws knew that the big firm lifestyle did not suit him or his family, and he focused on finding the right small law firm that matched his career goals. Laws graduated a semester early to save tuition and will return to Fort Morgan to begin practicing at a small firm in June.

“I love Boulder, but I also knew that Denver was not the right market for me,” Laws said. “My wife is a farmer and we can’t wait to return to a more rural lifestyle in Fort Morgan.”

The emphasis on the New Normal and the self-starter culture that permeates Colorado Law has led to the highest employment percentage among graduates in the last five years. Of the 159 graduates in the class of 2015, more than 96 percent reported employment 10 months after graduation. To be sure, a large number of graduates still join private law firms. For the class of 2014, for example, private practice comprises the largest employment segment at 40 percent, but that still constitutes a minority of the total jobs, and it no longer is the expected path for law students.

“For students today, the realities of expanding career paths start when they enter law schools,” said Senior Assistant Dean for Students **Whiting Leary** (’96). “Our goal at Colorado Law is to support them as they identify what they want to do, develop the experience and training to prepare for that opportunity, and build the relationships to find those opportunities. In so doing, we are providing the best value to our students and setting the template for a 21st century law school.”

Cinque McKinney (’12) at the City and County of Denver building.



# ALUMNI SHARE THEIR EXPANDING CAREER PATHS



Kyle Hybl ('96)



Patrice Kunesch ('89)



Eric Lentell ('06)



Alice Madden ('89)



Lisa Neal-Graves ('06)

## Kyle Hybl ('96)

Chairman of the Board of Regents, University of Colorado; Trustee, Chief Operating Officer, and General Counsel, El Pomar Foundation; General Counsel, The Broadmoor

"After serving as a judge advocate general in the Air Force, I returned to Colorado with my family in 2000. I was given the unique opportunity to serve as general counsel to The Broadmoor and general counsel to El Pomar Foundation. I continue as general counsel to The Broadmoor and now serve as COO and general counsel for El Pomar. My interest in politics and higher education led me to run for regent of the University of Colorado. I have learned a great deal about the state and university through that role. **We should be very proud of the teaching, learning, work, and research that take place in the CU System.**"

## Patrice Kunesch ('89)

Assistant Vice President and Co-Director of the Center for Indian Country Development  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

"Mine is a career that unfolded and evolved rather than was designed and constructed. It began in law school. I was a busy mother of two daughters ... and I made the most of my time, serving on the law review, participating in the Native American Law Students Association, and clerking at the Native American Rights Fund. That work and focus led to a Skadden Public Interest Fellowship and then to an in-house counsel role. After another fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, I was called to serve in both Obama administrations, first as deputy solicitor for Indian affairs at the Department of the Interior and then as the deputy undersecretary for rural development at the Department of Agriculture. My current work unites all of these experiences, each one a necessary part of both my professional and personal development. **Looking at it through the lens of 25 years of practice and experience, the aspect of my legal education that I value the most is my personal, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional growth.** I am grateful for every step along the way."

## Eric Lentell ('06)

Associate General Counsel, Commercial and Product  
Fitbit Inc.

**"I was a participant in the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic while at Colorado Law and that laid the groundwork for my understanding of the challenges that businesses face.** Good business lawyers anticipate those challenges and help their clients avoid them. I got where I am in my career today through a lot of hard work and calculated risks. I recommend figuring out what your career end-game is as soon as possible so you can chart the course to get there early on."

## Alice Madden ('89)

Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental & External Affairs  
U.S. Department of Energy

**"The critical-thinking skills I developed during law school gave me the confidence to define what I wanted in my career, strategically identifying and addressing obstacles along the way.** Having our briefs for the Rothgerber Moot Court competition (we won!) critiqued by the likes of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron White and Archibald Cox instilled a great love of writing that has served me well. Traveling to Yellowstone with Charles Wilkinson's seminar class (right after the historic fire) forged a lifelong commitment to developing common sense public policy. After several years in a civil law practice, my interests shifted and I wanted to get more involved in public service. From serving as the state house majority leader, working with Governor Ritter as his climate adviser, and holding the Timothy Wirth Chair in Sustainable Development at CU Denver, to my presidential appointment to the U.S. Department of Energy, my years at Colorado Law absolutely laid the foundation for my life's work."

## Lisa Neal-Graves ('06)

Director, Technology Insights  
Intel Corporation

"I began my career at Intel as a business attorney, where my technical and business expertise complemented my concentration in high tech and telecommunications law at Colorado Law. I was quickly promoted to legal counsel for our chief information officer and the IT organization. After several years as IT counsel negotiating deals and drafting internal IT, privacy, and security policies, I expanded my experiences to include managing IT procurement of around \$1 billion in annual spends. In this capacity, I leveraged my contracts experiences to negotiate greater support of Intel's IT infrastructure across the business. With a unique twist of fate, I recently completed a three-year expat assignment in Shanghai, China, as a business development manager. All of these experiences, in addition to others that I had prior to law school, made me the ideal leader for our technology strategy long-range planning, as technology strategy requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes technology, business, and legal expertise. **My degree from Colorado Law enabled me to deliver the trifecta of expertise (technical, business, and legal) to take on traditional opportunities with a very unique perspective.**"





Peter Nichols ('01)



Bill Ritter ('81)

### Peter Nichols ('01)

Partner  
Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP

"I'm exactly where I want to be today in my career—one of the upper tier water quality lawyers in Colorado and the West. Colorado Law was instrumental in preparing me to reach that goal. First and foremost was the opportunity to learn from nationally known professors in water and environmental law, many of whom became friends, colleagues, and collaborators after I graduated. Second, professors and what's now the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment supported my interests in water and population growth, and conserving water for instream environmental benefits. I was encouraged even as a 1L to tackle issues of major environmental consequence. One led to a book I co-authored with another law student and a fellow of the center that set the stage for the just-released Colorado Water Plan. The other culminated in a law review article shortly after I graduated, which has been instrumental in changing how land conservation organizations approach water rights for conservation and environmental purposes. I left Colorado Law with a strong substantive knowledge of the law in my areas of interest, coupled with the confidence to successfully pursue state, regional, and national legal and policy goals."

### The Honorable Bill Ritter ('81)

Former Colorado Governor  
Founder and Director, Center for the New Energy Economy  
Colorado State University

"Since graduating from Colorado Law, I have been a deputy and chief deputy district attorney, a director of a nutrition center in Zambia, a federal prosecutor, the Denver district attorney, the governor of Colorado, and now the director of an energy policy institute at Colorado State University. Many things helped prepare me for this unique career trajectory, but I credit my legal training at Colorado Law as the single most important factor in both the breadth of my experiences and, hopefully, in my successes. My Colorado Law education was exceptional legal training but, more importantly, my law school experience taught me how to learn. As governor, I dealt with a wide variety of complex issues on a daily basis. To this day, I tell people that my ability to dissect an issue, to ask the right questions, and to form the right responses can be traced primarily to my time at Colorado Law."

## DEAN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEES

Designed to inspire students about the breadth of career opportunities available with a legal education, Dean Weiser developed the Dean's Leadership Lunch series. Over the past five years, the distinguished leaders listed below joined Dean Weiser for discussions with students about career paths, ethical leadership, and lessons learned.

### Katherine Archuleta ('83)

U.S. Office of Personnel Management

### Lance Astrella

Astrella Law P.C.

### Francis B. Barron ('87)

Cimarex Energy

### Fred Bartlit

Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP

### Steve Beabout ('79)

Starz Entertainment, LLC

### Gary Berg ('79)

The Academy

### George Berg

Berg Hill Greenleaf & Ruscitti LLP

### Matt Bond ('86)

NBCUniversal

### Hank Brown ('69)

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

### Jessica Brown

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

### Richard Brown

Mizel Financial Holdings Inc.

### Jim Burke

NGL Energy Partners LP

### William Cavanaugh

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

### Sonny Cave ('85)

ON Semiconductor

### Libby Cook ('82)

The Philanthropice Foundation

### Darden Coors ('96)

MAD Greens

### Art Daily ('68)

Holland & Hart LLP

### Crisanta Duran ('05)

Colorado House of Representatives

### Steve Ehrhart ('72)

AutoZone Liberty Bowl

### Steve ErkenBrack ('78)

Rocky Mountain Health Plans

### Steve Farber ('68)

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

### Rebecca Franciscus ('98)

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

### The Honorable David A. Furman

Colorado Court of Appeals

### Staunton Golding ('92)

MBH Enterprises

### Edmundo Gonzales ('72)

U.S. Air Force

### Gary Grant ('84)

Bank Street Group LLC

### Sally Hatcher ('97)

Kindara, Inc.

### Mike Havlik ('15)

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

### Steve Hillard ('76)

Council Tree Communications

### John Hilson ('76)

Paul Hastings LLP

### Heather Holland ('05)

CorePower Yoga

### Gregory Hoskin ('65)

Hoskin Farina & Kampf

### Maurice "Mo" Jourdan

Civil rights attorney

### Susan Keesen ('76)

Ciber

### Jim Kelley

Vestar Capital Partners

### Phillip Kendall ('69)

Retired, Kraemer Kendall Rupp Deen Neville LLC

### Michelle Lucero ('89)

Children's Hospital Colorado

### Jim Lyons

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

### Pamela Mackey

Haddon, Morgan and Foreman P.C.

### The Honorable Monica Márquez

Colorado Supreme Court

### The Honorable Alex Martinez ('76)

Denver Public Schools

### David Miller

David L Miller, PC

### Terry Minger

The Piton Foundation

### Myra Monfort ('75)

Monfort of Colorado

### Dan Pabon ('05)

Colorado House of Representatives

### Jim Piccone ('78)

Resolute Energy Corporation

### Marsha Piccone ('85)

Piccone LLC

### Tom Piccone ('87)

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

### Tom Ray ('86)

CoreSite Realty Corporation

### Mark Roellig

MassMutual

### Bob Ruyle ('59)

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

### Karen Samuels Jones ('90)

Stinson Leonard Street LLP

### John Schultz ('53)

Retired oil & gas attorney

### Linda Shoemaker

University of Colorado Regent

### Sina Simantob

Historic Highland City Club Boulder

### Harvey Steinberg ('78)

Springer & Steinberg, P.C.

### Andrea Wang ('01)

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

### Doug Wilson

Office of the Colorado State Public Defender

### Chris Wirth ('97)

Liberty Puzzles

### Stow Witwer ('61)

Witwer, Oldenburg, Barry & Groom, LLP

### Carole Yaley ('80)

Retired, ExxonMobil Global Services

# ADVOCATING FOR INNOCENCE

By Melanie M. Sidwell, CU Advancement

At Rikers Island, New York City’s most infamous prison, inmates quickly understand the pecking order—they join a house gang, they become bullies—in order to survive. The Old Timer, for instance, started his job sweeping and mopping the floor in the prison’s day room. Even though he wasn’t watching the TV, he had a music video channel on while he mopped. A New Guy came in and changed the TV channel to a news documentary.

Bad move, New Guy.

After a heated exchange, the two came to blows, and guards rushed into the room. But this simple fight over the TV would change everything, said Korey Wise—the Old Timer who still bore a scar above his eyebrow from the scuffle—as he recounted the story to a room packed with enraptured Colorado Law students last September.

“This is my history now,” Wise said to the crowd. “No one best to tell your story but you.”

## CONVICTED CRIMINAL

In 1989-90, Wise and four other black and Latino teenagers were arrested, tried, and convicted of charges stemming from the brutal attack and rape of a female jogger in New York City’s Central Park. The case rested on the confessions, which were obtained after long hours and without the presence of their parents or legal representation, from the young men who were dubbed in the media as the “Central Park Five.” The teenagers said they were coerced to confess to a crime they did not commit.

The oldest defendant at 16, Wise was tried as an adult and sentenced to five to 15 years.

Several years after the run-in at Rikers, Wise crossed paths with the New Guy again after having been transferred to another prison in upstate New York. The New Guy wanted to apologize to Wise for the altercation over the TV channel years before.

“You still doing time for this? And you still saying you innocent?” he asked Wise.

## EXONERATED MAN

A rapist’s actions put Wise in prison. That rapist’s confession, and ultimately his DNA, set Wise free. In 2002, the man who fought with Wise over a TV channel at Rikers Island identified himself as the true rapist and confessed to the crime, which DNA testing confirmed. The Central Park Five were exonerated; Wise ultimately spent 13 years and four months in prison.

Afterward, Wise changed his first name, which had been Kharey, to Korey because he no longer wanted to be associated with all the negative documents carrying his old name. Freedom, however, was bittersweet. Incarceration had robbed Wise of so much: he had never finished high school, gotten a job, been married, or had children. His attorney, Jane Fisher-Byrrialsen, ran the New York City Marathon to raise money for



LEFT TO RIGHT: Tarah Bailey ('18) and Korey Wise

Wise so he could afford a bus pass.

“When I was in law school, I hoped to make a difference in someone’s life,” Fisher-Byrrialsen said. “Some cases are small, and some are big. We are making it better for other people who went through what Korey went through. It’s made our job worthwhile.”

In late 2014, a federal judge approved a \$41 million settlement to the Central Park Five, with each defendant paid roughly \$1 million for each year they were wrongly imprisoned, according to the terms of the settlement.

## ADVOCATE FOR INNOCENCE

The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization with chapters across the nation. The Innocence Project in Colorado was founded in 2001 and moved to its current home at Colorado Law in 2010. In late 2015, Wise pledged \$190,000 to support the Innocence Project at the University of Colorado Law School, now renamed in his honor, a student-led volunteer program that investigates claims of wrongful convictions after traditional methods of appealing a conviction have failed. The gift funded the hiring of a full-time director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project and provides financial support for the program’s investigative work.





LEFT TO RIGHT: Korey Wise, Jane Fisher-Byrialsen, Ann England, and Kristy Martinez.

On average, the program at Colorado Law receives 25 letters a week from those seeking help with appeals and has approximately 200 applications in review.

“We don’t have the perfect legal system. We know innocent people get convicted, so that creates an obligation to figure out who among us have been wronged,” said Colorado Law Clinical Professor **Ann England**, who was the volunteer director until Wise’s gift allowed them to hire **Kristy Martinez**. “Korey’s gift gives students a face and a name to what it means to be wrongly convicted, and the Innocence Project at Colorado Law is an important educational tool that allows our students to work on real investigations of cases.”

While making phone calls to raise funds for the program, England connected with Fisher-Byrialsen through a mutual friend, Roberta Nieslanik. That connection ultimately led to Wise’s philanthropic gift to the program—his first major gift of any kind since the settlement. In late 2015, Wise spoke about his experience with Colorado Law students on the CU-Boulder campus, and plans are in the works for a significant Innocence Project event later in 2016.

Before joining the Korey Wise Innocence Project, Director Kristy Martinez was an attorney in private practice with a contract with the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel. She provided legal services for indigent populations, litigating at the trial, appellate, and post-conviction levels. She said the Korey Wise Innocence Project creates

a rich learning environment both educationally and professionally, as well as a meaningful experience for Colorado Law students interested in future careers as prosecutors and defense attorneys.

“More students are interested in the Innocence Project than ever before after hearing Korey’s story, it’s just so compelling,” Martinez said. “I think it really shows his character that Korey wants his name associated with something that matters and with something that is good.”

Colorado Law students **Jennifer Sisk** (’16) and **Kate Mattern** (’16) are volunteers with the Innocence Project at Colorado Law. Both said the organization’s work in criminal law drew them to attend Colorado Law. “Korey is inspiring. Despite being jailed for so many years, he chose to believe and fight for his innocence, and now he is choosing to move forward by helping others in a situation like his,” Sisk said.

“Innocence is everyone’s issue,” said Mattern. “This is a great opportunity for students to learn, no matter what side of the law you are on.”

*Korey Wise will present at the 68th Annual Conference on World Affairs, April 4-8, 2016 in Boulder. Learn more at [colorado.edu/cwa](http://colorado.edu/cwa).*

*To learn more about the Korey Wise Innocence Project, please visit [colorado.edu/law/innocence](http://colorado.edu/law/innocence).*

# LAWYERING WITH CHARACTER

By Julia Sevy, Program and Communications Manager, Colorado Law

In university classrooms across Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, future business leaders and lawyers examine not only what type of practice to pursue, but also what kind of professionals they want to be.

In 2014, the Daniels Fund selected Colorado Law as the first law school to join the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, a consortium of 11 business and law schools that promotes principle-based ethics education and building a foundation for personal and organizational ethical decision-making and leadership.

Built on the belief that an organization's success rests on the integrity of its leaders, the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at Colorado Law strives to help law students build their professional identities early on by teaching ethics and professionalism concepts in innovative and engaging ways.

"With the support of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, we are integrating ethics instruction throughout the law school curriculum, including practical applications, exposure to law and business practitioners, and other new hands-on programming and opportunities," said **Melanie Kay**, director of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at Colorado Law. "Our goal is to teach law students ethical leadership skills in a way that is applicable and useful in the day-to-day practice of law."

Bill Daniels, a Denver entrepreneur and pioneer in the cable television industry, had a steadfast commitment to ethics and integrity that garnered recognition and deep respect throughout the business world. After calling Colorado home for much of his life, he spent his final years planning the Daniels Fund, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the Rocky Mountain region.

"The University of Colorado Law School is a terrific addition to the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program," said Linda Childears, president and CEO of the Daniels Fund. "Colorado Law's participation provides a unique opportunity to integrate principle-based ethics into the business of law."

Kay spearheads a range of programming to help students establish an understanding of ethical principles. She began the role in August 2015 after almost 10 years as a litigator. She practiced environmental law in Denver with the nonprofit, public interest law firm Earthjustice, as well as private civil litigation at Latham & Watkins in San Francisco and Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell in Denver.

"I was intrigued by the unique opportunity to focus on building practical competencies that are often undervalued or entirely missing from traditional legal education—helping students develop strong ethical principles and professional identities while also emphasizing creative problem-solving skills, leadership skills, self-reflection, confidence, and other 'soft skills' that will help students become ethical leaders and thrive in the competitive legal market," Kay said. "During my time in litigation, I saw just how crucial these skills are to attorney success."



Melanie Kay

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"With the support of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, we are integrating ethics instruction throughout the law school curriculum, including practical applications, exposure to law and business practitioners, and other new hands-on programming and opportunities."

— MELANIE KAY



Thanks to the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, Colorado Law is able to foster students' ethical and professional growth through creative new curriculum components, trainings, assessments, competitions, and other events and programming, Kay said. Collaboration with the 10 other consortium schools and local business leaders extends the relevance of ethics and professionalism in both the legal and business worlds, and gives law students important experience counseling non-lawyers on legal issues.

Programs in the 2015-16 academic year include professionalism skills workshops, the Summer Employment Transition program, the spring Daniels Fund Ethics Consortium Case Competition, and panel discussions with seasoned professionals on topics students will encounter on the job, including spotting ethical red flags, handling constructive feedback, and developing professional and ethical client relationships. Colorado Law also hosts an annual ethics lecture by business leaders.

Within the walls of the classroom, Colorado Law introduced new courses in 2016 that focus on the role of legal ethics in the day-to-day responsibilities of lawyers.

All of the law school's Ethics Initiative programming centers on the eight Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative principles—integrity, trust, accountability, transparency, fairness, respect, rule of law, and viability.

"Hopefully most of us will never have to confront large-scale fraud, perjury, or deception in our organizations (unfortunately, a few of us might). However, ethical leadership by example is something each of us can seek out in our career, and we can start by practicing it every day," said **Joely Denkinger** ('16), who attended the annual Daniels Fund Ethics Consortium Summit in New Mexico in October 2015. "Practicing how to identify and discuss smaller, routine ethical dilemmas sets the stage for effective problem-solving in situations of larger, and perhaps unexpected, ethical problems."

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"Ethical leadership by example is something each of us can seek out in our career, and we can start by practicing it every day."

— JOELY DENKINGER ('16)

*To learn more about the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at Colorado Law, please visit [colorado.edu/law/daniels-fund-ethics-initiative](http://colorado.edu/law/daniels-fund-ethics-initiative).*



LEFT TO RIGHT: Spencer Rubin ('16), Madeline Randolph ('18), Ben Hand-Bender ('18), and Jeremiah Jones ('18) put their legal and ethical knowledge to the test by authoring a guidebook explaining the criminal trial process, which they presented to undergraduate business students at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs—another partner school in the Daniels Fund Ethics Consortium—who were preparing for a mock trial concerning criminal accounting fraud.

# 35TH ANNUAL COLORADO LAW ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

Each year, the Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet celebrates the accomplishments of our alumni and community. Honorees are selected by the Law Alumni Board in September. The 2016 banquet broke the all-time attendance record.

To nominate a deserving alum, send a brief statement in support of the nomination to [lawalum@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalum@colorado.edu).

To view slideshows and videos from the March 9, 2016, Alumni Awards Banquet, visit [colorado.edu/law/banquet](http://colorado.edu/law/banquet).

*Photography generously donated by Nicola Leigh Photography, [nicolaleighphotography.com](http://nicolaleighphotography.com).*







# DEAN WEISER'S TENURE

"Phil understands deeply the role of the legal scholar and legal academy in advancing knowledge about matters of justice and advocacy. **At a time when many law schools had to cut funding for research, Phil made it a priority to support and indeed expand resources for faculty research.** I believe that one of Phil's legacies as dean will be his inclusive approach to leadership, empowerment of all voices, and promotion of diversity, in all of its forms, among the faculty, staff, and students of Colorado Law."

## KRISTEN CARPENTER

Professor and Associate Dean for Research, Colorado Law



### AUGUST 1999

Joined Colorado Law as associate professor of law and telecommunications



### FEBRUARY 2005

Published first book, *Digital Crossroads: American Telecommunications Policy in the Internet Age* (MIT Press, 2005) (with Jon Nuechterlein)

### JUNE 2011

Returned to Colorado Law faculty; awarded Thomson Professorship of Law and Telecommunications

### JULY 2011

Started as dean of Colorado Law



### MAY 2012

Established Colorado Law Action Plan to address the challenges facing legal education

## 1999-2002

### JUNE 2001

Established Colorado Law's *Journal on Telecommunications & High Technology Law*, now the *Colorado Technology Law Journal*

### AUGUST 2001 - JUNE 2002

Served as a Law and Public Affairs Fellow at Princeton University

## 2005-2010

### JULY 2009

Served as deputy assistant attorney general at U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C.

### APRIL 2010

Served as senior adviser for technology and innovation to the National Economic Council Director at the White House

## 2011

### SEPTEMBER 2011

Partnered with the White Center to establish the Stevens Lecture, which has brought four U.S. Supreme Court justices to Colorado Law

## 2012

### SEPTEMBER 2012

Hosted the Gathering of the Bench and Bar Conference at Colorado Law for the first time



"Since Dean Weiser shared his paper on political entrepreneurship with me, it has become mandatory reading for all mayoral appointees. Phil's paper illuminates how a single person with an entrepreneurial spirit can challenge the status quo and move entire institutions by being unafraid to use the tools at his or her disposal and embracing the role of public advocate. **As dean, Phil is the definition of an entrepreneur in public service. He is fearless in his use of institutional resources to make the law school as useful as possible for its graduates.** Wherever you are in Colorado's legal community, Phil Weiser has touched your life, and we are all better off for his tenure."

## D. SCOTT MARTINEZ

City Attorney, City and County of Denver

"During his tenure, **Dean Weiser has transformed the staff at Colorado Law into a thriving, team-oriented, and productive community.** He effected this change by engaging staff members throughout all levels of the organization, listening to their successes and challenges, and then leveraging their talents for the benefit of both Colorado Law and the employee's personal development. We all work extremely hard, knowing that we will be repaid with respect, genuine interest, recognition, and the opportunity to work in an inclusive and engaged community."

## PEGGY DELANEY

Senior Director of Budget and Finance, Colorado Law



"He is a human 'LinkedIn' and serves as an energetic connector of people. **Dean Weiser's most lasting impression for me is in the area of diversity and inclusiveness.** For example, he created the Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee for the Law Alumni Board and personally moderated the 1L orientation discussion on the importance of inclusivity at the law school. He also hosted annual dinners at his house for diverse 1L students to make them feel welcomed. In all, Dean Weiser is committed to people, all people."

#### FRANZ HARDY ('00)

Partner, Gordon & Rees, LLP and Chair of Law Alumni Board

#### JANUARY 2014

Led Colorado Law's selection as first law school to participate in Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative

#### APRIL 2014

Launched Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network

#### FEBRUARY 2013

Worked with **John Schultz ('53)** to dramatically increase Colorado Law's loan repayment assistance endowment, which now exceeds \$6 million

#### MAY 2013

Formed Colorado Law's applicant outreach team, which has facilitated more than 200 alumni interviews of prospective students to date

#### MAY 2014

Spearheaded Tech Lawyer Accelerator Program

#### AUGUST 2014

Supported and invested in summer public service fellowships, which were awarded to 100% of qualified applicants in 2013 and 2014



#### MARCH 2015

Broke record for both attendance and fundraising for the 34th Annual Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet

#### JUNE 2015

Led Colorado Law to rank in the top 25 for employment outcomes by *Moody's*, in the top 10 by *Business Insider* for networking and getting a job, and in the top five for financial aid in 2015

#### FEBRUARY 2016

Established Philip J. Weiser Public Service Fellowship Fund with wife, Heidi Wald

#### 2013

#### NOVEMBER 2013

Initiated postgraduate mentoring program, which, since its inception, has served 75 postgraduates; in 2015, the mentoring program was expanded to include current students



#### 2014

#### OCTOBER 2014

Received the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association's Outstanding Corporate Commitment Award

#### 2015

#### AUGUST 2015

Welcomed Colorado Law's largest class ever

#### NOVEMBER 2015

Led graduate indebtedness to a three-year low: average indebtedness of the class of 2015 declined 8 percent from the level of 2014 graduates

#### 2016

#### JULY 2016

Returns to Colorado Law's faculty and remains executive director of Silicon Flatirons full-time

"About four nights per week, at roughly 11:12 p.m., I get three or four emails from Phil Weiser as he finishes his 'day' (and night) of work. No one works harder for Colorado Law. Phil provided crucial support for innovation within the law school curriculum. And he served as Colorado Law's 'Job Arm Twister in Chief.' **Phil's relentless emphasis on career development and professional outreach—at a time when law schools nationwide have struggled—created an exemplary record of job placement and favorable student outcomes at Colorado Law.**"

#### BRAD BERNTHAL

Associate Professor and  
Director of Silicon Flatirons Center's Entrepreneurship Initiative, Colorado Law

"**Dean Weiser is, above all, a tireless advocate for students. Perhaps more importantly, he teaches us to be advocates for ourselves in our academic lives and our careers.** Several times, I have asked him about a class, an internship or summer job, a scholarship, a writing opportunity, or a long-term job in which I have been interested. His response always includes advice on how to proceed, someone to talk with for more details, and a message to 'go for it!'"

#### JOELY DENKINGER ('16)

Student, Colorado Law

# FACULTY NEWS

## PUBLICATIONS

### Dayna Bowen Matthew

*Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care*

This book navigates the racial and socioeconomic health disparities entrenched in the American health care system, identifying implicit bias as a principal determinant of health and health care inequalities. Matthew incorporates medical, neuroscience, psychology, and sociology research to offer a plan to regulate implicit biases and eliminate the inequalities they cause.

### William Boyd

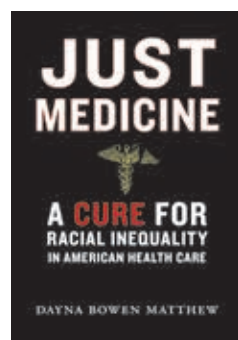
*The Slain Wood: Papermaking and its Environmental Consequences in the American South*

This book chronicles the dramatic growth of the pulp and paper industry in the American South during the 20th century, and the social and environmental changes that accompanied it. Using interviews and historical research, Boyd explains how a thoroughly industrialized forest was created out of a degraded landscape, investigates the challenges of managing large papermaking complexes, and shows how the industry's massive pollution loads disrupted local environments and communities.

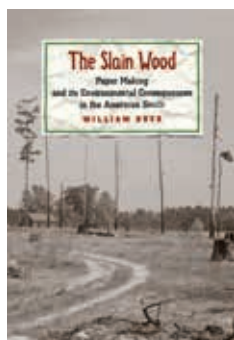
### Ahmed White

*The Last Great Strike: Little Steel, the CIO, and the Struggle for Labor Rights in New Deal America*

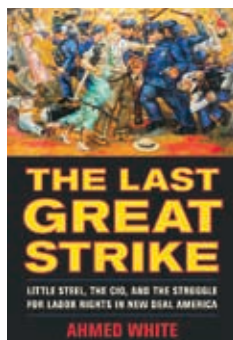
*The Last Great Strike* is the definitive study of the Little Steel Strike, a long-overlooked labor conflict involving 70,000 steel workers that exploded in violence in the summer of 1937. Drawing from union and company records, government documents, and oral histories, the book sheds light on this crucial chapter in American history. By documenting the political and legal history of the strike and its dramatic human dimensions, *The Last Great Strike* shows how this event altered the course of the New Deal, transformed the labor movement, and ultimately helped shape the world we live in today.



Dayna Bowen Matthew



William Boyd



Ahmed White

## RETIREMENTS

### Harold "Hal" Bruff

Since joining the law school as its 13th dean in 1996, Professor Hal Bruff served Colorado Law in many capacities, including the roles of Rosenbaum Professor of Law, researcher, author, and mentor to students and faculty alike. A leading scholar in the fields of constitutional and administrative law, Bruff has published three books; written copious law review articles, essays, and book chapters; and co-authored two casebooks about the separation of powers.



His most recent book, *Untrodden Ground: How Presidents Interpret the Constitution*, was published in 2015. As dean, Bruff developed plans for the Wolf Law Building, recruited talented faculty, and helped to develop important programs. Bruff is known among students and faculty as a trusted adviser, talented and thoughtful writer, and encouraging leader. In October 2015, Colorado Law held a two-day symposium honoring Bruff and his academic contributions to the fields of constitutional and administrative law. To donate to a scholarship fund in Bruff's honor, please visit [cufund.org/bruff](http://cufund.org/bruff).

### Robert Nagel

Professor Robert Nagel, one of Colorado Law's longest-tenured professors, joined the faculty in 1975 after serving as a deputy attorney general in Pennsylvania. A prolific writer, researcher, mentor, and legal scholar, Nagel authored more than 50 law review articles and four books, including his latest, *Unrestrained: Judicial Excess and the Mind of the American Lawyer*. His impact on Colorado Law reaches beyond the classroom; as the former director of the Byron White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, he organized conferences that brought together leading figures in constitutional law. His scholarship on constitutional law and theory extends beyond a legal audience, and he frequently weighs in on popular debates over constitutional issues such as free speech, hate codes, and federalism. On April 8, 2016, Colorado Law will hold a symposium celebrating Nagel's career featuring speakers from the judiciary and academia. For more information and to register, please visit [colorado.edu/law/nagel](http://colorado.edu/law/nagel).





# TAKE THE LONG VIEW: A MODERN LOOK AT CAREER PATHS

By Amy Griffin, Director of Academic and Legal Writing Support

**M**ost lawyers' careers do not follow a predictable path, and mine is no different. After several years as a commercial litigation associate in a Denver law firm and a long stint at home with my children, I began teaching legal writing. More than 10 years later, it is startling to recall that I had not even considered legal writing as a career until I read the job posting. My experience reflects a common theme among attorneys—careers evolve, often in unexpected ways.

I've had the opportunity to listen to and engage with legal professionals from many different corners of the legal industry; every career story is unique and most unfold in unexpected ways. And so, at Colorado Law, we've been asking ourselves how we can better prepare each student for a unique career. The frequently invoked refrain that students should leave law school "practice ready" seems to greatly underestimate both the variety and the sophistication of legal practice. Instead, we aim to recognize just how complex and time-consuming real professional development is—it is not a process that ends with law school graduation.

One strategy we can employ is to reinforce the advice practicing attorneys so often give our students—"take the long view." Most students don't know what they will want in five years, or 10; a lawyer's career rarely ends in the same place it begins. Students should not only expect twists and turns in their legal careers, but learn to embrace them. They must be committed to continuous progress, to gaining new knowledge and skills, and to remaining flexible and open-minded over the course of their careers. That mindset is one we can encourage in law school.

Legal writing is a good example; even our very best student writers will continue to develop and improve as writers for many years after they enter practice, and our teaching should reflect that reality. Students who take the long view will be able to see themselves and their careers as works in progress, recognizing they will need to adapt and develop as new opportunities arise.

Another strategy is to try to further customize legal education. Ideally, we should be able to direct every student to learning opportunities that meet that student's particular needs. That isn't easy under the traditional law school model. As many legal educators have recognized, students benefit from assessments that tell them how they can improve, not just where they stand relative to one another. Moreover, our evaluation of a student's strengths and weaknesses should not be limited to traditional exam-taking skills.

Unsurprisingly, as several scholars have recently pointed out, there are many other competencies that contribute to a lawyer's success. The ability to build strong relationships with colleagues and clients, practical judgment, dedication, an excellent work ethic, and creative problem-solving skills are just some of the competencies lawyers need to succeed. Students aware of their own abilities in all areas can more effectively develop as legal professionals, understanding the strengths they can capitalize on and the weaknesses they need to improve on. The calculus is different for every student.

In the past few years, we've made a concerted effort to implement both of these strategies, viewing professional development as a multi-faceted,

individualized, long-term process. My role, invented by Dean Weiser and unique among law schools as far as I know, allows me to spend much of my time meeting with students individually. I've learned just how unique each student's needs are, and I've gained better insight into those needs.

In response, I created a law school success series and a course in Legal Analysis, both of which are founded on the premise that academic success is not pre-determined, but based on skills that can be improved with effort. Our professionalism series offers first-year students multiple opportunities to hear from attorneys on a wide variety of important competencies. And we now have the Summer Employment Transition program, where students can practice using both analytical and other professional skills and receive feedback directly from a supervising attorney. (For more on this and other programs made possible by the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, see page 12.) These examples are just a few of the many creative ways that Colorado Law has sought to prepare our students for modern legal practice, providing a high-value education for each and every student.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Professor Amy Griffin and Karthik Venkatraj ('17) reviewing a legal writing assignment.

# LOYAL CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge individuals who have given to Colorado Law for five or more consecutive years. These loyal donors exemplify the spirit of giving and are important members of the Colorado Law community. We strive to provide a complete and accurate list. Please contact us at [lawgiving@colorado.edu](mailto:lawgiving@colorado.edu) should you notice an omission.

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Colorado Law is deeply grateful to the class reunion committee volunteers who organized wonderful events and encouraged their classmates to give back to help future generations of Colorado Law students.

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# CAMPAIGN FOR COLORADO LAW'S FUTURE

The Campaign for Colorado Law's Future was created in academic year 2010-11 to support the human capital needs of our law school, to ensure its continued excellence, and to support our commitment to being a national innovator.

At the launch of the campaign, we announced the goal of raising \$40 million to support scholarships, loan repayment assistance, faculty, and critical programs. We have had great success so far, but we need your help to bring the campaign to a close.

We still need to raise \$2.1 million in gifts, pledges, or planned gifts to complete our campaign.

If you have not yet participated in our campaign, we encourage you to donate today at [giving.cu.edu/lawdean](http://giving.cu.edu/lawdean).

For more information, contact Mary Beth Searles, assistant dean for development, [marybeth.searles@colorado.edu](mailto:marybeth.searles@colorado.edu) or 303.492.1215.

Please be part of the Campaign for Colorado Law's Future.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR GOAL

To date, the campaign has:

Created 44 new scholarships

Added 5 faculty support endowments

Dedicated \$6.8 million to loan repayment assistance

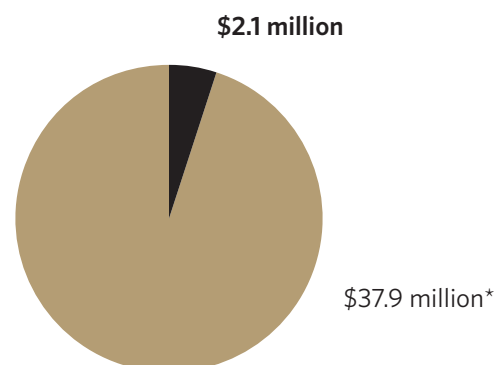
Invested in cutting-edge innovative programs

Engaged 38% of our alumni in campaign giving

Increased overall endowment funds by \$27 million

Alumni Participation: 38%

Amount raised to date: \$37.9 million\*



\*This number includes gifts and pledges, plus 50 percent of the value of all revocable planned gifts received during the campaign.



# LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD CHAIR

Franz Hardy ('00)



Dear Colorado Law Alumni,

Maya Angelou observed, "I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." We have been fortunate for the last five years to have a leader who has inspired us by his words, actions, and the way he makes us feel. Dean Phil Weiser has made an impact that we will never forget. Unfortunately, he is stepping down in his leadership role at the end of this academic year.

In my service on the Law Alumni Board, I have been fortunate to work closely with Dean Weiser during his tenure as our leader. His dedication, initiative, and energy level is beyond anything I have otherwise witnessed. As evidenced by countless lectures, meetings, dinners, telephone conferences, and late night and weekend emails, the man must rarely sleep.

Dean Weiser has been involved in countless initiatives to continue and increase the prestige of our law school. This has come at a time when national enrollment is down and many have criticized the value of higher education. Dean Weiser has never detoured from his single mission of making Colorado Law the best institution it can possibly be. Of note, he created and implemented the Colorado Law Action Plan: to maintain and improve the law school as a nationally recognized innovator and the regional leader in the changing legal landscape based on the quality of its scholarship, teaching, and curriculum, all of which deliver a high value to its students and service to its community.

Of personal note, I have been impressed by Dean Weiser's commitment to diversity and inclusion. In both words and conduct, he has made this a priority at the school. Beyond institutional changes in this area, maybe most telling is the fact that he and his wife, Heidi, have annually opened up their home to personally welcome diverse students to our school and the alumni community.

Thank you, Dean Weiser, for your enduring commitment to the success of Colorado Law. We certainly remember what you said and what you did. We will never forget how you made us feel.

For more information on ways you can become or get more involved, please go to [colorado.edu/law/alumni/get-involved](http://colorado.edu/law/alumni/get-involved). For information on the recently established Philip J. Weiser Public Service Fellowship Fund, please go to [cufund.org/weiser](http://cufund.org/weiser).

## Alumni Board Members

The Law Alumni Board is made up of 28 Colorado Law graduates. The members promote the best interests of the law school by stimulating interest in, building loyalty for, and increasing support for the law school among its alumni and students, and assisting the law school in serving the needs of its alumni, students, and faculty, the legal profession, and the public at large. The 2015-16 Board chair is **Franz Hardy** and the chair-elect is **Lucy Stark**.

**NIKEA BLAND** ('05), O'Malley Law Office

**BETHIAH BEALE CRANE** ('79), Crane & Tejada P.C.

**DARLA DANIEL** ('01), Colorado State Bank and Trust

**ERIC ELLIFF** ('87),

Judge, Denver District Court, 2nd Judicial District

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**ANDREA WANG** ('01), Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

**MAUREEN WESTON** ('92),

Pepperdine University School of Law

**PHOTO**, LEFT TO RIGHT: Chair-elect Lucy Stark ('98), immediate past-Chair Laura Sturges ('05), and Chair Franz Hardy ('00).

# ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Each month Colorado Law profiles a prestigious alumnus or alumna and asks five questions. Below are a sampling of responses. To read full stories, visit [colorado.edu/law/alumni-of-the-month](http://colorado.edu/law/alumni-of-the-month).



**Zolan ('95)**  
August 2015



**Lien ('82)**  
September 2015



**Anderson ('97)**  
October 2015



**Stavish ('87)**  
November 2015



**Fredrickson ('91)**  
December 2015

*What advice would you give to graduates?*

**"Hard work and effort pays off,** you will be wiser for it, and people will notice your efforts. It is a character trait of all the successful people I know."

**Craig Zolan ('95)**  
Managing Director  
BlackRock, Inc.

*Who was the biggest influencer on your career?*

**"My first real job was with Judge Joseph Bellipanni ('76) in Boulder District Court.** Judge Bellipanni considered both sides of an issue, had a no-nonsense manner, was not afraid to change his mind, and let people be heard. After a year of watching Judge Bellipanni's thoughtful work, I felt ready to start work in a law firm."

**Sabrina Stavish ('87)**  
Shareholder  
Sheridan Ross P.C.

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

**"The things you want, or think you want out of a law degree, may change.** Career paths may change. The value of critical-thinking skills, ability to read, and seeing a variety of possible situations and outcomes will be useful no matter what you do. Professor Ted Fflis, on the first day of securities law, said that if he did nothing else that semester he would teach us how to read. That was priceless."

**Marla Lien ('82)**  
General Counsel  
Regional Transportation Department

*What advice would you give to graduates?*

**"Be open to different areas of law, and don't be afraid to change your mind.** When I enrolled at Colorado Law, I originally planned to focus on corporate law. My interests shifted to environmental law, especially due to the classes taught by David Getches, and labor and employment law, after taking a course taught by Glenn George and Bill Rentfro. In my second year, I clerked for a firm that focused on labor and employment law, and I became hooked on working directly with clients. I could not have predicted my career trajectory at the beginning of law school."

**Todd Fredrickson ('91)**  
Regional Managing Partner  
Fisher & Phillips LLP

*Who was the biggest influencer on your career?*

**"Dennis Garris, who led the M&A office when I joined as a junior attorney, not only taught me the ins and outs of M&A regulation, but he imparted the value of having fun at work.** He also taught me how to be an effective manager by demonstrating how important it is to put people first. In addition, my family has been very influential in terms of being very supportive of my career and encouraging me to take risks."

**Michele Anderson ('97)**  
Associate Director, Division of Corporation Finance  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission



# WHY COLORADO LAW?

Recent alumni from the Colorado Law Promising Start series answer the questions, "Why did you choose Colorado Law?" and "If you were to recommend Colorado Law to a potential student, what would you say?" Read more in the Promising Start series at [colorado.edu/law/promisingstarts](http://colorado.edu/law/promisingstarts).



Telleen ('13)



Lu ('14)



Stiller ('13)



Johnson ('13)



Codevilla ('13)

## Ashley Telleen ('13)

Deputy Public Defender  
Colorado State Public Defender's Office

"I was accepted to several different law schools and I could not be happier that I chose Colorado Law. **The professors are experienced and available.** The school is very dedicated to public service, which is something that I value highly in my legal career. I also found the environment to be more collaborative than the cutthroat nature of a lot of other law schools. That was something that was important to me as well. **Colorado Law provided me a very clear path to employment with one of the best public defender systems in the nation.**"

## Ari Stiller ('13)

Employment Litigation Associate Attorney  
Kingsley & Kingsley

**"I chose Colorado Law after meeting alumni of the law school, as well as professors there, whom I respected and looked up to.** These alumni included attorney Ray Petros ('75), former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez ('76), and then-professor Dean Phil Weiser. I also appreciated Colorado Law's reputation as the best law school in the region, and the view of the Flatirons did not hurt!"

## Leann Lu ('14)

Associate  
BlackRock, Inc.

"My experience at Colorado Law was unparalleled; I met the most adventurous, ambitious students while attending, and there is so much to say about the class of 2014 in particular. The beauty of the Rockies aside, every person I met at Colorado Law had either lived in at least three different places or traveled tremendously and had incredible stories to go along with these experiences. **It added an element of diversity that I would say is lacking in most other law schools; my classmates were both interested and interesting.** If you are going to spend the majority of three years in the library, it helps to spend it with others that have the same desire for work-life balance."

## Marissa Johnson ('13)

Corporate Counsel  
Rocky Mountain PBS

"I'd recommend that students who are interested in Colorado Law visit the campus and see how friendly the students are, even as they are studying hard in the library. Another selling point is the access to other on-campus classes (I took both Hindi and Russian on campus my 3L year) and activities (Silicon Flatirons conferences, ATLAS lectures, international festivals, the rec center). **Inside the law school, the professors are world-class and the school itself is focused on preparing students for any number of career paths, including those outside big law.**"

## Tom Codevilla ('13)

**"Colorado Law has the best alumni network in a growing legal market.** The average law student here is friendlier than you would find at other schools, and the default mentality is not a zero-sum game. Quality of life matters to the professors and potential employers here, which is rare in this profession. Outside of the Bay Area, **Colorado Law provides the best access to a thriving entrepreneurial community with the curriculum to back it up.**"

# IN MEMORIAM

**DONN SPARKS BENNETT ('49)** passed away at the age of 93 on August 20, 2015. Bennett was born on June 19, 1922, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Bennett joined the U.S. Navy in June 1943, where he served as an officer in WWII. After earning his law degree, Bennett continued his service as a judge advocate general officer during the Korean conflict. Bennett went on to practice mineral law in South Dakota.

**HAROLD H. YOKOYAMA ('54)**, a native of Oahu, passed away on May 6, 2015, at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife, Rona, and their four children.

**RONALD STUART LOSER ('58)** passed away on September 5, 2015, following a battle with leukemia. Loser was a Denver native and graduated from South High School in 1951. Following law school graduation, Loser joined the Denver law firm Fuller and Evans. After moving to Littleton, Colorado, Loser was appointed as assistant city attorney for the town of Littleton. He continued in private practice and later worked for Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio P.C. Loser was 81 at the time of his death.

**GLENN R. JONES ('60)**, often referred to as "The Poet of Technology," died at the age of 85. Jones earned an undergraduate degree in economics from Allegheny College and then served in the U.S. Navy. After his military service, Jones attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and later transferred to the University of Colorado to complete his law studies. Jones's entrepreneurial spirit led him to represent cable companies; he eventually built his own (Jones Intercable), which became one of the 10 largest cable television operators in the U.S. He went on to organize public limited partnerships to raise monies to purchase cable franchises. In addition to his contributions to the cable industry, Jones was also an active philanthropist. He served on many boards and was an honorary lifetime trustee of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Notably, Jones was honored by the Library of Congress in 2015 as one of the nation's Living Legends. Jones is survived by his wife, Dianne Eddolls, and their three children.

**JOHN ALLEN THULSON ('60)** died on September 17, 2015, at the age of 83. Born in Denver, Thulson was a longtime resident of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. After graduating high school, Thulson joined the U.S. Navy and served four years during the Korean conflict. Following graduation, Thulson clerked for Judge Jean S. Breitenstein and later took a position as deputy district attorney in Glenwood Springs. Thulson joined the law firm of Delaney and Balcomb in 1965, where he practiced until his retirement. Thulson is survived by his wife, Carol, and three sons.

**PHILIP "PHIL" DOUGLAS GEIL ('67)**, born in St. Louis, Missouri, passed away on May 15, 2015. Geil grew up in Mobile, Alabama, where he graduated from Auburn University in 1956 with a BS in mechanical engineering. Following graduation he entered the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the U.S. Naval Air Special Weapons Facility. Geil later worked in Denver as a propulsion test engineer for the Martin Company after his discharge. In the early 1960s, Geil moved to Boulder to attend law school. Following graduation, Geil went on to practice law in Boulder for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and their three daughters.

**MICHAEL JOHN MCCARTHY ('67)** died at his Sunshine Mesa Ranch on August 3, 2015, following a battle with cancer. McCarthy was born in Montana and spent most of his early years in Nebraska and Kansas. He attended the University of Kansas and completed his undergraduate degree in journalism in 1961, after which he joined the U.S. Army, where he served for three years in military intelligence. Following law school, McCarthy started a law practice in his hometown focusing on criminal litigation. McCarthy was fond of traveling, reading, and a good cigar, and is survived by his wife of 37 years, Kathryn, and their two children.

**WILLIAM "BILL" MARVIN JENSEN ('69)**, a native of Grand Junction, Colorado, died on September 30, 2015. Jensen graduated in 1958 from Boulder High, where he was a member of the wrestling team. He first attended the University of Colorado to obtain a degree in political science, and later returned to CU to earn his law degree. Jensen joined the law firm of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams, where he practiced admiralty and maritime law for 40 years.

**PHILIP RIEDESEL ('69)** passed away on November 25, 2015, following complications from surgery. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Riedesel also lived in Seattle and Montana as a young boy. Riedesel first attended CU-Boulder to complete a degree in civil engineering and returned to CU to earn a law degree. After completing law school, Riedesel became a partner at Gorsuch Kirgis in Denver, where his focus was on construction law litigation. Riedesel is survived by his wife, Virginia Jinx, and their son, Doug.

**WESLEY "WES" W. ICHIDA ('71)** passed away on October 15, 2015. Born on May 6, 1946, in Honolulu, Hawaii, Wesley was 63 years of age at the time of his death. Ichida was a retired attorney and practiced law for 30 years in Honolulu. Ichida is survived by his wife, Patti, and his son, Justin.

**STEVEN MANFORD HALE ('72)**, age 70, died on November 17, 2015. Hale completed his undergraduate degree from Kansas State and went on to complete his CU law degree in 1972. He was an enthusiastic Broncos fan and enjoyed doting over his late wife, Sam. Hale is survived by a sister, brother, and many nieces and nephews.

**ANTHONY F. RENZO ('72)**, an Iowa native, died on November 1, 2015. He attended high school on the south side of Des Moines and went on to study political science at the University of Iowa. Renzo earned his law degree with honors in 1972. Following a clerkship with the chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, Renzo went into private practice. Renzo lived briefly in San Francisco, where he served as the director of the California bar exam and eventually returned to Des Moines in 1992 to focus on civil liberty law. Renzo moved his family to Hanover, New Hampshire, in 2001 to join the faculty at Vermont Law School where he taught appellate advocacy, constitutional litigation, and legal writing. Renzo and his wife retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2013. Renzo is survived by his wife, Tamara, his three children, and five grandchildren.

**BRUCE ALAN LEVIN ('79)** passed away on July 27, 2015, following a courageous battle with cancer. A New Jersey native, Levin moved to Colorado to attend the University of Colorado and made Colorado his home. He received a BA in history in 1976 and later earned his law degree. Levin was 63 years of age and is survived by his wife, Evelyn (Martinez) Levin.

**CLIFF SEIGNEUR ('89)** died on July 26, 2015, following a long battle with multiple sclerosis. After receiving his JD, Seigneur worked as a Colorado assistant state's attorney under Gale Norton.

**CURTIS L. CLAY ('93)** passed away on July 7, 2015. Following graduation, Clay practiced law, joining Lowe, Fell & Skogg, LLC in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Edie, and their two sons.

**PATRICK ALAN BARNETT ('97)** died unexpectedly on September 18, 2015, following an accident while working on his family's property. Barnett graduated from high school in Nebraska and obtained an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska. After law school, Barnett completed a Master of Laws from JAG Law School. Barnett was a retired U.S. army colonel. Barnett's military career included posts in infantry and armor, and as a JAG officer. Most notably, Barnett created the Army National Guard Trial Defense Service. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hiking with his family. Barnett is survived by his wife, Kelly, and their two children, Collin and Bianca.



# CLASS ACTIONS



Madden ('68)



Buescher ('74)



Crow ('74)



Tymkovich ('82)

**1965** The Denver Bar Association presented awards to **David W. Furgason**, **Richard D. Judd**, and **Robert (Bob) N. Miller**, recognizing each attorney's 50 years in practice. Furgason is a director and shareholder at Dufford & Brown, P.C. in Denver. Judd practices law at Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C. in Denver. Miller is a partner at Perkins Coie LLP in Denver and handles matters involving complex commercial litigation and white collar crime.

**1966** Governor Hickenlooper appointed **Phil Walter** to serve on the 9th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission. Walter, a former FBI agent, manages and conducts investigations as owner of Walter & Associates.

**1968** **Joseph M. Fanganello** continues his active law practice into the 48th year. He began at Colorado Law in 1963 and since then has worked in assisting in the development of properties in the Uptown neighborhood of Denver, including many restaurants.

**John W. Madden III** became of counsel at Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC. Madden's practice focuses on real estate litigation.

**1969** The Center for Nonproliferation Studies welcomed **Carlton Stoiber** as a distinguished visiting scholar. Stoiber is a recognized expert and consultant in nuclear law and policy with more than 35 years of experience in the field.

**1970** Allen & Curry P.C. welcomed **L. Jay Labe** as special counsel. Labe concentrates on construction and surety law and has over 40 years of experience defending contract sureties in construction litigation.

**1972** Darling Milligan Horowitz PC welcomed **Bruce Smith** as senior litigation counsel to the firm.

**1974** **Bernie Buescher**, former deputy attorney general and former Colorado secretary of state, joined Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC as of counsel. Buescher is part of the firm's regulatory affairs group and assists clients with energy, health care, and election issues.

**Nancy R. Crow** joined Hutchins & Associates LLC as of counsel. Crow applies tax, trust, and estate law to help her clients protect and preserve their visions, values, and the people and institutions they cherish.

**1975** The Colorado Judicial Institute awarded **The Honorable James S. Casebolt** with the 2015 Distinguished Leadership Award. Following his retirement from the bench, Casebolt joined Judicial Arbiter Group, Inc. in November.

**1976** **Alexander Garlin** retired in 2015 after practicing law for the past 38 years.

**1979** Steenrod, Schwartz & McMinimee, LLP announced the addition of **John J. Silver** to the firm as of counsel. Silver's practice focuses on estate planning and administration.

**1981** **Anne Castle** joined the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Law School. Castle previously served as assistant secretary for water and science in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2009 to 2014. In her new position, Castle will lead water law and policy projects to help create practical solutions to critical water challenges.

Governor John Hickenlooper appointed **Dick Gast** to serve as an attorney and Democrat for the 8th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission. Gast, a shareholder with Gast Johnson & Muffly, PC, focuses his practice on real estate, banking, business, estate planning, and probate.

**1982** On October 1, 2015, **The Honorable Timothy Tymkovich** became chief judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Tymkovich, a third-generation Coloradan appointed to the Tenth Circuit in 2003 by President George W. Bush, is the first chief judge to hail from Colorado in 75 years.

**1983** **James S. Campbell** and Tucker Byrd formed the law firm of Byrd Campbell, P.A. in Winter Park, Florida.

**1984** Longtime friends **Ralph A. Cantafio ('84)** and **Kristopher L. Hammond ('85)** joined to form the law firm Cantafio Hammond PC. The two have been independently practicing law in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, since 1986.

**1987** In January 2016, **Randy Fons** became deputy executive director and legal director for the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center. Fons engages in legal advocacy, education, and public policy reform to transform the lives of abused, neglected, and at-risk children.

**LET US CELEBRATE YOU!** We are proud of our alumni and want to hear about your personal and professional achievements and other important milestones. To appear in Class Actions, please submit your news to [lawalum@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalum@colorado.edu). If your contact information or communication preferences have changed, you can update them at [colorado.edu/law/reconnect](http://colorado.edu/law/reconnect).



Thorson ('89)



Vorndran ('94)



Fisher ('96)



Fisher ('96)

**1988** Harris, Karstaedt, Jamison & Powers, P.C. announced the addition of **Gary Lyn Fleming** to the firm as an associate attorney. Fleming practices in premises liability litigation, insurance coverage litigation, and workers' compensation litigation.

**Michael Gheleta** recently stepped down as acting assistant solicitor for water and power at the U.S. Department of the Interior and has opened a Boulder office for the firm of Somach Simmons & Dunn focusing on water and natural resources law.

Darling Milligan Horowitz PC announced **Bob Horowitz** joined the firm. Horowitz continues to practice commercial litigation, transactions, creditor/lender representation, insurance, and employment law.

Darling Milligan Horowitz PC announced the addition of **Gregg McAuliffe** to the firm. McAuliffe continues his practice emphasizing family law, probate litigation, and commercial real estate.

**Melinda "Mindy" R. Moses** joined Willoughby & Associates LLC as a staff attorney. Her practice includes prenuptial agreements and appeals and domestic relations matters.

**1989** Starting April 2016, **George A. Coddington** will serve a yearlong post as president of the International Association of Arson Investigators, an 8,500-member worldwide association of fire investigators from police and fire departments and private industry, along with engineers, scientists, attorneys, and insurance personnel. The IAAI is dedicated to training, knowledge, professionalism in fire science, and fire investigation. Coddington's involvement in the fire service began during his time at Colorado Law as a volunteer firefighter and investigator for a local department. Coddington works in the Colorado Attorney General's Office prosecuting civil false claims and qui tam cases in Colorado and around the country.

Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano announced **Elvira "Elvie" Strehle-Henson** as managing associate university counsel for the CU-Boulder campus and appointed her to his cabinet. Strehle-Henson has been with the university since 1989 and has worked in several legal positions on both the Denver and Boulder campuses.

**Eric W. Thorson** joined Archer Norris as special counsel. Thorson is an advocate, litigator, and legal advisor at the firm for construction defect claims, site accidents, personal injury, and real estate and business litigation.

**1991** Denver Shareholder **Brian L. Duffy** of Greenberg Traurig LLP was promoted to chief executive officer of the firm. Duffy's practice focuses on trial and appellate work in the class action, employment, energy, commercial contract, and product liability areas, serving as national, regional, and local counsel in high-profile cases.

**1992** Coan Payton & Payne, LLC announced the addition of **Curtis Sears** to the firm as of counsel. Sears's work with the firm, which includes commercial real estate law, real estate ventures, and real estate development, is in addition to his role as a senior instructor at the Leeds School of Business at CU-Boulder, where Sears teaches real estate courses..

**1993** **Peter Ortego**, general counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, was reappointed by Governor John Hickenlooper as an attorney to the judicial performance commission in the 22nd Judicial District.

**1994** **Judy B. Vorndran** joined the tax specialty firm of TaxOps as lead partner of the state and local tax (SALT) practice. Her practice continues to focus on developing efficient SALT management functions, advising businesses in all aspects of state and local tax compliance, including nexus studies, sales/use taxability analysis, transaction due diligence, tax controversy, sales tax automation, state tax abatements, and voluntary disclosure negotiations.

**1996** **Arnoldo Medina Jr.** joined The Valero Companies' legal team in San Antonio, Texas. Medina is senior counsel of environmental & regulatory affairs at Valero, working on downstream refinery environmental and safety matters.

**Eric Fisher** is a founding partner at Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC, a Denver-based trial and litigation boutique. Fisher's litigation practice includes representation of clients in complex commercial matters, class actions, insurance coverage, public pension, oil and gas, qui tam, and appellate matters.

**Wendy Fisher** joined Grease Monkey International, Inc. as general counsel and corporate secretary.





Nielsen ('97)



Diaz ('00)



Stemp ('02)



Unruh ('04)

**1997 Michele Anderson** was promoted to associate director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Corporate Finance. Prior to her promotion, Anderson served as chief of the division's Office of Mergers and Acquisitions. She has been with the SEC since 1998.

Governor John Hickenlooper announced the appointment of **Elizabeth House Moulton Brodsky** to the Boulder County Court bench in the 20th Judicial District.

**Harry Hollines** was named vice president for corporate development and legal affairs at Louisville-based Envysion, Inc., a provider of cloud-based, video-driven business intelligence software. Hollines has more than 18 years of experience in business development, corporate development, and corporate law in the video, Internet, and corporate-training industries.

**Dru Nielsen** and her partner in criminal law, Iris Eytan, started their own law firm, Eytan Nielsen, LLC, on July 1, 2015. The criminal defense firm is located in Cherry Creek, Colorado.

**Paul Weissman** was chosen by Hunt Mortgage Group to lead the firm's affordable housing originations effort as a senior managing director from the Denver office. Weissman, an affordable housing finance executive, brings his experience working with debt and equity agency products to the firm.

**1998** The Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado announced **Heather Carson Perkins** as one of the eight new trustees to the board of elected officers. Perkins is a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP's litigation and advocacy group and serves as the Denver office leader.

**1999 Jesse Mahoney** was named head volleyball coach for the University of Colorado. Mahoney comes to CU from the University of Denver, where he led the volleyball team to back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances.

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association announced the election of **Ross Pulkrabek** to the position of president. Pulkrabek practices business litigation at Jones & Keller, P.C. and has been an active CTLA member for 10 years.

**2000 Amy Diaz** became a shareholder in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP. Diaz, a member of the firm's real estate department, provides strategic counsel on acquisitions and dispositions for commercial development and large-scale commercial leasing. In July, Food Bank of the Rockies welcomed Diaz to its board of directors.

**Richard "Rick" Hosley** became the associate general counsel and vice president of the office of special counsel at DaVita Healthcare Partners Inc. He leads a team of attorneys responsible for internal investigations, government investigations, and litigation, and manages outside counsel.

**2001 Ryan P. Haygood** is one of seven new members of the Colorado College Board of Trustees. Haygood is one of the nation's leading civil rights advocates and the president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

**Brandon Shaffer** became St. Vrain Valley School District's executive director of legal and governmental affairs, community relations, and P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School program). Shaffer will apply his passion for education to his policy work in his new position.

**2002 Stacy D. Mueller** joined Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP in the firm's move to a new office in Denver. Mueller is senior counsel with the firm and focuses on representing employers in employment litigation.

**Albert "Al" W. Stemp** stepped into a new role as partner at Hogan Lovells. His practice covers a wide range of real estate transaction matters, and he represents private equity funds, developers, lenders, borrowers, and hospitality companies.

**2003 Kathleen C. Schroder** joined the natural resources department at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as a partner. Her practice focuses on energy development on federal lands, and she counsels clients on matters regarding oil and gas leasing and agency compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

**2004** The Center for Legal Inclusiveness named **Meshach Rhoades** chair of its board of directors. Rhoades, a partner with Armstrong Teasdale LLP, will serve a one-year term as chair.

**Jennifer Rowe** became the associate director of gift planning at Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Rowe collaborates with donors and professional advisors to secure gifts to support the foundation.

After 10 years at Colorado Law, **Karen Trojanowski** is now the director of talent and coaching for the OnRamp Fellowship, which is a re-entry platform that matches experienced women returning to the workforce with top organizations for six-month and one-year paid positions.

**Lindsay Unruh** joined Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC as an associate. Unruh's practice focuses on civil and commercial litigation.



Reilly ('05)



McReynolds ('07)



Kramer ('08)



Holmes ('09)

**2005 Thomas H. Blomstrom** joined Snell & Wilmer's Denver office as an attorney. Blomstrom will be working on advising insurers on matters involving first party and liability coverage.

**Michael Reilly** co-founded the Cannabis Dispute Resolution Institute. Based in Denver, CDRI offers arbitration and mediation services specifically designed for the legal cannabis and hemp industries.

**Rebecca Savage** joined Keen IO in San Francisco, California, as the company's general counsel, corporate secretary, and operations strategist.

**Beth Van Vurst** joined Fairfield and Woods P.C. as of counsel in the firm's water and real estate department. Van Vurst has specialized in water rights law for 10 years; she advises on associated water quality, real estate, environmental, and tax law matters.

**2006 David F.J. Dye** joined Snell & Wilmer LLP's Denver office as an attorney. Dye focuses his practice on real estate, assisting clients with sales and leases of residential and commercial property.

Hall & Evans LLC announced the addition of **Keith M. Goman** as a litigation member to the firm. Goman represents transportation companies, public servants, and other professionals in all phases of litigation.

**Nicholas Kant**, deputy attorney general for the state of New Jersey, in its affirmative civil enforcement practice group, secured settlements for the state in some notable matters in 2015, including a \$2 million settlement with Accutest Laboratories, which was the largest False Claims Act settlement in New Jersey history; a settlement with for-profit higher education company EDMC resolving fraud allegations; and a multi-state settlement resolving allegations that Stericycle, Inc. committed federal and state False Claims Act violations.

Jessica Rosenworcel, commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, announced the promotion of **Travis Litman** to senior legal advisor.

**Josh W. Mack** made partner at Goldman, Robbins, Nicholson & Mack P.C. He continues to focus on litigation in state and federal courts, probate, criminal defense, and a variety of real property transactions.

**Laurie J. Rust** made partner at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP in the employment law and commercial litigation groups. Rust has experience in civil litigation and employment advice on accommodations for disabilities, compliance issues, and termination and hiring practices.

The city of Longmont welcomed **Teresa Tate** as an assistant city attorney.

**2007 Governor Hickenlooper** appointed **Gail B. Goodman** to serve on the 8th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission. Goodman is a family law attorney in Fort Collins, Colorado, at Liggett & Johnson, P.C.

**Maxine Martin McReynolds**, TJ McReynolds, and son, Xabi, welcomed a baby girl, Tamsin Jennifer, on July 25, 2015. McReynolds was admitted to the New Mexico bar in December 2015. She resides in Santa Fe, but remains an associate with Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP in the environmental, health, and safety practice group.

Frascona, Joiner, Goodman & Greenstein, P.C. announced **Michael A. Smeenk** as a shareholder with the firm. Smeenk practices in the areas of real estate, estate planning, and estate administration.

**Alaina Stedillie** joined Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C.'s Casper, Wyoming, office. Stedillie's practice emphasizes commercial and complex civil litigation involving business entities of various sizes.

**Laurie Stirman** joined the Loveland, Colorado, City Attorney's Office as assistant city attorney.

**2008 Hall & Evans, LLC** promoted **Conor P. Boyle** to special counsel. Boyle assists clients with products liability, construction defect, insurance, civil rights, and employment actions.

**Courtney B. Kramer** has been named partner at Senter Goldfarb & Rice, LLC. Kramer's practice emphasizes the representation of school districts, counties, municipalities, and other public entities, as well as associated officials and employees, at both the state and federal levels. Kramer was selected as a 2016 Rising Star, a recognition for Colorado attorneys who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Hall & Evans, LLC promoted **Cash K. Parker** to special counsel. Parker focuses on litigation matters with emphasis on transport litigation.

**Stefanie L. Sommers** joined Dividend Capital Group as senior real estate counsel.





Reid ('10)



Johnson ('13) and Johnson ('14)



Wasserman ('13)



Hester ('14)

**2008 Lisa Yellow Eagle** took an attorney position with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Water Rights Unit. Charged with securing and protecting the nation's water rights, the unit represents the nation's interests in litigation in state and federal courts, including five general stream adjudications. Currently, the unit is engaged in work to implement the settlement of the nation's claims to the San Juan River in New Mexico, which was ratified by Congress in 2010, and to reach a negotiated settlement of the nation's claims in the Lower Basin of the Colorado River, including the Little Colorado River in Arizona and the San Juan River in Utah.

**2009 Tyrone Glover** and his wife, Kate, welcomed their new son, Hendrix Zachary Glover, to their family in October.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP promoted **Emily Holmes** to of counsel. Holmes is a certified privacy and data security practitioner and frequently drafts and negotiates intellectual property agreements and advises on advertising and promotional materials.

**2010** Sara and **Blake E. Reid** welcomed their son, Jonas Reid, into the world on July 24, 2015. Reid is an assistant clinical professor for the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic at Colorado Law.

**Erik Schuessler** took an associate position with Burns, Figa & Will, P.C. Schuessler's practice focuses on commercial litigation.

**2011** Fox Rothschild LLP welcomed **Danielle T. Felder** as an associate. Felder represents clients in complex litigation matters in state and federal courts, including commercial disputes as well as real estate, foreclosure, and zoning matters.

Dickinson Wright PLLC announced that **Anjali D. Webster** received the State Bar of Nevada's 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. She works in the firm's Reno office focusing on complex litigation and appeals. Webster was honored for her work in support of Nevada's court of appeals 2014 ballot initiative, including serving as pro bono counsel on a bipartisan political action committee, Nevadans for a Court of Appeals.

**2012 Sara J. Bradford** joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as an associate. Bradford is part of the firm's engineering and software team in the intellectual property department.

Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell welcomed **Laura J. McNabb** to the firm as an associate. McNabb works with a team that focuses on complex commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels.

**Brent Owen** joined Squire Patton Boggs as an associate. Owen is a part of the Denver office's environmental, health, and safety practice group.

**2013** Sherman & Howard LLC welcomed **Joseph S. Cash II** as an associate to the firm. Cash joined the family law practice group and represents clients in domestic relations areas such as financial and estate cases.

**Jamie M. Jackson** joined Haynes and Boone, LLP as an associate in the firm's Denver office. Jackson's transactional practice focuses on energy and infrastructure project development, corporate transactions, and securities law matters.

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP welcomed **Anne Lee** to the Denver firm as an associate. Lee focuses on complex intellectual property matters such as patent litigation.

**Adria Robinson** joined Higgins, Hopkins, McLain & Roswell, LLC as an associate attorney. Robinson's practice focuses on products liability, defending construction defects, and premises liability cases.

**Kayla C. Smith** joined the Denver office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP as an associate in the energy, environment, and natural resources group.

Childs McCune welcomed **Ryan Tamm** to the firm. Tamm represents business professionals in liability matters in state and federal court.

Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP welcomed **Nathaniel Wallshein** as a litigation associate. Wallshein focuses on complex commercial litigation, probate litigation, and appeals.

**Emily L. Wasserman**, a trial lawyer at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, raced her first Ironman in August (Ironman Boulder). Wasserman finished third in her age group, qualifying her for the Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, which she completed in October.

**2013** **Myles S. Johnson** ('13) and **Genet T. Johnson** ('14) are proud to  
**2014** announce the opening of their law firm, Johnson Law Group, LLC in Denver. Their practice focuses on family law and employment litigation. In September, the couple celebrated their elopement with friends and family in Denver.

**2014** **Jaclyn Freeman Hester** married Anders Hester at TenMile Station in Breckenridge, Colorado, on August 8, 2015, surrounded by friends, family, and their sweet dog, Nola.

# THE RULE OF 3: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, WORK HARD, TAKE RISKS

By Michelle Lucero ('89)

The words still echo in my mind—words from whom I will now refer to as a “small-thinking” high school teacher: “You know Michelle, your best bet for a future career and college degree will most likely be as a teacher, not a doctor.” Whaaattt???

I didn't know whether to be angry that she insulted the teaching profession—the very profession that had given her a career!—by proposing teaching to me as a fallback, easier career option than that of a physician. Or was I upset that somehow she ignored the fact that I was in line to be the valedictorian of my class and had been offered scholarships from Boston College, Notre Dame, and Rockhurst College (which I would ultimately attend)? These were impressive feats for a Hispanic kid from Ignacio, Colorado (population a whopping 1,000), in a class of 67 graduates. Further, it was well known that a classmate and I had passed all of our science/biology classes so quickly that our high school science teacher had partnered with local colleges since our junior year to provide us curriculum. No, I decided not to get upset. I decided at that moment and all similar moments thereafter that when someone didn't believe in me or my career path, I would respond by working even harder to succeed.

Nice little story, but why do I start with it in a discussion of expanding career paths? Pure and simple. Career evolution has three distinct components: belief in yourself and your future, hard work, and risk-taking. That small-minded teacher would be a force in pushing me to believe in myself, especially when the people around me, who should have believed in me the most, didn't.

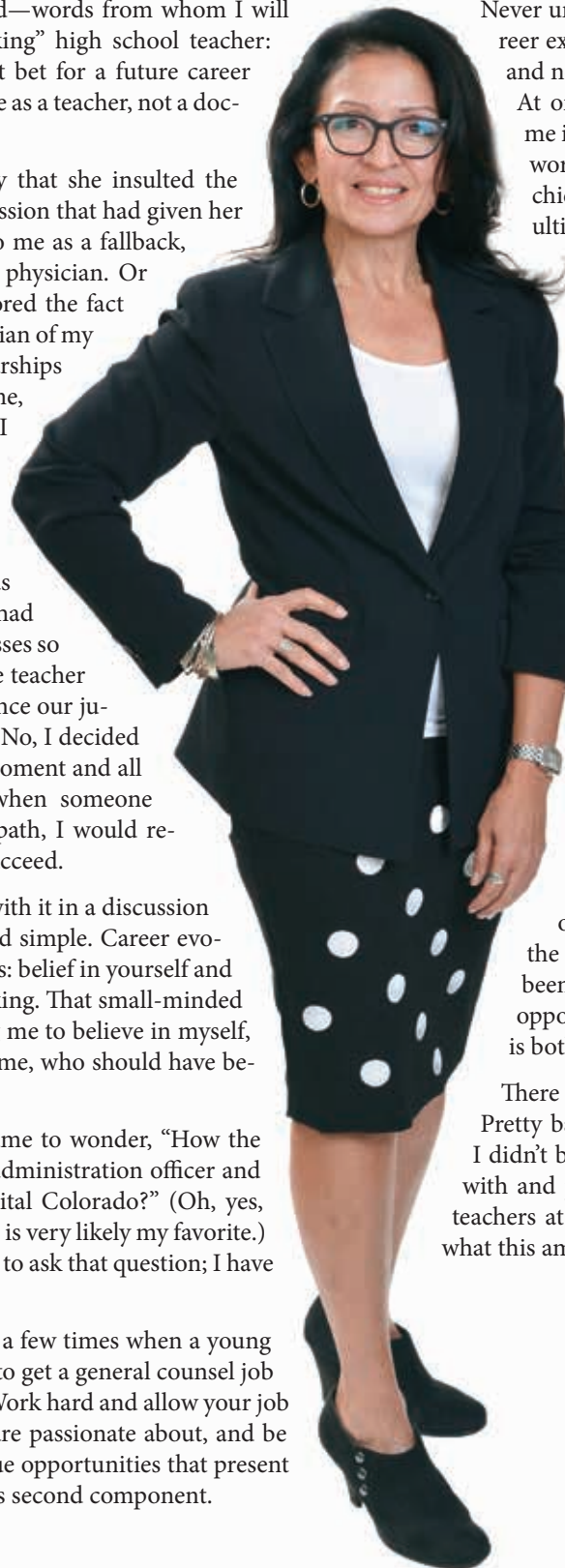
All you need to do is read my resume to wonder, “How the heck did you land the job as chief administration officer and general counsel of Children's Hospital Colorado?” (Oh, yes, and chief flash mob officer. That role is very likely my favorite.) Believe me, you wouldn't be the first to ask that question; I have been known to wonder it myself.

With that in mind, there have been a few times when a young lawyer asks, “What do I need to do to get a general counsel job like yours?” My answer is always, “Work hard and allow your job choices to be guided by what you are passionate about, and be prepared to take advantage of unique opportunities that present themselves.” Work hard—evolution's second component.


Never underestimate the power and reward of hard work. Career expansion means doing something different, enhanced, and new—and with that comes new learning opportunities. At one point in my career, I felt my journey would take me into the world of a chief human resources officer. Hard work and a little bit of expertise landed me in an interim chief human resources officer role for a couple of years. I ultimately returned to the path of seeking a general counsel position, but there is no doubt that hard work allowed me to have this alternative opportunity. That same hard work and interim role helped position me for other opportunities, including my current role with Children's.

So, what about that risk-taking? There have been several instances in my career that I can point to as risk-taking moments—those that by design or wonderful accident allowed me to expand my career. My role as interim chief of HR was one of these instances; another was accepting the appointment of deputy city attorney (and ultimately acting city attorney) under then-Mayor John Hickenlooper. Why was this risky? Imagine taking a 40 percent pay cut, serving in the largest management role you have ever held, while being the breadwinner of your family with three school-age kids. And did I mention it's an appointed position? So, once the mayor is out (if he decides to keep you on his team his entire term), you are out. That was one of the riskiest career moves I ever made. It was also one of the best and most fulfilling jobs I ever held. Further, the personal and business relationships I developed have been phenomenal and have opened up numerous other opportunities. Yes, expansion involves risk-taking, which is both necessary and highly rewarding.

There you have it—my three “rules” to career expansion. Pretty basic, but at least in my case, tried and true. And no, I didn't become a teacher or a physician. But I do get to work with and play with some of the most amazing physicians and teachers at Children's Hospital Colorado. And hey, who knows what this amazing dream job could evolve into. . . .







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"In 2013, I set up a scholarship for law students interested in taxation. I donate \$2,500 each year, which is matched by my employer. In 2017, there will be \$25,000 in the fund, which is enough to establish a permanent endowment. This is a great way for me to focus my Colorado Law support to exactly where I want it to go."

**Michael R. Savage ('96)**

*Senior Vice President, Private Client Advisor  
U.S. Trust*

For more information about how you can establish a personal endowment to support Colorado Law, please contact

**Mary Beth Searles**

Assistant Dean for Development  
303.492.1215  
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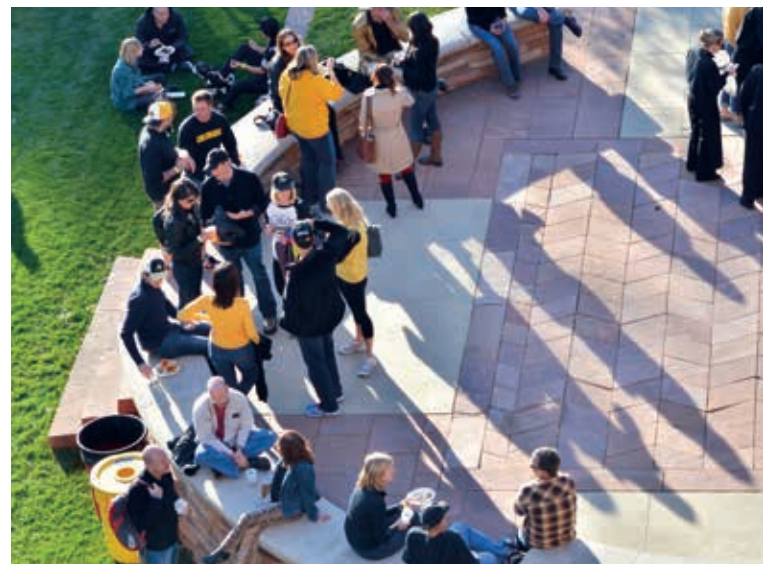
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## DEAN WEISER FAREWELL CELEBRATION

June 9, 2016, 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Gilbert Goldstein Courtyard, Wolf Law

Join the Colorado Law community as we celebrate Dean Weiser's achievements during his five years as dean and wish him well as he returns to the Colorado Law faculty.



## HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND

October 14-15, 2016  
[colorado.edu/law/homecoming](http://colorado.edu/law/homecoming)

Classes celebrating their reunions in 2016:  
1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986,  
1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011

To volunteer to help with your class reunion, please contact Mary Beth Searles at 303.492.1215 or [marybeth.searles@colorado.edu](mailto:marybeth.searles@colorado.edu).