

# AMICUS

University of Colorado Law School

Spring 2018



**LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

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## LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

DEAN S. JAMES ANAYA

In fulfilling our mission of educating and training future lawyers, at Colorado Law we are aware that learning happens in many ways. As always, we provide a solid foundation in the fundamentals of law and vigorous theoretical inquiry, while our students also gain deep contextual understanding of specific areas of law and a range of practical legal skills. The case method and teaching by Socratic dialogue are ways of learning doctrine and critical analysis—thinking like a lawyer. Learning also through action provides important opportunities to coalesce ideas through experiences that are savored for a lifetime.

To that end, the theme of this issue of *Amicus* is Learning Beyond the Classroom, a theme that captures an important part of a Colorado Law education. Often called “experiential learning,” opportunities beyond traditional classroom learning abound at Colorado Law. These include clinics, externships, internships, and the public service pledge program, as well as moot court, mock trial, and transactional competitions. In addition, 97 percent of our students work as clerks or interns in legal jobs in the summer. Hands-on training and practice-based experiences are invaluable to our students and their future employers.

Our long history of experience-based training spans our legacy and is continued in our clinics. Our Legal Aid Clinic, one of the first in the nation, launched in 1948 after the law school, thanks to the efforts of Professor **Clyde Martz**, obtained approval from the Colorado Supreme Court to authorize students to practice law under the

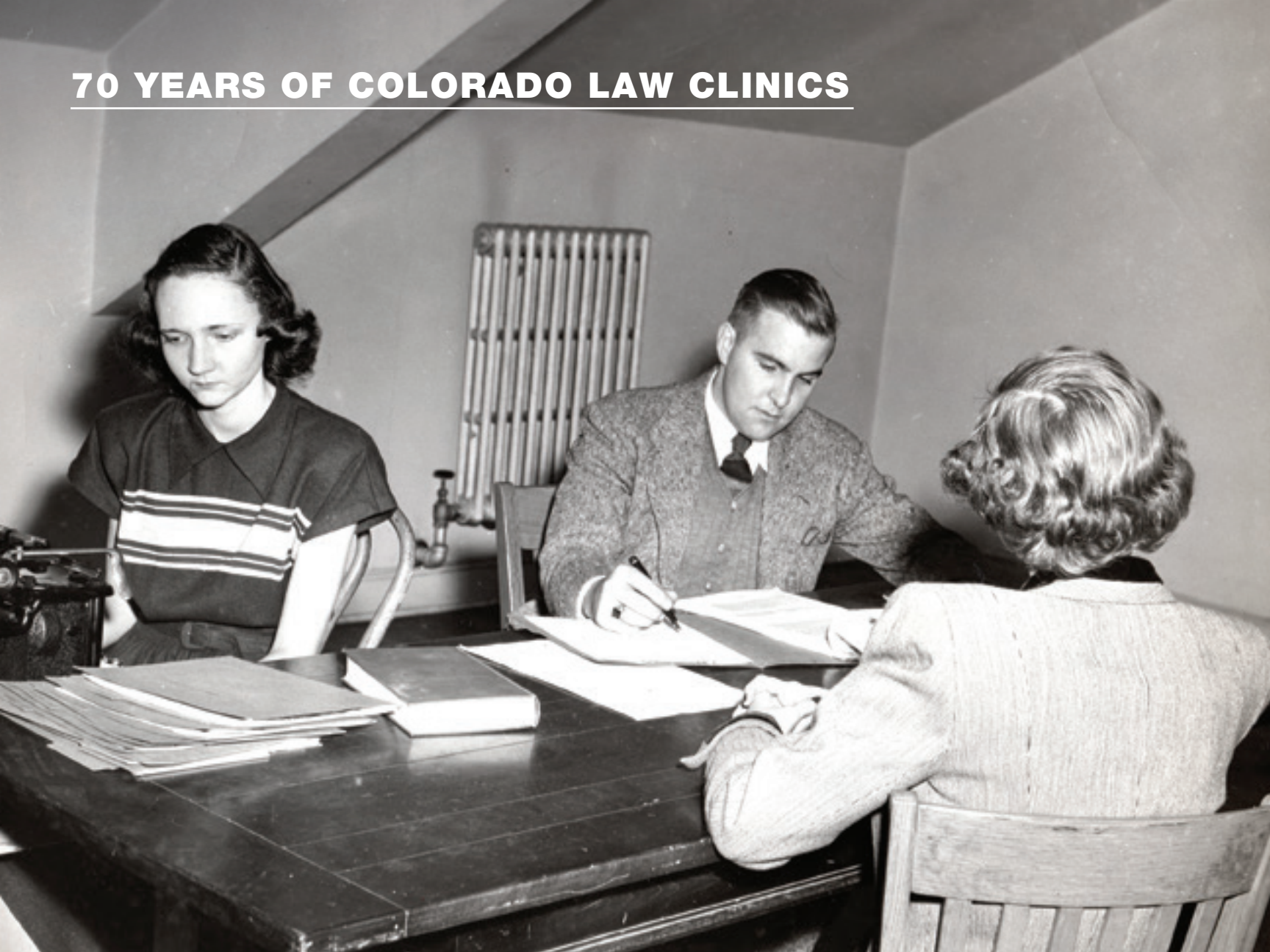
Student Practice Rule. In the past 70 years we have grown to nine clinics that each year provide free legal services to between 600 and 700 clients in our community. Our robust offerings at Colorado Law allow any student who wants to take a clinic to do so. We are dedicated to offering the education and skills our students need to succeed as legal professionals in the modern world.

Whether or not you participated in a clinic, I encourage you to join us at the law school on May 24, 2018, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of our clinics. This gathering will highlight the clinics’ accomplishments over the year, and provide an opportunity to reconnect with classmates and friends.

Please know I always welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas, as well as your questions and concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at 303-492-3084 and [lawdean@colorado.edu](mailto:lawdean@colorado.edu).



## 70 YEARS OF COLORADO LAW CLINICS



When 16-year-old Kaylee learned that her infant son, Dreyden, was born with a heart defect, fighting for custody of him was the last thing on her mind.

But because she was in foster care herself, the state opened a dependency and neglect action against her with the goal of transferring legal custody of Dreyden to the Department of Social Services. The case was assigned to the Juvenile and Family Law Clinic, where Kaylee worked with Clinical Professor **Colene Robinson**, along with law students **Jeremiah Jones** ('18) and **John Stenger** ('19), to fight for custody of Dreyden.

"It was a really stressful time having an infant with a heart issue and going through a custody battle," Kaylee said. "Colene and the law students in the clinic really had my back. They went above and beyond to gather information to support my case and made sure I understood what was happening along the way."

Under Professor Robinson's guidance, the student attorneys prepared motions to contest Dreyden's removal from Kaylee's custody at the first court hearing.

The clinic worked closely with Kaylee's guardian ad litem, **Deborah Moguillansky** ('12), to demonstrate that Kaylee was a responsible and capable parent. Due in large part to the passion, energy, and swift action taken by the clinic's student attorneys, they were able to reach a resolution in the case after three months. Kaylee was granted custody.

"I am so grateful for what the clinic has done for me," Kaylee said. "I don't know where my life would be right now if I didn't have custody of my son."

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Clinical Education Program at the University of Colorado Law School.

When the Legal Aid Clinic at Colorado Law opened its doors in 1948, students learned basic criminal practice skills and represented clients in cases before municipal and county courts in Boulder County. Since then, the clinical program has grown to include nine specialized clinics, all of which address critical community needs.

The clinical program is rooted in humble beginnings. In 1948, the Colorado Supreme Court approved the law school's request, advanced by Professor **Clyde O. Martz**, for students to practice law under a special student practice rule (now C.R.C.P. 205.7). With a \$750 budget, the Legal Aid Clinic began as an extracurricular activity, with no academic credit granted for participation.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the clinical program expanded its focus areas to include legal research, public welfare, public defense, and aiding local attorneys in trial cases. It also hired its first full-time faculty members. In 1963, Colorado Law added its second clinic, the Assigned Counsel Program, through which students participated in criminal defense work in state and federal courts. At the time, Colorado Law clinics were among only a few in the nation in which students actually took part in trials, ranging from drug cases to assisting court-appointed attorneys representing indigent defendants accused of federal crimes. Students in the Assigned Counsel Program were also among the first law students to sign pleadings to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Today, more than 120 second- and third-year law students annually take a clinic, where they are closely supervised by nine faculty members, receive academic credit, attend formal classes, and work on real cases and projects. Through the more than 400 cases and projects worked on each year, the clinical program is able to provide tens of thousands of dollars in free legal services each year to disadvantaged people who would not have been able to afford representation.

**Deborah Cantrell**, professor and director of the clinical program, said one of the pillars of clinical education at Colorado Law is the trust and confidence the clinical program instills in students early on. "We are asking students to step up as lead attorneys early in their careers. We believe in our students' ability to help those in need while they are still in law school," Cantrell said. "We think the clinical program helps students start to learn what it takes to lead flourishing lives as lawyers."

Clinics provide a valuable space for students to integrate the theoretical aspects of law with the pragmatic challenges of the daily work of a lawyer. Graduates often cite their work on actual cases and getting to know real clients as one of the most significant experiences in law school.

"The memory from law school that sticks out to me as the most meaningful was when I joined a legal clinic and was able to help an Ethiopian man receive a grant of asylum as a refugee on account of the torture he had experienced in his home country," said **Crisanta Duran** ('05), who is now a state legislator. "When our client was granted asylum, I was left with an even stronger feeling of how

grateful I am to be an American and to have the tools to help people in a meaningful way."

**Xakema Henderson** ('14) recalled her experience as a student attorney in the Juvenile Law Clinic with Professor Robinson as the most useful of law school.

"The skills I gained and developed in clinic have transferred to my day-to-day practice," she said. "I learned everything from the basic skill of how to keep a case organized, to the more judgment-based skill of how to think through how present decisions may affect long-term outcomes. I also learned what it means to take ownership of a case and client, how to manage expectations for the client and other stakeholders, how to advocate within the parameters of ethical conflicts, and perhaps most importantly, how to trust myself as an advocate and counselor. I don't think there was any experience better than being a student attorney."

While each clinic operates in a different area of law, they share the same relentless drive to serve the public. From providing pro bono transactional legal services for entrepreneurs and small businesses in Colorado, to representing American Indian tribes in disputes over preservation of Native land, to crafting policy proposals related to technology and sustainable community development, the clinics work on a wide range of issues across the state.

Even with a 70-year track record, the clinical program is not running out of steam. As the legal needs of community members and groups evolve, the program will continue to innovate to meet the needs of its constituents in new and unique ways, Cantrell said.

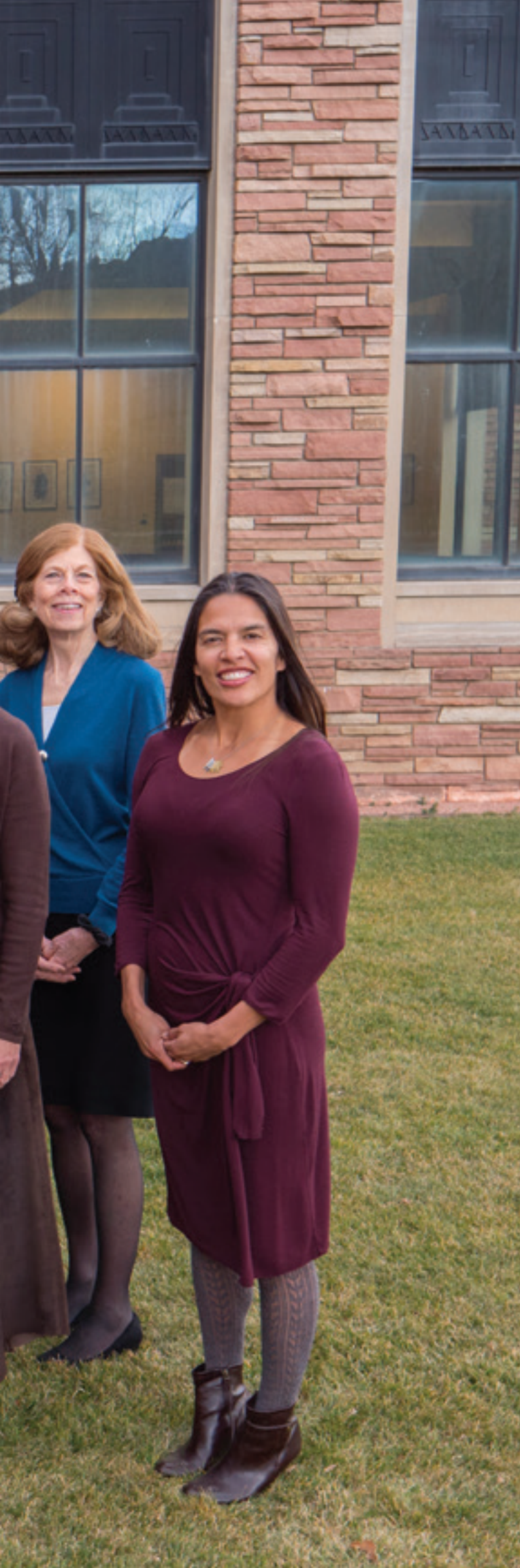
Colorado Law launched its first new clinic in a decade in August 2016. The Sustainable Community Development Clinic assists community organizations on economic development projects aimed at sustainable community development, social justice, and the reduction of poverty. While much of its work has focused on housing, public health, and food security projects around Boulder County, the clinic has also expanded its reach to southern Colorado, where student attorneys are helping to revitalize a community food hub alongside a cooperative of farmers.

Working beside the clinics is the Korey Wise Innocence Project, which was expanded and renamed in 2015 following a gift from Korey Wise, who was exonerated in a high-profile case in which five New York City teenagers were wrongly convicted. The gift funded the hiring of a full-time program director and allows students to take on more investigative work from those seeking help with appeals.

"I think one of the reasons that the clinical program at Colorado Law really stands out is the robust range of lawyering experiences available to students," Cantrell said. "Students can experience litigation in state, federal, and tribal courts; criminal and civil cases; and alternative dispute resolution. Students can see transactional work that runs from traditional business entities like LLCs to more unique entities like cooperatives. Students can choose federal, state, or local policymaking. They can also become community organizers. Not many law schools offer all that we do."



L-R: Ann England, Carrie Armknecht, Carla Fredericks, Brad Bernthal, Colene Robinson, Norm Aaronson, Blake Reid, Deborah Cantrell, Karin Sheldon, Violeta Chapin



## DURING THE PAST YEAR



American Indian Law Clinic, Professor **Carla Fredericks**—Represented the Standing Rock Sioux tribe to address issues raised by the Dakota Access pipeline.



Civil Practice Clinic, Professor **Norm Aaronson**—Obtained a significant settlement for a physically disabled woman unable to work and advanced a case for a 15-year-old Nigerian immigrant seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile status.



Criminal Defense Clinic, Professor **Ann England**—Advised newly arrested clients at jails across Boulder County as the only organization providing free criminal defense services for misdemeanor crimes in the county.



Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic, Professor **Violeta Chapin**—Organized a series of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal workshops to assist undocumented college students enrolled at colleges and universities across Colorado, and provided ongoing support to immigrants on campus. Read more on page 10.



Entrepreneurial Law Clinic, Professor **Brad Bernthal**—Helped Boulder toy company Traxart file a patent for its idea. Read more on page 9.



Juvenile and Family Law Clinic, Professor **Colene Robinson**—Assisted parents caught in the opioid epidemic, defended teenagers in delinquency cases, and filed custody actions for low-income mothers.



Getches-Green Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic, Professor **Karin Sheldon** (interim)—Protected and restored populations of endangered sea turtles by researching the direct impacts of climate change on the turtles' nesting beaches on the Texas coast.



Sustainable Community Development Clinic, Professor **Deborah Cantrell**—Worked with resident owners in mobile home communities in Boulder to protect their interests and empower them with a sense of security.



Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic, Professor **Blake Reid**—Advocated to make copyrighted works more accessible to people with disabilities and protect security researchers investigating vulnerabilities in election security by filing petitions with the U.S. Copyright Office for various exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

# REFLECTIONS FROM CLINIC STUDENTS



## American Indian Law Clinic

“My clinic experience was valuable because it brought me out of the classroom and put me face-to-face with real clients. I now have context to give to my classroom experience.

Classroom discussions often center on the theoretical and leave aside the considerations that are necessary when working with real clients. While the classroom teaches you how to think about the law, the clinic teaches you how to think about your client. In that sense, clinics have been, for me, the most effective means of teaching real advocacy.”

**Eric Dude** (’19)



## Civil Practice Clinic

“Clinic has been a great opportunity to learn practical lawyering skills while helping people in need. Most of my cases are family law or asylum, and it has been eye-opening to learn about these areas of the law while working with kind, hard-working clients who are seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Asylum cases are especially compelling—hearing my clients’ experiences of fleeing persecution in their home countries where they were detained and tortured for their political beliefs is heartbreaking. Nevertheless, I am moved and inspired by their resilience and determination, which makes working on their cases my privilege and pleasure.”

**Helen Oh** (’19)



## Criminal Defense Clinic

“In the Criminal Defense Clinic, I represented the downtrodden. We challenged suspect police conduct, freed people from jail, went to trial, and defended the Constitution. The clinic taught me more than how to argue motions before a judge or tell my client’s story to the jury. It taught me how to fight for my client’s dignity. I came to CU to become a public defender. Working with Clinical Professor **Ann England** was part of this becoming true, and I was just hired by the Colorado Public Defender! The clinic gave me the skills essential to land the job of my dreams.”

**Cameron Bedard** (’18)



## Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic

“Because of the clinic, I know that Colorado Law has provided me the tools necessary to be an effective legal advocate. Most notable is Colorado Law’s emphasis on critical thinking. With little legal experience, I was overwhelmed by the unfamiliar scope and substance of the assigned clinic project.

Fortunately—as emphasized during 1L year—critical thinking overcame my lack of experience. Beyond getting me past a thought of ineptitude, critical thinking allowed me to offer our client a novel, and viable, solution to the legal problem presented to us.”

**Jordan Vogel** (’19)



## Sustainable Community Development Clinic

“Because of the clinic I am much more confident in a number of different lawyering competencies. I feel comfortable starting a project from a blank slate, researching complex legal issues on my own, and speaking up at a city council or other meeting, even around people who have more experience than me. Clinic has exposed me to a number of different settings where ‘lawyering’ occurs in the community. I filed a Colorado Open Records Act request, drafted legally binding contracts, practiced my negotiation skills, spoke at a local government public meeting, and so much more.”

**Katie Saunders** (’19)



## Technology Law & Policy Clinic

“I now feel more empowered to explore and practice in areas of law I was unfamiliar with when I started law school. I learned the nuances of intellectual property and privacy law through clinic projects and seminar discussions with my peers on current events. After my experiences in clinic, I feel more confident in my professional and legal abilities to tackle unfamiliar or difficult assignments.”

**Susan Miller** (’19)



Top: Tech Law & Policy Clinic students with Professor **Blake Reid**

Bottom (L-R): Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic students with Professor **Karin Sheldon**  
Clinical students being sworn in by a local judge before they begin meeting with and representing clients.



### Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic

"My clinic experience was valuable to me because I was able to help clients in need at a pivotal moment in their lives. Not only was I able to work with underprivileged clients, but I was able to make a difference and actually help them. I learned about the difficulties in immigration law and the necessity for competent representation. Ultimately, my experience was valuable because it gave me an idea of what I can expect to see as an attorney. The clinic further strengthened my interest in representing underprivileged clients to the best of my ability."

**Eddie Ramírez** ('19)



### Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

"Taking a clinic has synthesized many ideas from other law school courses into one practical application experience. The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic's classroom component has re-emphasized the law learned in other courses. These materials provide a great review of what I have learned so far, supplement concepts that I am concurrently learning, and preview courses I have yet to complete. By combining multiple courses into a single, real-world experience, law school theory is more easily digested, and the transition from law student to practicing attorney is more approachable."

**Rachel Hammond** ('19)




### Juvenile and Family Law Clinic

"Because of the clinic I have a much better idea of what my life will be like after law school, and it has given me the opportunity to find a passion I didn't know was in me. I never thought that I would want to go into family law, but now I know that I love the interactions with the clients and other lawyers, the time at the courthouse, and the ability to not be stuck in an office all day. The clinic has shown me that I don't need to follow the typical path of being an associate doing research for others, but that I can start being an asset to the world right away."

**Jeremiah Jones** ('18)

# PROPELLER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

BY JUDITH LABUDA ('92)



Norm Aaronson is an emeritus professor who retired in 2011. He continues to work part-time at Colorado Law

Clinical Professor Emeritus **Norm Aaronson** celebrates 39 years with Colorado Law's clinics.

It was with trepidation that I first stepped into Professor **Norm Aaronson's** Legal Aid class in the summer of 1990 at Colorado Law. I was embarking on a summer course with a small group of students I hardly knew and a professor with whom I had not yet interacted, knowing our entire summer would be spent representing real clients whose lives would be impacted by the quality of our representation. But, like so many students who came to Norm's clinic before and after me, I left with a newfound passion for my chosen career, instilled by a selfless man who has spent his entire life and legal career in public service while ensuring the rights of the underrepresented. I also left the clinic having created a lifelong friendship with Norm.

That summer, we represented individuals of the Cuban Mariel boatlift who had served their sentences but were detained in U.S. federal prisons beyond their release dates due to their lack of constitutional rights and protections. Several of us were successful in our efforts to obtain release dates for our clients—not due to our skill or advocacy but due to Norm's constant dedication, oversight, patience, and long hours of work in crafting our amateur work product into artful legal pleadings.

During the last 39 years, the past six as a professor emeritus, Norm has continued the work he has loved at Colorado Law. He has provided high-quality representation for immigration/asylum clients, as well as clients going through dissolution of marriages and those with disabilities. He has focused his work over the last 10 years on immigration asylum cases, including special immigrant juvenile cases, which he calls “emotionally satisfying, as the clients are so vulnerable and so appreciative.”

This year, Norm celebrates his 39th anniversary with the Colorado Law legal clinics, and the Boulder legal community celebrates his 39 years of passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to the sometimes challenging and often amusing task of training young lawyers in the procedure, skill, and compassion of practicing law. I recall that his coaching of us, as we would nervously make our first court appearances, would include, “Don't forget to say your name when you go to the podium.” Of course, I forgot.

Since joining Colorado Law in 1979, Norm has taken under his wing inexperienced, eager law students whom he has prodded, guided, and challenged, and on whom he has left an indelible mark. His training of thousands of lawyers on the value of public service has impacted and improved the lives of many thousands of litigants.

He has remained with Colorado Law for all of these years because, in his words, he loves “training young lawyers who go on to contribute to the community. Knowing I have played a small part in that is rewarding.” He has embraced his students, talking of them more like a proud parent than just a professor, and beaming as he speaks of their growth and progression from the beginning of the year to the end of the year, and how so many of them have become friends.

Norm started his public service career as a young Peace Corps volunteer in Iran before he began working for Legal Aid Services in rural Colorado. A few years ago, I met for lunch with Norm and a law school classmate whom I had first met in that clinic back in 1990. My classmate, who joined the Peace Corps and became an international relief worker after law school, shared with Norm that it was Norm's dedication to public service, and his patience and enthusiasm with all of us in the clinic, that propelled her to live a life of public service.

His inspiration to so many can be seen in the words of his former colleague, the Honorable **Carol Glowinsky**, who said, “When I joined the clinical faculty at Colorado Law in 1983, Norm quickly became my mentor and close friend. Thirty-five years later, he continues to tell me, with the same enthusiasm, about his wonderful new batch of students and about the challenging asylum cases he and his students have won. What's truly wonderful is Norm. He has seemingly unlimited passion for helping the most vulnerable of populations and for inspiring students. He personifies the best of the legal profession.”


Few people have had an impact on so many lives as Norm has. He has done so quietly and behind the scenes, never seeking glory, recognition, or honor. Today, with respect and admiration, we honor this treasured member of our legal community, Norm Aaronson, one of the true unsung heroes of our profession.

*The Honorable Judith LaBuda is a district court judge in the 20th Judicial District, which serves Boulder County.*

# A PATENT FOR A STARTUP

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY MAKENZI GALVAN ('19)



L-R: (back row) Russell Wagstaff ('18), Susan Crouse, Hunter Reid, Trevor Bervik ('19), Rachel Hammond ('19), Karyn Kesselring ('18), Ben Fernandez ('04); (front row): Taylor Scott, Danny Sherwinter ('07)

Susan Crouse, founder of the Boulder toy company Traxart, knew her vision for a new product. But she needed patent help along the way. Crouse turned to the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic (ELC) at Colorado Law for assistance. With the help of ELC student attorneys, Traxart filed a provisional patent application.

Intellectual property counseling is an area of need in the Front Range startup community. Colorado Law's ELC joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Law School Clinic Certification Program five years ago. Area practitioners **Ben Fernandez** ('04) and **Danny Sherwinter** ('07) serve as advisors for the ELC and provide critical support for the clinic's patent work.

Crouse was inspired by Boulder-based robotic toy startup Sphero. Crouse's vision was to allow users to construct obstacle courses for smart toys—like Sphero's products—that are operated by internet-connected devices. The obstacle courses facilitate interaction with Sphero robots and similar smart toys. The modular design of the toy allows for many different uses, including competitive games. Crouse enlisted the help of her son, University of Colorado engineering graduate Adam Kemp, and three of his fellow

engineers to develop a prototype of their first product, Kinazium. The ELC's 2016–17 patent team prepared and filed a provisional patent on Traxart's behalf. The ELC's 2017–18 patent team—**Trevor Bervik** ('19), **Rachel Hammond** ('19), **Karyn Kesselring** ('18), and **Russell Wagstaff** ('18)—are now working to file a nonprovisional patent application. When the patent is granted, Traxart plans to license its intellectual property to a toy manufacturer. "The team continues to exceed our expectations and has an impressive depth of understanding about patent law and engineering concepts," Crouse said.

Under the USPTO's patent program, the ELC drafts and files patent applications. Clients pay only for filing fees. This allows the ELC to provide high-value assistance for clients at a stage at which their company is unable to cover market-level costs associated with patent prosecution.

Clients like Traxart are starting to see the fruit of the ELC's labors. Over the past year, the ELC has secured three granted patents on behalf of its clients with at least two additional patents expected to be granted in the near future.

Learn more about the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic at [colorado.edu/law/elc](https://colorado.edu/law/elc).

# ALL IN ON DACA

BY TRAVIS WEINER ('18)

When reports began in fall 2017 that President Donald Trump was considering ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that had begun under President Barack Obama, Associate Clinical Professor **Violeta Chapin** faced some tough choices regarding the structure of the Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic at Colorado Law that semester.

I knew that in previous years, students in the clinic often worked on the criminal cases of noncitizens and followed up with the immigration-related consequences stemming from those cases. Now, foreseeing the imminent need for immigration assistance in light of the news on DACA, Professor Chapin let us know that she sought to pivot the clinic's focus more toward the immigration side.

The DACA program granted a two-year deferral of deportation, a Social Security number, and permission to work to certain undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.—primarily those who were brought to this country as children. It conferred no immigration status and no path to citizenship; rather, it allowed for temporary relief from deportation and, most crucially, allowed recipients, commonly referred to as “Dreamers,” to work legally in the U.S.

Within two weeks of the first day of the clinic, the announcement came from the White House: President Trump had directed the Department of Homeland Security to rescind DACA. We discussed as a clinic how to proceed, but the writing was on the wall: we needed to do everything we could to help this population of young immigrants. After the president's announcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that DACA recipients whose status expired before March 5, 2018, were eligible to renew their status, but that all renewal applications had to be received by USCIS by Oct. 5, 2017. Of the 17,000 DACA recipients in Colorado, a few thousand were eligible to renew their status based on the fact that they qualified under that criterion. However, the deadline was weeks away, and the renewal fee was \$495, a cost-prohibitive price for most of these students. Serious barriers stood in the way of renewal for many DACA recipients in Colorado who were otherwise eligible.

Professor Chapin ultimately made what, to many of us, was not so much a choice but rather a decision to do what we knew was right: We would devote the entire semester to (1) renewing as many DACA applications as we could, (2) screening those applicants for alternative forms of immigration relief, (3) hosting immigration screenings and citizenship drives to provide information on, and applications for, citizenship and other immigration benefits (with a focus on CU staff), and finally, (4) pursuing immigration bond hearings toward the end of the semester.

Our clinic conducted two renewal clinics at CU Boulder, helping undocumented students enrolled at CU Boulder, CU Denver, Metropolitan State University, and Front Range Community College's Boulder County campus in Longmont. We then went on the road and held two DACA renewal drives in October, one at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and the other at Northern Colorado University in Greeley. During the daylong drives, we helped students renew their DACA applications and, thanks to generous donors, were able to cover the renewal fee for each applicant. We also screened DACA recipients for alternative forms of immigration relief, taking on and coordinating cases in which applicants may have had a pending criminal charge or where their conditions of entry may have been such that they could

later qualify for alternative forms of immigration relief. We continued working on these cases after screening the DACA applicants, and found that many of them involved an in-depth dive into both criminal and immigration law.

My classmates in the clinic went above and beyond. We planned and executed weekend citizenship and DACA drives, drove all around the Front Range putting up fliers advertising our services, and met with local immigration groups and the Boulder County Probation and Sheriff's offices to better understand and work with them on changing the policies and procedures surrounding law enforcement's practices of sharing immigration information with federal authorities.

To close out the clinic, Professor Chapin contacted the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network and had us work on bond cases for detained noncitizens. Some of us worked on those bond cases well into finals, but that did not matter; we were more than happy to do so.

Despite being overwhelmed with requests for assistance throughout the university and beyond, Professor Chapin ran the clinic in the most efficient, professional, and inspiring manner. We became the de facto immigration law resource for CU students and staff. Instead of declining requests, Professor Chapin simply added more DACA clinics and citizenship drives to be able to support CU students and staff. Indeed, in numerous instances we discovered staff members at the university who were eligible to adjust their immigration status but did not know that they were eligible before meeting with us. Professor Chapin was loath to turn away someone who needed help; the clinical students stepped up to the plate, and we learned a tremendous amount in the process.

The strength, resiliency, maturity, and perseverance of the DACA recipients we worked with at CU Boulder, CSU, and UNC left a lasting impression. Despite the political gamesmanship and crippling uncertainty following the president's announcement last fall, they get up every day and go to class, go to work, and take care of their families. Renewing their statuses and helping them with other forms of immigration relief were not overly complex tasks, but they were things that would not have been done but for our pro bono clinic, to say nothing of the \$495 renewal fee. Individual and group donors expressed overwhelming generosity in their donations to the clinic to cover these fees, and for that all of us are incredibly grateful.


On the last day of our first renewal clinic in Fort Collins, at a dinner hosted by CSU professors, we went around the room and talked about what this work meant to us. Several students in the clinic told the group that this was the most meaningful thing they had done thus far in law school. This was not a surprise to me; despite the fact that we were constantly thanked by the DACA recipients and their families, often it was we, the clinical students, who would respond with, “No, thank you.” We responded this way because we considered it an honor to be able to do this essential work with them—work that could perhaps keep families together, and keep work authorizations current, for a few more months. In the immigration realm, it is sometimes the small, individual victories that matter the most.



Professor Violeta Chapin speaks during a DACA rally in Longmont.

# MY EXTERNSHIP: TESTING THE JUDICIAL WATERS

BY ERIN PIERCE ('18)



(L-R): C.J. Stock ('18), Tim Drake ('18), Elizabeth Field ('18), The Honorable Thomas Mulvahill ('87), The Honorable Elizabeth Brodsky ('97), Cassidy Zobel ('18), Erin Pierce ('18)

At some point, most law students will hear that a judicial experience is an excellent way to round out their legal education. While postgraduation clerkships are not a perfect fit for everyone, judicial externships can be much more accessible. For those who may need a refresher, an externship is an opportunity to gain academic credit for doing substantive legal work with a government or nonprofit agency. Colorado Law offers a robust externship program whose participants have included Colorado state and federal courts at every level: the Deming Center Venture Fund; The Nature Conservancy; district attorney and attorney general offices; public defender offices; the Colorado State Senate and Secretary of State; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies; and Boulder Community Health, among others.

I knew I wanted a chance to work behind the scenes with a judge and hear his or her take on the pleadings and perspective on the courtroom proceedings, but I wasn't exactly sure what type of clerkship might be right for me as a "real-world job" after graduation. I applied to both the Boulder County District Court and County Court of Boulder County to test those waters.

In a positive twist of fate, the Boulder County Combined Court recently began allowing student clerks the option of splitting time between the county and district courts during a single semester. I was the second student to take them up on that offer.

Working at the Boulder County Combined Court is an experiential learning opportunity unlike any other. While most judicial externships allow you to work closely with a single judge and his or her staff, at the combined court students work with multiple judges simultaneously on a wide variety of dockets.

Taking an assignment or two from many different judges, I got a taste of just about everything that is happening here in our local courts and the subtle differences each judge can bring to the process. Some judges have a very particular style you need to adopt when writing their orders, some give detailed critiques and wonderful feedback about your writing, and others may give extreme latitude in approaching a project. All of them are incredibly friendly and patient, and really seem to care about making it a great learning experience for students. District Judge **Thomas Mulvahill** ('87) in particular makes sure to check in with students regularly and gives as much feedback as possible.

From one day to the next, you are asked to learn completely disparate areas of law, from topics that never crossed your mind to ones you might have a particular interest in, and over the course of a semester you'll rarely look at the same type of issue twice. It gives you a great opportunity to explore your own personal interests, style, and aptitudes. If you do have a particular area of interest, you are always free to sit in on anything that is happening in the courtrooms, to attend the staff trainings on practical law topics, and to ask for projects directly from any of the judges.

In the county court, there are plenty of chances to step right in as a bailiff or to write an actual order, and not simply sit in front of a computer doing research for memos all day. Toward the end of last semester, I had the pleasure of sitting beside County Judge **Elizabeth Brodsky** ('97) for one particularly long day in trial, getting her thoughts in real time on everything that was happening in the courtroom, and then working closely with her to determine the final orders. I learned what good and bad lawyering looks like from the other side of the bench, what is or is not particularly compelling evidence, and the importance of managing your client (and their expectations). I felt entirely outside my comfort zone when it all began, but Judge Brodsky confidently handed me an enormous project to complete, and you just can't help but live up to her expectations.

The district court, on the other hand, has more complicated trials, which leads to many interesting conversations back in chambers and the opportunity to learn what the judges are thinking as the case unfolds. You get to see the ins and outs of a jury trial, from the selection process to the postjudgment jury conferencing, and to really appreciate how the experience impacts the jurors and litigants differently. The clerks, many of whom are recent Colorado Law graduates, are all quick to teach you what they know and include you in everything that is happening, both in and out of the courtroom. The best part of this experience is that everyone seems to have a genuine interest in helping you navigate the transition from school to career.

Learn more about Colorado Law's externships at [colorado.edu/law/externships](https://colorado.edu/law/externships).

# CAREER-DEFINING SUMMERS

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**LJ Kuhlman ('19)** at Thorang-La Pass, the highest navigable pass in the world, located in the Anapurnas.

Summer internships and fellowships give students a chance to apply the skills they have learned in the classroom to real-world scenarios. Colorado Law offers a range of opportunities for students to serve in paid summer positions across a variety of practice areas, and **97 percent** of students work in substantive legal summer jobs. Below are some of their experiences.

### SILICON FLATIRONS D.C. SUMMER PROGRAM

The D.C. Summer Program places students in technology-focused internships at private and public organizations and government agencies in Washington, D.C.

"I chose Colorado Law because of its telecommunications program, and knew that I wanted to intern at the FCC my first summer. My internship at the Telecommunications Access Policy Division (TAPD) in the Wireline Bureau allowed me to see how the FCC works internally. TAPD oversees programs that help extend telecommunications services to underserved, low-income, remote, and rural communities throughout the U.S. In the classroom you read cases and become familiar with administrative law, but via a D.C. Summer Program internship you get to see how administrative law shapes policymaking. As a public interest telecom advocate, my D.C. Summer Program experience was irreplaceable."

**Edyael Casaperalta ('18)**

Two-time D.C. Summer Program participant: FCC Wireline Bureau and Telecom Management Group

"In D.C., you will meet people who can help you move into the sector where you want to work. The most important part is getting your foot in the door, meeting new people, and learning how policymaking is done. Working for Commissioner Terrell McSweeney at the Federal Trade Commission, I learned how agencies function from an administrative standpoint and how laws affect independent agencies, and I got a top-down view of how civil law enforcement is conducted. While participating in the FTC honors program, I was on staff for the Bureau of Consumer Protection, where I worked on a wide variety of cases ranging from deceptive marketing to unfair privacy practices. I received superb instruction in writing, litigation and law enforcement strategy, and depositions. I don't think you could get that hands-on experience anywhere else."

**Parker Ragland ('18)**

Two-time D.C. Summer Program participant: Federal Trade Commission

### U.S.-BASED

"My experience at the Council on American-Islamic Relations of the San Francisco Bay Area was enriching, inspiring, and life-changing. I gained valuable experience writing memos, briefs, and demand letters; conducting intakes, attending hearings, speaking at city council meetings, supporting policy endeavors, and coordinating with a variety of other nonprofit organizations, and maintaining levity through the most trying times as I worked to support clients all over the Bay Area. I feel lucky to have had the chance to participate in such meaningful work with such a highly skilled, passionate, and kind team of advocates."

**Moriah Arnold ('19)**

The Council on American-Islamic Relations of the San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA)

"I came to law school hoping to work for the public defender's system. A 1L internship seemed like a great way to make sure that it was the career path I want to pursue long term. I sought out Grand Junction specifically because of the different opportunities that an internship outside of the Denver/Boulder area provides. I was able to support a cause that I believe strongly in and support a community that is often overlooked. I was able to build interview skills and competency in gathering a large amount of information and sorting it for use in cases. It confirmed my intention to seek out public defense professionally moving forward."

**Sydney Teague ('19)**

Grand Junction Public Defender's Office

### INTERNATIONAL

"During my summer work, I gained priceless insight into the challenges involved in working within the legal field of a developing nation. I learned valuable lessons in listening to the needs, worries, and solutions from the perspective of the local communities. The combination of these experiences and lessons has helped me discover many strengths and weaknesses along with insight into my future ambitions. Most importantly, I brought back new perspectives on how law can be used to protect people and the environment, and potential solutions to where it falls short."

**Jonathan "LJ" Kuhlman ('19)**

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Nepal

"During my time in the 'trial shop,' also known as the prosecution side, I worked directly with numerous Navy JAGs. Most of my work consisted of research and writing. The most important experience I gained was an insight into JAG. My goal was to test out what it's like to be a Navy JAG, and this summer solidified my interest in applying for the JAG Corps. Everyone I worked with was professional, friendly, and service-minded, and I enjoyed every day. Additionally, I greatly improved my legal research and writing skills, and I was able to observe JAGs arguing in a courtroom. This summer was a success."

**John "JB" Cannafax ('18)**

U.S. Navy, Yokosuka, Japan

# UNDER THE HOOD OF MOCK TRIAL

Clinical Professor **Ann England** has coached mock trial teams at Colorado Law since she joined the faculty in 2005. We caught up with her about what's on the horizon for mock trial in 2018, why she enjoys coaching, and what makes a strong advocate.

## Why did you begin coaching mock trial?

When I was in law school, I was on the national mock trial team and really enjoyed it. When I was practicing as a litigator, I was constantly being asked to judge mock trial tournaments, and when I began teaching at Colorado Law in 2005, Professor **Pat Furman** ('80), who was the coach at the time, asked me if I wanted to take over.

## What are your goals for the teams this year?

I would love to go to nationals! Mostly, though, I just want the students to get better. For students who want to be litigators, mock trial is really important because students get an opportunity to learn important skills without the pressure of learning on the back of a client. Litigation is all about how you react under pressure, and it's hard to practice. There's nothing like a competition for students to test out who they are going to be when they get in a courtroom under real pressure with something to lose.

It's also a great opportunity to practice making ethical decisions. Ethics is really easy when you're sitting in class. But when you're representing a client, pissed off, and under stress and see an opportunity to do something unethical, that's the true test. Those moments are amazing learning opportunities.

## What makes a good oral advocate?

We have a very narrow, TV-oriented view of who a good advocate is, and that's not necessarily accurate. All of my competitors have come from totally different backgrounds—including an MMA fighter and TV news anchor—and have really different presentation styles. They didn't all necessarily know they were going to be that good at oral advocacy until they got in the courtroom, tried it out, and got pushed to be better.

## How do the teams practice?

One thing I learned from coaches at other schools is that they set up practice rounds in front of actual judges around their state to train. So that is something that our teams do now. Judges open up their courtrooms to us on a regular basis so we can do practice rounds. Not only has this allowed students to build relationships with judges (which has led to several clerkships), but the students get the experience of doing a mock trial in a real courtroom and receiving feedback from the judge. Students prepare harder and feel actual pressure. After we started training this way five or six years ago, we went to nationals twice!

Judges who have opened up their courtrooms to us include Christine Arguello, **Elizabeth Brodsky** ('97), **Eric Elliff** ('87), Susan Fisch, **Bruce Langer** ('94), Sheila Rappaport, and **William Robbins** ('87), to name just a few.

## What are the biggest competitions each year?

The National Trial Competition is one of the most rigorous mock trial competitions in the nation. It is particularly difficult because the competition provides the witnesses (as opposed to the team bringing their own), so the advocates must respond to the new and varied responses of their witnesses on the stand. This makes it much more realistic (and unpredictable) for students.

Three of my teams have won regionals and advanced to the national round of this competition:

- **La Kischa Cook** ('09), **Katherine Decker** ('10), and **Tyrone Glover** ('09)
- **Megan Bradford** ('15)—who now serves as my co-coach—and **Conor Flanigan** ('15)
- **Erica Kasemodel** ('16) and **James Waldo** ('16)

We also send teams to other competitions throughout the year, including the Student Trial Advocacy Competition put on by the American Association of Justice. Colorado Law competed in the national finals of this competition in 2009 and 2011.

## How can interested students get involved in mock trial?

To join the national mock trial team, students must first participate in the Carrigan Cup Trial Competition, an in-school competition held every fall. The top two teams are automatically on the national mock trial team, and the other competitors can then try out for positions on the mock trial team.



Ann England (second from left) with 2015 regional winners Megan Bradford ('15) (far left) and Conor Flanigan ('15) (second from right) with Erica Kasemodel ('16), Justin Miller ('16), and Vika Chandrashakar ('15).

# MOOT COURT DELIVERS

## INTRASCHOOL COMPETITION TURNS 68

BY TIMBRE SHRIVER ('18)

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Shane O'Connor ('19), Hanna Bustillo ('19), Hannah Regan-Smith ('19) Alex Kirven ('18)

“Mister Chief Justice, may it please the court . . .” And so began the 2018 Rothgerber Appellate Briefing Competition after months of preparation, and in continuance of the 68-year tradition of friendly intraschool competition.

In one of the most anticipated events of the spring, Colorado Law students take to the courtroom for a chance to prevail in the school’s foremost internal appellate advocacy competition. Many compete, but only the top four advocates stand before a panel of distinguished jurists to battle for the honor of the Austin W. Scott Jr. Award for best oralist.

In December, Colorado Law’s Barristers’ Council releases a two-issue hypothetical case related to a current legal issue. These problems often reflect a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, and students often must analyze circuit splits to advocate on behalf of their hypothetical client. Once the problem is released, teams of two students write an extensive brief and prepare for the initial round of oral arguments. After the first round, students advance to the semifinals individually for a 15-minute argument in hopes of qualifying for the finals. The four top-scoring contestants are paired into teams and face off in the final round in front of some of the nation’s preeminent judges. The final competition in the Wittemyer Courtroom is a culmination of collaborative team briefs and multiple rounds of oral arguments. This event presents an exciting showcase for legal scholars to display their talent and passion for appellate advocacy.

Historically, the final three-judge panel has consisted of Colorado Supreme Court justices and judges from the U.S. circuit courts. This year, Colorado Law had the pleasure of hosting the Honorable

**Melissa Hart**, Colorado Supreme Court; the Honorable Harris L. Hartz, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit; and the Honorable William W. Hood, Colorado Supreme Court, all of whom volunteered their time to prepare for the final arguments. Arguing a mock appeal offers a unique opportunity for students to apply their classroom knowledge to a practical experience, and every year’s panel of jurists, through rigorous questioning, challenges competitors to define the bounds of their argument in an effort to secure a victory.

After the arguments, winners are announced, and the Rothgerber Reading Room in the William A. Wise Law Library is abuzz with finalists, competition alumni, and judges in a celebratory reception. The reception provides an excellent forum for alumni and current students to mingle and share their experiences. The reading room is also host to a trophy that features all Austin W. Scott Jr. Award winners as well as a collection of plaques inscribed to commemorate all past competition finalists. The Rothgerber Competition was endowed in 1951 by **Ira C. Rothgerber Jr.** ('35) in honor of his father, Judge Ira C. Rothgerber, who served on the Denver County Court from 1913 to 1921. The endowment not only funds the competition but also provides for sizable scholarship prizes for student finalists.

The Barristers’ Council congratulates **Hannah Regan-Smith** ('19), the 2018 Austin W. Scott Jr. Award winner for best oralist, and **Alex Kirven** ('18) and Regan-Smith for their achievement as the prevailing team in the 2018 competition. Those who have competed laud the competition as one of their most cherished experiences during their time at Colorado Law, and with the help of the Rothgerber endowment, the Barristers’ Council looks forward to continuing the tradition.

## 37TH ANNUAL COLORADO LAW ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET



On March 8, 2018, more than 500 attendees joined us in celebrating our community and honoring distinguished alumni at the 37th annual Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet, held at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Honorees were selected by the Law Alumni Board in September. To nominate a deserving alumna or alumnus to receive an award at next year's banquet, send a brief statement of support to [lawalum@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalum@colorado.edu).

To view additional photos and videos from the 2018 banquet, visit [colorado.edu/law/banquet](http://colorado.edu/law/banquet).



NEWS





## LEADERS IN LAW AND COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT

A graduate of the Class of 1961 donated \$50,000 to support the Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) fellowship program. LILAC addresses diversity in the legal profession by recruiting and developing students from backgrounds underrepresented in law schools and the legal profession. Colorado Law welcomed six inaugural LILAC fellows in fall 2017. Learn more at [colorado.edu/lilac](http://colorado.edu/lilac).



## LLM DEGREE RELAUNCHED

Colorado Law will relaunch its LLM degree in fall 2018 in the areas of entrepreneurship and business law; indigenous peoples law; intellectual property, technology, and telecommunications law; international law and human rights; natural resources, energy, and environmental law; and U.S. law for foreign lawyers. The LLM program focuses on recruiting talented and passionate lawyers from other countries who will enrich our community of scholars and students and bring Colorado Law's intellectual leadership to the world. Learn more at [colorado.edu/law/llm](http://colorado.edu/law/llm).



## CARPENTER MEETS WITH CHILEAN PRESIDENT

Professor **Kristen Carpenter** and the U.N. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) met with Michelle Bachelet, president of Chile, on Dec. 7. The meeting was part of the Expert Mechanism's multiday visit to Santiago to conduct a study on "free, prior, and informed consent" among indigenous peoples, states, and industry as a safeguard for self-determination, land, culture, and other human rights. Carpenter was appointed the North American member of the EMRIP in March 2017, joining human rights experts from Africa, Asia, the Arctic, Europe, the Pacific, and South America.



## CHAPIN RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S DIVERSITY AWARD

Associate Clinical Professor **Violeta Chapin** was selected as a recipient of the 2017–18 President's Diversity Award by the University of Colorado. This annual award recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students, and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally and intellectually diverse university community reflective of inclusive excellence. Chapin leads the Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic, which spent the 2017–18 academic year working primarily with undocumented college students enrolled at universities and community colleges across Colorado (see more on page 10).



### IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

Directed by Associate Professor **Ming Chen**, the Immigration Law and Policy Program launched in fall 2017 to support scholarship and teaching in immigration law and offers students opportunities to apply their developing constitutional knowledge in public service projects. In addition to curricular and extracurricular opportunities, the program connects students with lawyers in the community who are involved in constitutional litigation or policy work for externships and pro bono projects. Last fall, the program hosted the Citizenship and Equality Colloquium, a series of discussions led by esteemed scholars in citizenship and immigration. Learn more at [colorado.edu/law/ILPP](http://colorado.edu/law/ILPP).



### KONNOTH PRESENTS RESEARCH AT U.S. SENATE

A paper written by Associate Professor **Craig Konnoth** received the annual Privacy Papers for Policymakers Award from the Future of Privacy Forum. Konnoth presented his research at the eighth annual Privacy Papers for Policymakers event in Washington, D.C., where he discussed his work with policymakers, academics, and privacy professionals at the U.S. Senate. Konnoth's paper, "Health Information Equity," was published in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* and shows how health information regulation disproportionately impacts the data security and autonomy of patients in lower socio-economic and health status groups by making their data more readily available for public research.



### HART NAMED TO COLORADO SUPREME COURT

On Dec. 14, 2017, Gov. John Hickenlooper named Professor **Melissa Hart** to the Colorado Supreme Court. Hart fills a seat vacated by the Honorable **Allison H. Eid**, a Colorado Law adjunct professor, who replaced Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Neil Gorsuch** on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in November 2017. Hart has taught at Colorado Law since 2000 and devotes her teaching and scholarship to employment discrimination, access to justice, and constitutional law. She is also director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, a position she has held since 2010. Hart will continue to teach at Colorado Law.



## **COLORADO LAW'S CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CELEBRATING 70 YEARS**

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## COLORADO LAW 2017 REUNIONS

The classes of 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012 celebrated their reunions during Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 27–28, 2017. Alumni traveled from across the Front Range, the state, and the nation to join the festivities. Congratulations to the Class of 1987 for raising the largest class gift this year, and to the Class of 1992 for having the largest percentage of its members donate.

## CLASS FUNDRAISING

First place | 1987 | **\$30,000**  
 Second place | 1982 | **\$22,160**  
 Third place | 1992 | **\$21,085**

## CLASS GIFT PARTICIPATION

First place | 1992 | **25%**  
 Second place | 1967 | **21.5%**  
 Third place | 2012 | **21%**

## 2017 REUNION ORGANIZERS

Colorado Law is deeply grateful to the class reunion committee volunteers for their generosity, organizing spectacular events, and encouraging their classmates to give back to help future generations of Colorado Law students.

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# ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Each month, Colorado Law asks five questions of a prestigious alumnus or alumna. These alumni answer the questions, “What advice would you give to graduates?” and, “What do you know now that you wish you had known in law school?” To read full stories, visit [colorado.edu/law/alumni-of-the-month](http://colorado.edu/law/alumni-of-the-month).



## July 2017

“While substantive knowledge is an essential building block for a smaller town practice, clients place an even higher value on judgment and a trusting relationship.”

**Dick Gast** ('81)  
Shareholder  
Gast Johnson & Muffly PC



## August 2017

“[In law school] I didn’t fully appreciate the power of believing in yourself and your ability to create change. Far too often, people don’t realize their ability to make a difference, and they forfeit their power. It’s more important than ever to be involved—voting, supporting candidates you believe in, and even becoming a candidate yourself. We need leaders who believe in themselves and their ability to make positive change for their communities, now more than ever.”

**Crisanta Duran** ('05)  
Speaker of the House  
Colorado House of Representatives



## September 2017

“Balance of life and mindfulness play a critical role in being successful.”

**Jim Coyle** ('85)  
Attorney Regulation Counsel  
Colorado Supreme Court



## October 2017

“[I wish I knew] to live in the moment and trust that you will wind up in the right place at the right time. I spent far too much time worrying about what was going to happen after law school. The time I spent as a law student went so quickly, but I still remember it as one of the best times of my life.”

**Tammy Campbell** ('92)  
Senior Compliance Counsel  
Finastra



## November 2017

“[My fondest memories include] my friendships with fellow classmates, the four classes I took from Professor Clifford Calhoun, and my clerkship with John Holloway ('51), the university’s legal counsel.”

**Glenn Porzak** ('73)  
Managing and Founding Partner  
Porzak Browning & Bushong LLP



## December 2017

“My fondest memory of being a student at Colorado Law was the camaraderie my classmates and I shared. The supportive, collaborative ethic that Colorado Law has created and nurtured is a very special thing.”

**Ann Roan** ('89)  
Public Defender (Retired)  
Office of the Colorado State  
Public Defender

Recent alumni from the Colorado Law Promising Start series share experiences from their law school education that have helped them in their careers.

Read more in the Promising Start series at [colorado.edu/law/promising-starts](https://colorado.edu/law/promising-starts).



“There is no doubt that Colorado Law provided a great foundation for the work I do today. The most important thing that I learned is how to think about a problem to identify solutions. You realize after you graduate that there are so many things you’ll learn over the years that could not be taught in law school. As I continue to grow and learn as an attorney, I find that I have sharpened my skills so that I am more efficient and a better researcher, writer, oral advocate, and counselor.”

**Justin Plaskov** (’12)

Associate Attorney

Lohf Shaiman Jacobs Hyman & Feiger PC



“I rely heavily on the writing skills that I developed at Colorado Law. Whether it’s writing a recommendation for an elected official or simply drafting an email to a client, writing is a reflection of your professionalism and competence as a lawyer. Also, I know most people despise the Socratic method (myself included), but there is immense value in learning to think on your feet and respond to questions clearly and succinctly. It’s something that I’m required to do every day, often in high-stakes situations, and I’m grateful for the practice I gained in the academic setting.”

**Lisa Rorden** (’13)

Assistant City Attorney

Denver City Attorney’s Office, Airport Legal Services



“Colorado Law is a place where professors and staff care about your success as a student and later as a professional. People like former professor **Bill Mooz**, Professor **Fred Bloom**, Professor **Erik Gerding**, Professor **Amy Bauer**, and Professor **Scott Moss** impacted my life, not only because they taught me interesting things about different areas of law, but because they also took a genuine interest in my life and my success. In fact, I even now try to keep in contact with them and have had the occasional lunch with them.”

**Brett Johnson** (’14)

Associate Corporate Counsel

VMware



“Clinic, trial advocacy, and motions advocacy were extremely helpful in teaching me trial prep, how to work with clients, and how to argue before the immigration court. I’m also thankful for the legal writing and advanced legal writing classes, as well as involvement with a student journal, all of which helped me develop my legal writing and citation skills. Of

course, my immigration law and asylum and refugee law classes have been doctrinally incredibly helpful in building the knowledge base for my area of practice.”

**Breanne Johnson** (’14)

Immigration Attorney

Stern & Curray LLC



“Contract drafting, negotiating, legal writing, time management, critical thinking, knowledge of technology, and finance knowledge are all skills I use on a daily basis. Legal research skills are also extremely important to being an in-house counsel producing sophisticated legal work. Colorado Law’s practical learning classes and clinics were fantastic for preparing me to

start working out of law school. I recommend every law student take as many as possible. Those classes gave me a huge head start when I started working as a lawyer. Unlike most law schools, Colorado Law allowed me to learn a lot about technology. I now use MOOCs and other online resources, but CU’s classes gave me the encouragement to start.”

**Mike Dornik** (’14)

Corporate Counsel

Webroot



“Participating in the *University of Colorado Law Review* and working as a research assistant for Professor **Helen Norton** gave me a solid foundation for research and writing, as did the various internships I did when I was at CU. Many of the attorneys and professors I met as a student at CU gave me the moral foundation that I now use every day as a prosecutor. In my

job, I have to make a lot of decisions that have tremendous impacts on people’s lives. CU gave me the opportunity to meet mentors who formed me as a young law student by giving me the courage to know what it means to ‘do the right thing.’”

**Cassady Adams** (’15)

Deputy District Attorney

Colorado’s 11th Judicial District

CELEBRATING



YEARS

OF CLINICAL EDUCATION

**Celebrating 70 Years of Clinical  
Education at Colorado Law**

Thursday, May 24, 2018

5–7 p.m.

Gilbert Goldstein Courtyard, Wolf Law Building

Join us for a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Clinical Education Program at Colorado Law. Reconnect with former classmates, meet current clinical students, and learn how our nine legal clinics are impacting the community. All are welcome!

# LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD CHAIR

ALUMNI

DARLA DANIEL ('01)

**Dear Colorado Law Alumni,**

Over the past year, I have been reflecting on what it means to be a lawyer. I have been thinking back to that oath I took 16 years ago, and what it means in 2018:

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR . . .

I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Colorado;

I will maintain the respect due to Courts and judicial officers;  
I will employ only such means as are consistent with truth and honor;  
I will treat all persons whom I encounter through my practice of law with fairness, courtesy, respect and honesty;  
I will use my knowledge of the law for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system;  
I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed;  
I will at all times faithfully and diligently adhere to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct.

Truth, honor, fairness, courtesy, respect, honesty, and diligence.

I am so proud of the work we all do, for our clients, for our communities, and for the betterment of society and the improvement of the legal system. Over the past year, I have felt great pride that I am a member of this honorable profession. I've also felt the weight of responsibility to uphold its ideals. At this moment in time, it seems to me that the norms we take for granted—the careful, diligent, fair, truthful, and honest manner in which we naturally go about our tasks as lawyers—are of more importance than we may realize.

I do not know what the next year holds, but I do know that I am grateful.

I am grateful for Colorado Law. I am grateful for the skills I developed there; for the classmates, alumni, staff, and professors who have become friends; and for the natural bond that somehow seems to develop now whenever I meet a new Colorado Law alumnus. The leadership of our deans, the quality of our students, faculty, and staff, and the engagement of our alumni have all combined to make Colorado Law a more vibrant, intellectually challenging, diverse, and inclusive community than ever before.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as chair of the Law Alumni Board. It has been a pleasure, an honor, and a privilege to get to know so many accomplished and dedicated Colorado Law alumni.

Would you like to do more to give back to Colorado Law? Contact me or one of our other board members. We'll be happy to give you suggestions!

Sincerely,



**Darla Daniel**  
*Law Alumni Board Chair*



**Chair-Elect Siddhartha Rathod ('07) and Chair Darla Daniel ('01)**

## Law Alumni Board Members

The Law Alumni Board is made up of 27 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 2017–18 board chair is Darla Daniel, and the chair-elect is Siddhartha Rathod.

**Nikea Bland** ('05), O'Malley Law Office, P.C.  
**Bethiah Beale Crane** ('79), Crane & Tejada, P.C.  
**William "Bill" R. Buck** ('83), Retired  
**Michael Carrigan** ('94), Holland & Hart LLP  
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**Darla Daniel** (Chair) ('01), Balson & Faix, LLP  
**W. Harold "Sonny" Flowers Jr.** ('71), Hurth, Sisk & Blakemore LLP  
**Mark Fogg** ('79), COPIC  
**The Honorable Thomas R. French** ('77),  
8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
**Tim Galluzzi** ('14), Cheney Galluzzi & Howard  
**Dick Gast** ('81), Gast Johnson & Muffy, PC  
**Jeffery Grimes** ('89), ARC Document Solutions  
**Franz Hardy** ('00), Gordon Rees Scully  
Mansukhani, LLP  
**John V. Howard** ('87), Colorado Parks and  
Wildlife Commission  
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**Greg Ramos** ('92), Sherman & Howard L.L.C.  
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Mohamedbhai LLC  
**Ann M. Roan** ('89), Colorado State Public Defender  
**David W. Stark** ('73), Faegre Baker Daniels LLP  
**Lucy Stark** (Immediate Past Chair) ('98), Holland &  
Hart LLP  
**Andrea Wang** ('01), U.S. Attorney's Office,  
District of Colorado  
**Maureen Weston** ('92), Pepperdine University  
School of Law

# COLORADO LAW ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

Engagement with our alumni and the legal community is one of our top priorities. To foster this engagement and to maximize the effectiveness of our communications with our alumni, we established the Colorado Law Alumni Ambassador program. Ambassadors are actively engaged volunteers who provide insights and a personal point of view to prospective students, attend recruiting and alumni events, and promote upcoming Colorado Law events within their networks.

Within Colorado, any Colorado Law alumnus working at a company or law firm with two or more fellow Colorado Law alumni may be an ambassador. For 2018, we are actively recruiting ambassadors who work for government and public interest employers. In addition, in 2017 we launched our out-of-state ambassador program. If you are willing to connect with fellow alumni, students, and prospective students in your area, we would love to have you on board. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador or want to learn more about the program, contact Marci Fulton at [marci.fulton@colorado.edu](mailto:marci.fulton@colorado.edu).

We are thankful for the support and dedication of our 2017–18 Colorado Law Alumni Ambassadors (\*denotes out-of-state ambassador).

**Tracy L. Ashmore** ('95), Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C.  
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**Emily L. Wasserman** ('13), Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
**James L. Wooll** ('02), Spencer Fane LLP

**Robert C. McHugh** (‘51) died on Nov. 17, 2017. His career highlights include several executive positions with Colorado Interstate Gas and serving as vice chairman and general counsel for KN Energy. After retirement, McHugh volunteered with the Colorado Springs Police Department. He is survived by his wife of nearly 68 years, Ruth; children Steve (Kathy) and Jennifer Taylor (Dan); four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**Eugene Deikman** (‘52) passed away on Nov. 25, 2017, at age 89. He practiced law in Denver for more than 60 years as a trial attorney. An avid student of art, he was a member and co-founder of the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, Bobbi; children Alan, Diana, Jaine, and Jill; stepchildren Gregory, Mark, and Stephen; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The Honorable **Ralph W. Kondo** (‘54) died on July 10, 2015, in Honolulu, Hawaii. A retired circuit court judge and U.S. Army veteran, Kondo is survived by his wife, Michele; son, Randall; daughters Karen Sasaki, Janice Arakaki, Colleen Chong, Ruby Chow, and Jasmine Williams; brothers Harry and Norman; sister Jean Nakagawa; 16 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Jay E. Lutz** (‘54) passed away on July 1, 2017, at age 88. After serving as a JAG in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1956, he practiced law for 50 years in Denver. Lutz enjoyed a 64-year marriage to his wife, Judy, and was a loving father, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his wife; children Leigh (Susan), Larry (Mary), and Jon (Cheryl); and many grandchildren.

**James P. Jackson** (‘57) died in Springfield, Oregon, on Aug. 25, 2017, at age 86. In 1965, he was named assistant city attorney of Sacramento, and was promoted to city attorney in 1968. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1991. Jackson served as an elder in the Presbyterian Church for nearly 30 years and earned his pilot’s license in 1959. He was married for almost 50 years to Gloria Coffey, who passed away in 2009. He is survived by their son, Scott (Susan); daughter, Lynn (Mark); sister-in-law, Ivy; and two granddaughters.

The Honorable **William “Bill” Jones** (‘57) passed away at age 84 on Aug. 25, 2017. A 40-year resident of Eagle, Colorado, he served as Eagle County District Court judge for 20 years. He was an active member of the Eagle community, serving as a volunteer firefighter and fire board member for 45 years. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Margaret; children Cynthia and Brad (Dominique); two granddaughters; and many nieces and nephews.

**Howard Clive Greenwood** (‘62) died on July 15, 2017, at age 81. He began his career as a corporate attorney, representing both Exxon and Gulf Oil. In 1987, he left corporate law to open a private practice in Hamilton, Montana, which he continued until retirement. Greenwood is survived by his wife, Joan; son, Les (Marilyn); stepsons David and Craig (Ann); and 10 grandchildren.

**James Ronald Heffley** (‘62) passed away on July 23, 2017, at age 83. Born in Kiowa, Colorado, he served in the U.S. Army as an MP in Korea. He went on to earn a teaching degree before attending Colorado Law. He worked for McMillan Claim Service in Boulder and Denver as an insurance adjuster until his retirement in 2009. Heffley is survived by his wife, Pat; daughter, Tanya; son, JR (Tonia); sister; three grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

**William S. Jackson** (‘68) died at home in Montrose, Colorado, at age 77 on Dec. 31, 2017. He was an avid outdoorsman and bluegrass musician. Jackson’s long and varied legal career included working as a private attorney, public defender, deputy district attorney, and probation officer for the drug court program in Montrose County. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Carol; children William, Eric (Shawna), and Alexis (Kiley); a grandson; and three nephews.

**Stan B. Stanfill** (‘70) died on Aug. 15, 2017. After graduating from Colorado Law, he joined the Anchorage, Alaska, law firm that became Hahn, Jewell and Stanfill, where he practiced for two decades. He and his late wife, Silver, moved to Montrose, Colorado, in 2000, where Stanfill volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Christ’s Kitchen. He is survived by his daughter, Sonnet (Jeff); son, Marcus (Adrienne); brother, Shelton (Brigitte); three grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

**M. Edward Burns Jr.** (‘72) passed away July 23, 2017, at age 71 after a long battle with cancer. Burns served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War before graduating from Colorado Law. He worked in private practice for 27 years, and in 1999, Burns was chosen to be a magistrate for the Colorado Judicial Branch, serving in the 18th Judicial District. He is survived by his wife, O’Tasha Rivers; daughter, Megan (John); stepdaughter, Kelly (Miles); and grandchildren and stepgrandchildren.

**Thad Oviatt** (‘73) died surrounded by family at age 71 on Nov. 13, 2017. Oviatt was known for his friendship, hospitality, and hugs. He cofounded the law firm Oviatt, Clark and Gross, where he spent most of his career. Oviatt is survived by his wife of 35 years, Barbara; daughters Amy, Sarah (Erik), Emily (Ben), and Grace (Joss); mother, Margaret; stepfather, Virgil Tucker; brother, Rob (Randi); sister, Melissa (Robert); three grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

# CLASS ACTIONS

**1957**

**Jim Turner** ('57) recently published a new book, *Selma and the Liuzzo Murder Trials: The First Modern Civil Rights Convictions* (University of Michigan Press). The book tells the story of Turner's first civil rights assignment for the U.S. Department of Justice: the murder of Viola Liuzzo outside Selma after the March to Montgomery in 1965.

**1963**

After 54 years in practice, **Sandy F. Kraemer** ('63) announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2017. His plans include spending time with his wife, Dorothy, three children, and eight grandchildren; ranching; and continuing his nonprofit commitments connecting people across generations.

**1968**

**Norm Brownstein** ('68), a founding member and chairman at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, was honored with the Robert E. Loup Hineni Award. Brownstein is the first recipient of the rededicated award from the Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center (JCC Denver), which recognizes community leaders whose philanthropy and volunteer efforts have had a significant impact locally and globally.

**1970**

The American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL) inducted Detroit-area attorney **Richard Rattner** ('70) as a fellow. Rattner is a partner of Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett P.C. ACREL fellows are selected for their superior legal abilities, outstanding reputations for excellence and integrity in the practice of law, and public service contributions in the area of real estate law.

**1971**

The Colorado Golf Hall of Fame inducted **M.J. Mastalir** ('71) to its Class of 2017. He will be honored at a dinner at Sanctuary Golf Club in Sedalia in May.

**1972**

The Honorable **Dennis Maes** ('72) was among three new inductees to the Pueblo Hall of Fame, which recognizes Puebloans whose social, civil, and charitable efforts have contributed to the betterment of the city. Maes, who retired in 2012, most recently served as chief district judge of the 10th Judicial District. In November, he was elected to the Pueblo City Schools board.

**Timothy Murphy** ('72) was selected for inclusion in the Northern California Super Lawyers 2017 edition. Murphy is senior counsel in the San Francisco office of labor and employment firm Fisher & Phillips LLP.

**1973**

Moye White LLP elected partner **David Arkell** ('73) chair of Moye DR, the firm's alternative dispute resolution practice group. Arkell, who has practiced for more than 40 years, focuses on alternative dispute resolution and construction law.

**David Stark** ('73), former civil litigation attorney at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, retired on Dec. 31, 2017. During his 44-year career, Stark served as both a civil and criminal litigator, representing lawyers and law firms in professional responsibility and ethics matters. His retirement plans include running and spending time with his three grandchildren.

**1978**

After nearly 40 years, **Dorothy Raymond** ('78) retired from the practice of law in December. Raymond had an accomplished career in the cable and telecom industries, and counts among her accomplishments: developing the royalty-free IP license pools for cable modem and VoIP technologies; creating the sub-licensing programs for the third-party security software used in cable modems, and for the use of Java in cable set-top boxes; developing certification procedures for interoperable high-speed-data modems and advanced digital set-top boxes; mergers and acquisitions of cable systems; \$67 million sale-lease back of communications facilities; and creating an antitrust compliance program that allowed CableLabs to work successfully with cable operators and competing manufacturers, without legal challenge. Today, Raymond is able to devote more time to her passion for quilt art, where she creates landscapes in fabric, using the natural beauty of Colorado as her inspiration.

**1979**

The Idaho State Bar recognized **Nicholas Bokides** ('79) with its Professionalism Award and Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award at the annual Third District Bar Association Resolution Meeting in November 2017. Bokides has been an Idaho lawyer for 35 years and is a private practitioner in Weiser.

SELMA  
and the LIUZZO  
MURDER TRIALS  
THE FIRST MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS CONVICTIONS



*Selma and the Liuzzo Murder Trials* by Turner ('57)



**Rattner** ('70)



**Murphy** ('72)



**Stark** ('73)



**Quilt art** by Raymond ('78)

**1982**

The bar association of the First Judicial District of Colorado honored **Joe Pickard** ('82) with its 2017 Award of Merit. He was recognized at a banquet in October.

**1985**

**Harold R. Bruno III** ('85) was selected as the 2018 Denver Lawyer of the Year in the area of franchise law by Best Lawyers in America. Bruno is an attorney at Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C., where he specializes in franchise and intellectual property litigation and arbitration.

**1986**

**Mimi Goodman** ('86) has joined Investors Independent Trust Company as vice president and trust officer. In this role, she provides personal trust administration services for fiduciary appointments and account management for personal investment accounts.

**Lloyd W. Landreth** ('86) was named to the 2018 Best Lawyers in America list. Landreth, who practices with the firm GableGotwals, is being honored for his work in environmental litigation and natural resources law. He was also named a 2017 Oklahoma Super Lawyer in the area of environmental law, a recognition he has received since 2010.

Holland & Hart LLP partner **Marc Painter** ('86) was elected as a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL). Of the 41 attorneys nominated to ACREL in 2017, Painter was the only one from Colorado.

**1988**

After 25 years practicing criminal law in the Denver metro area, **Randy Canney** ('88) and his wife have moved to Salida, Colorado, where he will continue his criminal practice. Canney's office is in Salida, but he will be handling cases throughout the south-central Rocky Mountains and the San Luis Valley.

**Todd W. Rogers** ('88) joined Fischer Brown Bartlett & Gunn PC as special counsel, where he concentrates his practice in real estate, commercial matters, and litigation.

**1989**

**Scott W. Hardt** ('89) joined Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as a partner. Hardt's practice focuses on environmental and public land issues, environmental litigation, and mining transactions.

**Steve Segal** ('89) and Pat Linden combined their firms to become Linden Segal LLC, a boutique business law firm in Denver whose focus includes early-stage and growth companies, venture capital and private equity, and mergers and acquisitions. Segal has practiced in the Denver/Boulder community for more than 27 years.

**James Witwer** ('89) joined the natural resources department of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as of counsel. Witwer's practice focuses on acquiring, developing, and protecting water supplies and facilities.

**1992**

The city council of Missoula, Montana, made history when it became Missoula's first female-majority city council. **Gwen Jones** ('92) serves as a council member.

**1993**

Former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior **Michael Connor** ('93) joined the Washington, D.C., office of WilmerHale as a partner. He will also maintain a presence in the firm's Denver office. His practice focuses on energy development, environmental compliance, natural resources, and Native American law.

**John J. Cyran** ('93) joined the Denver office of Hoskin Farina & Kampf, Professional Corporation as of counsel. His practice areas include water rights, litigation, and tribal law.

**1994**

**Kathleen Byrne** ('94) and Barbara Dix married in the presence of family and friends in their home in Boulder on Nov. 22, 2016. Byrne is special counsel to Treece Alfrey Musat P.C., where she focuses her practice on aviation litigation, trial motions practice, and civil appeals.

**Kate Gerland** ('94) and Elena Eisenberg are pleased to announce the launch of Education Law Offices, LLC, which specializes in representing students with disabilities. This new firm replaces the Law Offices of Louise Bouzari, LLC, which closed following Bouzari's retirement.

**1995**

At an August 2017 ceremony at the Pentagon, District Attorney of the 18th Judicial District **George Brauchler** ('95) accepted the Freedom Award from the U.S. Department of Defense, the highest recognition of employers for their support of employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Brauchler is a colonel in the Colorado Army National Guard. He was nominated by his colleague and fellow Freedom Award recipient **John Kellner** ('05).

**Wendy Helgemo** ('95) joined George Washington University as inaugural director of the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, a center for research and advocacy that supports tribal leaders and promotes public awareness on issues of national significance to indigenous communities, including public health, housing, economic security, and education. Helgemo most recently was senior advisor on Indian affairs to Sen. Harry Reid.

**Bruno III ('85)****Landreth ('86)****Byrne ('94), left****Brauchler ('95) and Kellner ('05)****Helgemo ('95)**

## 1997

**Gillian Dale** ('97) was promoted to member of Hall & Evans, LLC. Her practice focuses primarily on the fields of employment law, public entities, civil rights litigation, life and disability claims, and appellate litigation.

## 1998

Horizon Elder Law & Estate Planning, Inc. welcomed **Jerald Marrs** ('98) to its San Ramon, California, firm to assist with mediation in family disputes, elder law issues, and estate planning. Marrs is a U.S. Air Force veteran and mediation specialist with experience helping individuals, couples, and families through the aging process and the preparation and administration of estate plans.

## 1999

**Sean McAllister** ('99) and Daniel Garfield are pleased to announce that McAllister Law Office, P.C. is now McAllister Garfield, P.C. The firm will continue to focus on all aspects of marijuana law, including business transactions, entity creation and governance, administrative and regulatory compliance law, real estate, and civil litigation.

**Amy Parsons** ('99), executive vice chancellor of the Colorado State University System, was named a Denver Business Journal Outstanding Woman in Business. More than 250 nominations were received for the award, which was presented to 12 recipients.

**Michelle L. Prince-Bowen** ('99) joined Pollart Miller LLC. She brings more than 15 years' experience in resolving workers' compensation and insurance defense cases.

## 2002

**Megan Holstein** ('02) has joined national workplace law firm Jackson Lewis P.C. in Denver as a principal. Holstein's practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counseling. She joins the firm from ReedGroup, where she was the vice president of compliance. Holstein is a former planning commissioner for the town of Erie, Colorado, and an adjunct professor in employee benefits law at Colorado Law.

## 2003

After seven successful years as partner with Gard & Bond, LLC, **Anna E.V. Bond** ('03) founded Bond Family Law, P.C. in January 2017. The firm, which focuses exclusively on resolving family law matters, serves the Denver/Boulder region.

Real estate attorney **Abe Laydon** ('03) joined Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC's Denver office. He represents clients in complex commercial and residential real estate matters.

**Brandi Lynn Nieto** ('03) and her husband, Matt, welcomed their son Noah Marshall Pring just over one year ago on November 16, 2016. Nieto is in private practice in Greeley.

## 2004

**Lisa Reynolds** ('04) started a new job as first assistant attorney general in the parks, wildlife, and trust lands section at the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Most recently, she was an assistant attorney general with the natural resources and environment section in the Attorney General's Office.

## 2005

**John Kellner** ('05), chief deputy district attorney for the 18th Judicial District, accepted the Freedom Award from the U.S. Department of Defense, the highest recognition of employers for their support of employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Kellner is a major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

**Daniel E. Rosenberg** ('05) joined Hall & Evans, LLC as an associate. His practice focuses on the defense of FDA and building code prosecutions, employment and security violations, and administrative law.

**Nicole Serfoss** ('05) has been elected to partner at global law firm Morrison & Foerster LLP, as a member of the litigation department. Serfoss is based in the firm's Denver office.

## 2006

The newly formed law firm of Linden Segal LLC welcomed **Nicki Cerasoli** ('06) as senior counsel. Cerasoli's practice areas include representing companies, executives, and investors in a broad range of business transactions and corporate legal matters.

In August 2017, Pollart Miller LLC announced that **Christopher K. Gray** ('06) joined the firm as an associate. He previously worked with the Colorado attorney general and Charter Communications.

Sheridan Ross P.C. promoted **Patricia Ho** ('06) to shareholder of the firm. She previously served as of counsel. Ho's practice focuses on patent, trademark, and other intellectual property litigation and counseling.

Lyons Gaddis Kahn Hall Jeffers Dworak & Grant, PC announced that **Timothy O'Neill** ('06) joined the firm as special counsel, where he works with the firm's real estate and business transaction group and government practice group.

Little Mendelson P.C., the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, has added **Laurie Rust** ('06) as a shareholder in its Denver office. Rust, an experienced labor and employment litigator, joins from Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP.



Dale ('97)



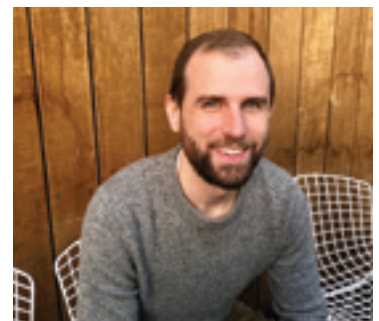
Holstein ('02)



Bond ('03)



Nieto ('03)



Gray ('06)

**2007**

**Marnie Adams** ('07) was promoted to shareholder at Recht Kornfeld PC. Adams represents clients in all matters related to criminal defense and professional licensing defense throughout the greater Denver metro area and beyond. She joined the firm in August 2016.

In July 2017, **Harry Budisidharta** ('07) became the CEO of the Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC). He has been involved with the organization for the past decade, starting as a volunteer counselor for the youth program and later joining its board of directors. He began working at APDC as deputy director in early 2015.

Hawley Troxell, Idaho's largest full-service business law firm, elected **Adam Christenson** ('07) as an equity partner. Christenson focuses his practice primarily on the areas of public finance and banking.

**Alaina M. (Hall) Stedillie** ('07) has been promoted to shareholder at Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. Stedillie's practice emphasizes commercial and complex civil litigation involving business entities of various sizes.

The Honorable **Jonathan Lucero** ('07) of Hernandez & Associates, P.C. was appointed to the Denver County Court as a part-time magistrate judge, where he will preside over protection orders, small claims, traffic, and criminal matters. He will continue to practice in the area of criminal defense at the firm during his judicial appointment.

Polsinelli PC shareholder **Richard Murray** ('07) was elected president of Colorado Legal Education (CLE) in Colorado, Inc., the nonprofit educational arm of the Colorado Bar Association and the Denver Bar Association. Murray is a shareholder with Polsinelli's commercial litigation practice.

**Siddhartha H. Rathod** ('07), partner at Rathod | Mohamedbhai LLC, was honored with the 2017 Kalpana Chawla Award at the 88th Annual CU Boulder Alumni Association Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Oct. 2, 2017. Presented since 1982, the award recognizes outstanding career achievement and significant contributions to the community and/or the university within 15 years of graduation from CU.

**2008**

**Kathryn D. Keiser** ('08) joined Packard and Dierking, LLC as special counsel. Her practice emphasizes tax and estate planning and real estate, and she serves Longmont, Boulder, and the surrounding areas.

LIV Sotheby's International Realty welcomed **Jennifer Kim** ('08) to its Denver Tech Center office as broker associate. Kim has been a licensed real estate agent since 2011.

**Jeffrey S. Rose** ('08) joined the firm Lyons Gaddis Kahn Hall Jeffers Dworak & Grant, PC as special counsel. Rose works in state and federal courts and is an experienced litigator and trial attorney.

**2009**

**Hiwot M. Covell** ('09) was promoted to shareholder at Sheridan Ross P.C. She was previously an associate at the firm. Covell focuses her practice on patent litigation and patent prosecution for chemical, biological, and mechanical processes and devices.

After two years as executive director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, **Joseph Neguse** ('09) began a new role at Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. as of counsel. He focuses his practice on employment law, commercial litigation, and administrative law.

**2010**

Chipman Glasser, LLC added **John M. Bowlin** ('10) to its team of attorneys. Bowlin represents clients in commercial litigation, including construction and real estate disputes, and in appellate litigation.

**Cameron Diehl** ('10) started a new job as executive director of the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) in Salt Lake City. After starting his career at ULCT as a legislative intern, Diehl returned to ULCT in 2010 and has served as administrative assistant, policy analyst, attorney, and director of government relations.

The Silicon Couloir board of directors selected **Jennifer Ford** ('10) to serve as its next executive director. Silicon Couloir is a nonprofit organization based in Jackson, Wyoming, that helps entrepreneurs connect with intellectual, human, and financial capital.

Fennemore Craig, P.C., announced the promotion of **Katie (Babcock) Hoffman** ('10) to director in its Reno, Nevada, office. Hoffman's practice focuses on administrative and regulatory matters before state and local agencies. In particular, she advocates for clients in the areas of gaming, sweepstakes and promotional contests, privileged business licenses, financial institutions, and public utilities.

Gutterman Griffiths PC, the boutique firm where **Duncan Griffiths** ('10) and **Elizabeth Bonanno** ('12) are equity shareholders, has changed its name to Griffiths Law, PC. Along with its name change, the firm has also expanded its practice to include civil litigation and family law.

**Avi Loewenstein** ('10) was promoted to shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP. A member of the firm's corporate department, Loewenstein represents private equity funds, entrepreneurs, family offices, and private companies in a variety of complex transactions including mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, growth equity and minority investments, corporate reorganizations, and general corporate matters.

**Christenson ('07)****Covell ('09)****Ford ('10)****Hoffman ('10)****Loewenstein ('10)**

The Colorado Hispanic Bar Association honored **Veronique Van Gheem** ('10) with its Individual Community Service Award, presented to an individual committed to providing services benefiting the Hispanic community. Van Gheem is senior assistant legal counsel for the State Court Administrator's Office of the Colorado Judicial Branch.

## 2011

After three years in San Francisco, **Travis Bell** ('11) has returned to Colorado and started a new job as an investment associate at GSSG Solar, an investment fund that provides capital to finance large-scale solar projects in the U.S. and Japan.

**Heather Strack** ('11) joined Griffiths Law, PC as an associate. She focuses her practice on high-conflict cases, jurisdiction issues, and cases involving family-owned or closely held businesses.

## 2012

**Zak Brown** ('12) received the Colorado State Public Defender's Office Lawyer of the Year award at the organization's annual conference in September 2017. This is the second consecutive year that an attorney from the Pueblo Public Defender's Office has won this prestigious statewide award. Brown has worked for the Pueblo Public Defender's Office for five years.

Holland & Hart LLP associate **CiCi Cheng** ('12) was elected co-president of the Colorado Pledge to Diversity Board of Directors, a nonprofit organization that sponsors the Colorado Pledge to Diversity 1L Summer Clerkship Program. A member of the firm's commercial litigation practice, Cheng handles cases in state and federal courts involving breach of contract, trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition and antitrust law, and other business-related issues.

On Nov. 2, 2017, the Honorable **Candyce Choi Cline** ('12) was sworn in as the associate municipal judge for the city of Westminster at Westminster City Hall. She and **David Cline** ('12) also welcomed a baby girl to their family in 2017.

**Bill Fischer** ('12) joined the intellectual property and transactional law practice at Greenberg Traurig, LLP as an associate. He focuses on assisting businesses in procuring, protecting, and extracting value from intellectual property assets.

**Elizabeth Froehlke** ('12) joined the Denver office of Littler Mendelson P.C. as an associate. She advises and represents clients on labor and employment matters.

**Andrew Nickel** ('12) joined Hall & Evans, LLC as an associate. His practice centers around health care litigation, medical negligence, and professional liability.

Baby Xander was born happy and healthy to **Kendria Pearson** ('12) on Aug. 8, 2017.

## 2013

**Martina Hinojosa** ('13) was presented with the 2017 Outstanding New Hispanic Lawyer Award by the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. Hinojosa practices with the public finance, incentives, and tax credits group at Butler Snow LLP.

**Elizabeth C. LaVance** ('13) joined McConaughy & Sarkissian, P.C. as an associate. She focuses her practice on civil litigation matters including construction, general liability, products liability, and personal injury.

**Marissa (Johnson) Prakash** ('13) married Kaushik Prakash in June 2017. The couple met during the fall Telecom Challenge when Prakash was in law school.

## 2014

Otten Johnson Robinson Neff + Ragonetti PC welcomed **Thomas Balmat** ('14) to its real estate practice group as an associate. He represents clients in all areas of commercial real estate, including acquisition, sale, development, leasing, financing, and entity formation.

**Alexandra Cotter** ('14) started a new job as an associate at Cooley LLP's San Francisco office.

**John Delva** ('14) was promoted to corporate counsel at DISH Network. Delva negotiates, structures, and drafts content licensing agreements with core programmers, local broadcast affiliates, regional sports networks, studios, and pay-per-view programmers.

**Michael LaVigne** ('14) joined Chayet & Danzo, LLC as an associate attorney. He focuses his practice on elder law, estate planning, guardianships and conservatorships, and probate litigation.

**Matt Montazzoli** ('14) was promoted to major in the U.S. Army. He was honored at a ceremony in November 2017 in Washington, D.C.

**Stephen Walter** ('14) stepped into a new role as CEO of Salt Lake City-based technology company Powerbx.

**Tim Wilkins** ('14) transferred from BlackRock's New York office to its San Francisco office.

## 2015

**Stacy L. Brownhill** ('15) joined the water, energy, resources, and environment practice group of the Denver firm Ryley Carlock & Applewhite. She focuses her practice on water and environmental issues.

**John L. Daskam** ('15) joined the Denver office of Kutak Rock LLP as an associate. He focuses his practice on both corporate law and real estate law.



**Brown** ('12)



**Cline** ('12)



**Xander, child of Pearson** ('12)



**Prakash** ('13)



**Cotter** ('14) and **Wilkins** ('14)

**Paul R. Janda** ('15) joined Hall & Evans, LLC as an associate. He previously clerked for the Honorable Nathan B. Coats at the Colorado Supreme Court.

**Braden Johnson** ('15) was nominated to the board of directors of Needs Beyond Medicine, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to decrease the burden of cancer by increasing awareness, education, and relief to cancer patients. Johnson is an associate in Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.'s Salt Lake City office, where he focuses his practice in commercial finance, real estate acquisitions, and banking law.

**Anna Minkinow** ('15) joined the Birmingham office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in its corporate and securities practice group. Minkinow advises public and private companies in an array of corporate transactions across industries.

**Tyler J. Thompson** ('15) started a new job as an associate at Bryan Cave LLP in Boulder. He practices with the firm's technology, entrepreneurial, and commercial client service group.

**Alexander D. White** ('15) joined the trial department at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, where his practice focuses on litigation, trial, and appeals.



**Johnson** ('15)



**Minkinow** ('15)



**Quilt art by Raymond** ('78)

## 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](https://colorado.edu/law/reconnect).



## TRANSFER YOUR CORNERSTONE SKILLS

BY JACKI COOPER MELMED ('03)

CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL

COLORADO GOVERNOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER

Recently, my son traveled with a group of fellow college freshmen to Detroit for a four-day field study of urban entrepreneurship. The students met with several recent college graduates to learn about the challenges of translating their passions into functioning enterprises. The most common question the students asked, my son told me, was how the young professionals' college degrees related to what they are doing now.

For law students, the answer to that question may seem obvious. For three years, you study a unique way of thinking, analyzing, researching, writing; and then, law degree in hand, you go and do it, right? Of course, it's not so simple. Any lawyer will tell you that the first several years of practice feel more like an extended apprenticeship than a profession. But inexperience is not the only reason study doesn't always easily translate to practice. There is also the need to hone skills that can only be learned through doing.

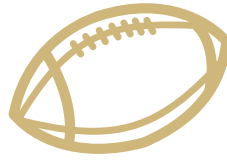
We often hear about the challenges posed by our changing economy. Aside from the threat of displacement by artificial intelligence, there is a trend away from degree-based jobs to skills- and competency-based jobs. Colorado Law has been ahead of this trend for some time. I, like many of you, was encouraged to develop skills and competencies outside the classroom through clinics and internships during my years at Colorado Law. I was lucky to have the opportunity to try out my advocacy skills in **Jim Dieters'** criminal law clinic and in mock appellate arguments with experienced professors/practitioners like **Emily Calhoun** and **Patrick Furman**. Also, with the help of professors and practitioners alike, I sought out internships with local law firms and—best of all—with distinguished jurists like the Honorable John L. Kane.

These experiences were not just résumé builders. They provided context for the material I was learning in the classroom. It's one thing to study trial procedure. It's another to see a judge react to a trial brief or to meet with a client in an overcrowded hearing room and argue for a bond reduction 20 minutes later.

Perhaps more important, though, these experiences prepared me for the actual practice of law. A lawyer needs not only strong research and writing skills, but also business acumen, counseling skills, and a host of "soft skills" such as active listening, collaboration, and crisis management, which enable you to handle clients and courtrooms alike. Put another way, learning outside the classroom allowed me to be nimble and apply the intellectual skills I learned in law school to a constantly shifting professional landscape.

Which brings me back to Detroit. Many of the entrepreneurs my son met reported that their current endeavors had little or nothing to do with their college majors. But the more perceptive among them recognized that they apply their studies every day. Rather than bemoan the impracticality of a philosophy or political science degree, these young professionals recognized that a disciplined area of study provided them with a foundation upon which experience builds a career. A law degree is no different. As the practice of law changes with technological advances, practitioners will need to apply their skills in new environments. The degree you earn today will serve as your cornerstone. The learning you do outside the classroom will allow you to transfer those skills to a host of different contexts.

# **SAVE THE DATE**



## **Homecoming & Reunion Weekend**

October 26–27, 2018

[colorado.edu/law/homecoming](http://colorado.edu/law/homecoming)

Classes celebrating their reunions in 2018:

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