

designated Law Schools in the United States, represent duly appointed by their respective faculties, do hereby establish the following as its Articles of Association. The object of the Association is the improvement in America, especially in the Law Schools. The Association shall meet annually at the time which the American Bar Association meets. The Executive may call special meetings at such time and place as may select; thirty days' notice of such meeting shall be given.



FALL 2022

# AMICUS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL



CELEBRATING 130 YEARS  
OF COLORADO LAW



Colorado Law  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER





With its ongoing commitment to diversity, Colorado Law is helping to change not only the face of the legal profession but the mind, heart, and soul of the endeavor.

—*Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss*

One hundred and thirty years ago, Colorado Law opened its doors for the first time, housed in an old hospital building known as Kent Hall. We began with a humble class of 23 students, one full-time faculty member, and Colorado's first U.S. District Court judge, Moses Hallert, serving as its first dean. It may be hard to imagine now, but in 1892 the law school library was merely a few shelves of materials.

Today, Colorado Law has awarded over 8,000 degrees and boasts a world-class faculty of 63 brilliant full-time scholars and teachers, not to mention our many outstanding adjuncts and fellows! We are the intellectual home for some of the most remarkable, practical, and inspired "get-things-done" people in the country.

We now serve a student body of over 500 dedicated and ambitious future leaders of the bench, bar, policy, and in business. And the Wise Law Library now serves as a regional archive for federal government materials, is open to the public, and proudly calls itself the largest law library in the Rocky Mountain region.

Much has changed since those early years, both on campus and in the world at large. It was not so long ago—in the grand scheme of things—that a nearly all white and male demographic dominated law schools and the practice of law in our country. With its ongoing commitment to diversity, Colorado Law is helping to change not only the face of the legal profession but the mind, heart, and soul of the endeavor. We are proud that close to a third of today's Colorado Law student body are of diverse backgrounds. And we are also proud that our community has garnered a national reputation for offering our students a truly top-quality legal education along with top quality of life in one of the happiest, healthiest corners of the country. But at the same time that we are pleased with our progress, we recognize that there is yet much to be done, and we cannot rest on our laurels.

The pages of this issue capture nostalgia for times past, often bittersweet. In these pages, there is good and there is bad. There is more than can be eloquently expressed by a single voice. That's why you will hear the voices of many—from our alumni who graduated before the civil rights movement to those who only recently left our hallowed halls.

This issue contains great optimism and ambition, dreams and plans for a future that we create using a framework of fairness and justice. We have much to be thankful for and much to strive toward. I invite you to join with us in remembering, imagining, and appreciating all that makes Colorado Law the exceptional institution that connects us today. Most importantly, I invite you to join with us in making Colorado Law an even greater institution.

Here's to 130 more years, and beyond.

**Lolita Buckner Inniss**  
Dean and Provost's Professor of Law

# AMICUS

FALL 2022

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Inquiries regarding content contained  
herein may be addressed to

Colorado Law  
Attn: Amicus  
401 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

or to [law-communications@colorado.edu](mailto:law-communications@colorado.edu)

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Roth

## EDITING

Michelle Starika Asakawa, Robyn  
Munn, and Julia Roth

## WRITING

Clement Asante '22, Michael Carrigan  
'94, Verónica González '23, Lolita  
Buckner Inniss, Michele Manceaux  
'24, VanMichael Moore '22, Robyn  
Munn, Leo Nguyen '24, Julia Roth,  
Claire Song '24, Kelsea Suarez '23,  
and Hanna Wynn '22

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Julia Roth

## DESIGN

Kristin Weber, Sugar Design Inc.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Glenn Asakawa, Casey A. Cass,  
Patrick Campbell, Kelsy Grim, Cyrus  
McCrimmon, and Lisa Siciliano

## PRINTING

D&K Printing

## CONNECT WITH US



*Amicus* is moving to an  
annual format and will  
be mailed out in the  
fall. You can always  
find the latest news at  
[colorado.edu/law](https://colorado.edu/law).



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# Welcome to the Class of 2025!

3,231

APPLICANTS

38%

COLORADO RESIDENTS

3.72

CUMULATIVE GPA  
(MEDIAN)

164

LSAT SCORE  
(MEDIAN)

25

AVERAGE AGE

165

ENROLLED FIRST-YEAR  
STUDENTS

115

UNDERGRADUATE  
SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

33%

STUDENTS OF COLOR  
(racially and ethnically diverse, self-identified)

36

STATES  
(INCLUDING D.C.)

23

INCOMING LL.M. AND MASTER OF  
STUDIES IN LAW STUDENTS

Statistics as of Sept. 1, 2022





# Four New Faculty Join Colorado Law

Faculty whose expertise includes environmental law, American Indian law, administrative law, corporate and international taxation, natural resources law, and international Indigenous issues joined the University of Colorado Law School this August.



## MICHAEL PAPPAS

### » LATEST SCHOLARSHIP

“Climate Changes Property: Disasters, Decommodification, and Retreat” (with Victor Byers Flatt), 82 *Ohio State Law Journal* 331 (2021).

» Recognized as a preeminent voice in property, natural resource, and environmental law, **Michael Pappas** joined the faculty as professor of law from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where he taught since 2012.

Pappas’ scholarship draws upon interdisciplinary influences associated with economics and political economy. His work explores the nature of property expectations, governmental responsibilities, and private rights in managing resources such as land, energy, water, wildlife, fisheries, and food. Pappas has also worked extensively to advance interdisciplinary teaching and research collaborations and was voted Maryland Carey Law’s Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year in 2014.

“I’ve been impressed with Colorado Law for a while. It has long been a leader in the areas of environmental and natural resource law, with so many students interested in those subjects and with professors, past and current, who are icons in the field. It’s incredibly exciting to be joining a school that is and has been so committed to topics I am passionate about,” he said.

Prior to joining the Francis King Carey School of Law faculty, Pappas was a Forrester Fellow and instructor in legal writing at Tulane University Law School, where he also taught international and domestic fisheries law. In addition, he taught natural resources law as an adjunct professor at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and served as an instructor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PROSPECT Training Program, where he taught environmental law and regulation.

Pappas graduated from Stanford University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English literature, then went on to earn his JD from Stanford Law School, where he was the co-editor-in-chief of the *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* and a member of the Stanford Environmental Law Clinic. After law school, he clerked for the Hon. James L. Dennis, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

» **A**manda Parsons has joined the faculty as associate professor of law. Most recently an academic fellow and lecturer in law at Columbia Law School, Parsons focuses her research on corporate and international taxation, with a particular emphasis on the impact of digitalization on tax law.

“Colorado Law offered both a wonderful faculty and student body and a great place for my family to live in Boulder. I was also really excited about the opportunity to teach at a state school and be part of the school’s public mission. From a scholarship perspective, I write about the intersection of taxation and the digital economy so Silicon Flatirons and the tech community here in Boulder were also major draws,” Parsons said.

Before arriving at Columbia Law School, Parsons worked as an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. While there, she participated in tax planning and strategy for large multinational corporations; advised on the tax components of a variety of complex transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, and capital markets transactions; and advised private clients on individual tax matters in both the domestic and international contexts.

Parsons’ scholarship has appeared in publications such as the *Yale Law & Policy Review* and *Duke Law Journal*. She holds a JD from Yale Law School, where she served as projects editor on the *Yale Law Journal*; a master’s degree in philosophy from the University of Oxford, with a focus on evidence-based social intervention; and a bachelor’s in history from Columbia University.



» **LATEST SCHOLARSHIP**

“Tax’s Digital Labor Dilemma,”  
71 *Duke Law Journal*  
(forthcoming 2022).



# JONATHAN SKINNER- THOMPSON

## » LATEST SCHOLARSHIP

“Procedural Environmental Justice,” *Washington Law Review* (forthcoming 2022).

» **A**lready a widely respected presence at Colorado Law, **Jonathan Skinner-Thompson** has transitioned from his role as associate clinical professor and director of the Getches-Green Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Clinic to associate professor of law on the research faculty. He will continue to teach natural resources courses in his new role, including Climate Change Law and Policy and Environmental Law.

Skinner-Thompson also serves as affiliated faculty for the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Justice at CU Boulder and sits on the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment’s Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

Skinner-Thompson’s scholarship focuses primarily on administrative and environmental law issues and has appeared or is forthcoming in many publications, including the *Washington Law Review*; the environmental journals at Duke, Stanford, Vermont, and Virginia law schools; and the ABA’s *Natural Resources & Environment* magazine.

His current projects touch on decolonial theory and environmental governance and build on his recent article on procedural environmental justice. He will conduct a national survey of public participation procedures under a specific permitting program to see what we can learn about practices across the country.

Before joining Colorado Law, Skinner-Thompson was an attorney at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—first in the Office of General Counsel and then with the Office of Regional Counsel in Denver. He also has served in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Environmental Defense Section and was an environmental associate with firms in New York and Seattle. For his federal service, he received the Administrator’s Award for Excellence, a Special General Counsel’s Award, and the Assistant Attorney General’s Award for Excellence, among others.

Skinner-Thompson graduated cum laude from Duke University School of Law and with high honors from the University of California, Berkeley.





"It is incredibly energizing to be back in the halls with another generation of students who are asking the same questions with a new set of facts. Colorado Law continues to attract these students, and it is an honor to teach them, knowing that one day soon I will be working alongside them."

— *Christina Stanton*

» **C**hristina Stanton '15 has joined the faculty as an associate clinical professor and director of the American Indian Law Clinic. Stanton previously served as an adjunct professor at Colorado Law, interim director of the American Indian Law Clinic, and director of operations for First Peoples Worldwide, an organization housed in the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies at the University of Colorado. There, she led targeted international strategy on behalf of Indigenous partners in parallel with market-based corporate advocacy and directed the student research program, which seeks to develop early-career professionals and Native leaders in the field.

"It has been wonderful to come back and teach at Colorado Law and contribute to the American Indian Law Program," Stanton said. "The best part about being a student at Colorado Law was studying alongside others who were committed to service and thinking about how they could use their law degree as a tool to better the world. It is incredibly energizing to be back in the halls with another generation of students who are asking the same questions with a new set of facts. Colorado Law continues to attract these students, and it is an honor to teach them, knowing that one day soon I will be working alongside them."

Stanton is a licensed attorney who previously worked as an associate at Wagenlander & Heisterkamp LLC. She exclusively focused on public housing with tribally designated housing entities and some local public housing authorities. She practiced in both tribal and state court on behalf of Native nations.

Stanton also worked as a fellow at Colorado Law's Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment, focusing on treaty fishing rights for tribes in the Pacific Northwest, violence against Native women, and international Indigenous issues. She is passionate about ending the epidemic of violence against all women, particularly Native women, and has trauma-informed training that has influenced her own research and writing.

Stanton holds a JD with an American Indian Law certificate from the University of Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University.



## Suzette Malveaux Named Moses Lasky Professor

**Suzette Malveaux** was named Moses Lasky Professor of Law, one of the school's highest faculty distinctions. With this honor, Malveaux joins a previously named Moses Lasky Professor, **Sarah Krakoff**, who is on leave while serving the Biden administration as deputy solicitor for parks and wildlife.

Malveaux, who joined the faculty in 2018, also serves as director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law.

Malveaux teaches Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination, and Constitutional Civil Rights Law and researches and publishes on the intersection of civil procedure and civil rights. She co-authored *Class Actions and Other Multi-Party Litigation: Cases and Materials* (West, 2006, 2012) and is a co-editor of *A Guide to Civil Procedure: Integrating Critical Legal Perspectives* (NYU Press,

2022). She is a member of the American Law Institute and chair of the AALS Civil Procedure Section.

**Moses Lasky** '28, for whom the professorship is named, remains one of the law school's most exceptional graduates. A titan of trial and appellate law, Lasky appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court nearly 50 times and was nationally renowned for his intellect and legal acumen.



## Helen Norton Named University Distinguished Professor

With approval by the CU Board of Regents, the University of Colorado in November 2021 named **Helen Norton** one of its 11 newly designated distinguished professors—the highest honor bestowed upon faculty across the system's four campuses.

Norton is a groundbreaking constitutional scholar and a proven thought leader among the nation's top academics studying the relationship between the government's speech and the First Amendment. She is one of the first to understand the complexities of this relationship and published the seminal book on this topic, *The Government's Speech and the Constitution* (2019).

A member of the CU faculty since 2007, Norton has received several teaching awards, including the President's Teaching Scholar

(2014), and is a five-time recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, an honor bestowed by Colorado Law students. In her 20 years in academia, Norton has published more than 35 full-length law review articles and essays, in addition to a variety of shorter works. She is a highly sought speaker at top constitutional workshops and conferences across the nation.



## Former Dean S. James Anaya Serving on Global Climate Summit Steering Committee



**S. James Anaya**, distinguished professor and Nicholas Doman Professor of International Law, is one of three co-chairs of the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit steering committee.

As a global leader in climate, environmental, and energy research, the University of Colorado Boulder is proud to partner with United Nations Human Rights to co-host the summit in

December 2022. By gathering some of the world's foremost human rights, scientific, political, educational, cultural, and industry leaders, the summit aims to raise awareness about the human rights crisis that climate change is, and to look for solutions.

With expertise in international human rights and issues concerning Indigenous peoples, Anaya served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples from 2008 to 2014. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Anaya has litigated major cases involving the human rights of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international tribunals.

"Throughout my career I've touched upon issues of human rights that have to do with the natural environment, and more and more with the effects of climate change on the natural environment," he said. "I was very privileged to have worked with Inuit people in the Arctic in the early 2000s in presenting a claim to an international human rights body alleging violations of their human rights because of the effects of climate change on their lives. Since my involvement in that litigation, it's been very much an interest of mine as something that I think is very important and that I hope to contribute to in some small way."

Learn more at [colorado.edu/globalclimatesummit](https://colorado.edu/globalclimatesummit).

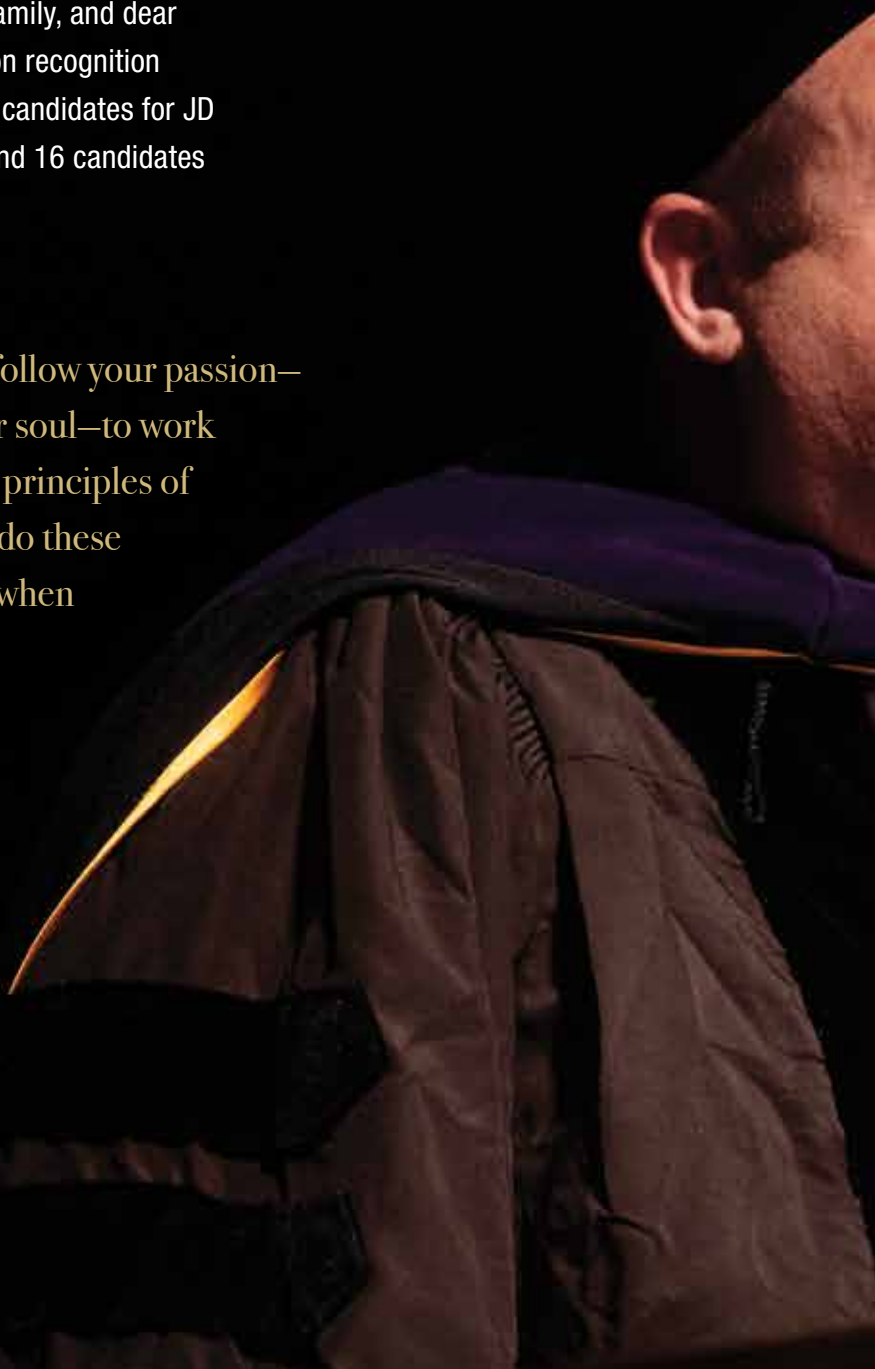


# Colorado Law Celebrates Class of 2022

**O**n Friday, May 6, 2022, a total of 189 proud graduates from all around the globe gathered with faculty, family, and dear friends for the Colorado Law 2022 graduation recognition ceremony at Macky Auditorium. Graduating were 166 candidates for JD degrees, 7 Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degrees, and 16 candidates for LLM degrees.

"I call on each of you to use your degree to follow your passion—the outward projection of what exists in your soul—to work hard, to be bold, to be joyous, to uphold the principles of our republic and the rule of law, and—if you do these things, you will truly have nothing to regret when you look back on your life."

**Jared Polis** | 43rd governor of Colorado







Watch a recording of the ceremony on Colorado Law's YouTube channel.



## Emily Horowitz Named Assistant Dean of Student Services

**E**mily Horowitz joined Colorado Law in 2019 as director of experiential learning and was appointed assistant dean of student services in May 2022.

Before joining Colorado Law, Horowitz worked at the University of Miami School of Law as assistant director of academic affairs and student services and special advisor to the law reviews.

She graduated with honors from the University of Miami School of Law in 2012, where she served as the editor-in-chief of the *University of Miami Law Review* and was a member of the Charles C. Papy, Jr. Moot Court Board.

### Q&A

#### **What attracted you to Colorado Law?**

Colorado Law has a national reputation as a fantastic law school with a plethora of classroom and experiential opportunities for students. It also happens to be located in one of the most beautiful parts of the country!

#### **How do you think the law student experience has changed—whether temporarily or permanently—due to COVID-19?**

COVID-19 challenged us to quickly shift to remote learning—something that law schools had not really done before. It forced us to use technology to do things we used to do in person (i.e., mock trial competitions) and to become creative about ways of teaching, learning, and supporting students. For the first time ever, we hosted graduation (for the Class of 2020) virtually instead of in-person. Our 3Ls completed orientation and their entire first year of law school remotely. An ongoing challenge in the post-COVID era, one that is not unique to Colorado Law or law schools in general, is helping students feel a sense of belonging and getting them involved on campus.

#### **What do you enjoy most about working with law students?**

Ever since I was a 2L in law school, I knew I wanted to go into student affairs. I was very involved in

student life on campus, and I enjoyed being a mentor to other law students. I love seeing law students achieve their academic and professional goals. If a student is struggling, I work hard to help them overcome whatever they are struggling with. I never cease to be amazed by the fantastic students I have met over the course of my time working with law students. It is truly exciting to meet law students from all different walks of life!

#### **What was your proudest achievement in your previous role as director of experiential learning and public service programs?**

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge and an opportunity. In a matter of days in March 2020, we transitioned all in-person externships to a remote format. We worked hard to identify repeat and new externship opportunities that would afford students the same first-class learning opportunities, albeit remotely. When COVID hit, Jackie Koehn and I canceled previously booked travel to external mock trial, moot court, and transactional competitions, and purchased AV equipment that allowed our students to compete virtually in competitions around the world from the safety of our homes. Three of my proudest non-COVID-19 achievements are establishing externship orientation for externship students at the beginning of each semester, expanding the number and types of external competitions we send Barristers Council members to, and securing funding for the 1L Purvis Gray Thomson Mock Trial Competition, which allows us to award scholarship money to student finalists.

#### **What do you like to do for fun?**

Spend time with family and friends, marvel at the daily growth and discoveries of my young son, go for long walks/hikes, and, occasionally, binge-watch Netflix.

#### **Anything else we should know about you?**

Being a dean of students has been my dream job for over a decade, and I plan to do everything I can to help Colorado Law students enjoy their time in school and feel supported.





## American Indian Law Program Toolkit Helps Indigenous Communities Implement Human Rights

Students in Colorado Law's American Indian Law Program recently launched a first-of-its-kind educational toolkit to help American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians across the U.S. realize their rights to land recovery, religious freedoms, language revitalization, and child welfare.

The Tribal Implementation Toolkit highlights ways tribes have implemented the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a standard-setting document that recognizes the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples, including their self-determination. In close partnership with tribal leaders, lawyers, judges, scholars, and partner organizations, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and UCLA Law School, Colorado Law students studied and wrote about the ways in which tribes have incorporated the declaration into their own tribal codes, resolutions, and agreements.

"Professor **Kristen Carpenter** and the dedicated students in the American Indian Law Program witnessed nationwide, ongoing injustice and—through close collaboration and legal acumen—crafted and distributed a tool that empowers marginalized individuals and communities to successfully assert their rights," said Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss**. "The Tribal Implementation Toolkit is a prime example of how Colorado Law is redefining and refining excellence in legal education. This is what makes Colorado Law such an inspiring place to teach and learn."

The toolkit helps make the U.N. Declaration meaningful and accessible by emphasizing its real-world applications in the U.S., explained Kristen Carpenter, Council Tree Professor of Law and director of the American Indian Law Program at Colorado Law.

"Tribes don't necessarily have to go to the United Nations in Geneva or New York to advance their rights; they can do so practically at home," she said. "The toolkit looks to tribes for best practices. These are not top-down recommendations but deeply local

examples of tribes using the declaration to advance their self-determination."

Following a virtual launch event, students resumed travel to Indigenous communities, and in November 2022, students in the Advanced Indian Law Seminar traveled to Oklahoma for workshops presenting the Tribal Implementation Toolkit to tribal leaders and community members in the Cherokee Nation and Pawnee Nation. Students presented on the application of the declaration in challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, protection of tribal water sources, and remedies for federal Indian Boarding School programs. Students also met with traditional spiritual leader Crosslin Smith, who blessed them with a water ceremony and visited cultural and historic sites.

"The implementation project has had the opportunity to support several tribal governments, each taking a complementary yet unique path to make the promises of the declaration real in the lives of their Indigenous citizens," Carpenter said. "We are inspired to be part of the journey that Indigenous peoples are taking to implement the declaration."

The toolkit is a product of The Implementation Project, a joint initiative between Colorado Law and NARF, the oldest and largest nonprofit legal organization defending the rights of Native American tribes, organizations, and people, to implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States. Through this partnership, Colorado Law students gain practical experience in applying international human rights frameworks in American Indian law challenges. An upcoming publication of The Implementation Project will focus on human rights in Hawaii, as well as helping to navigate the United Nations. Learn more at [un-declaration.narf.org](https://un-declaration.narf.org).



Photos: The Implementation Project members, colleagues from Cherokee Nation, and Colorado Law students.

## PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE with **Margot E. Kaminski**

**A**ssociate Professor **Margot E. Kaminski** teaches, researches, and writes on law and technology. Her groundbreaking work has focused on privacy, speech, and online civil liberties, in addition to international intellectual property law and legal issues raised by artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics. She also serves as director of the Privacy Initiative at Silicon Flatirons.



### **What initially attracted you to this area of the law?**

I worked in publishing after college, right around the time that e-books were becoming popular. That, along with the rise of social media, got me interested

in how we arrange existing legal rights around new technologies—from speech to privacy to intellectual property rights.

Later, while in law school, I interned for a summer at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a nonprofit in San Francisco that describes itself as “defending civil liberties in the digital world.” There was a team there working on national security surveillance litigation. That really opened my eyes to the central significance of human rights in the digital age. But I’ve always been interested in the nitty gritty aspects of regulation, especially the role that transparency can play. I came back to law school and co-founded a clinic, the Media Freedom and Information Access (MFIA) clinic, which litigates government accountability and transparency cases, including cases involving new technologies. We found ourselves asking who should count as a journalist, and what role information technologies were playing in the face of existing power disparities—both as tools of surveillance and tools of accountability.

By the time I became a professor, I had really honed in on privacy. It’s such a fast-moving policy space, with big implications for democracy and individual freedom. I spent a few years working on the privacy issues raised by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones, and then got the opportunity to go to Europe through a Fulbright grant. That’s when I turned to working increasingly on comparative data privacy law, with a focus on automated decision-making systems and AI.

### **Have legal issues raised by AI and robotics changed since you graduated from law school?**

Gosh, yes. When I was in law school many of these questions felt ahead of the curve or hypothetical. Now, we have companies using facial recognition (a type of computer algorithm) to scan applicants’ faces to try to determine emotions and extrapolate personality traits, for example. We have government agencies using algorithms, including AI systems, to try to allocate benefits or catch fraud. The use of and investment in AI systems is everywhere, and lawmakers are taking the potential harms of AI systems seriously. Colorado, for example, just enacted a new law on facial recognition.

### **You’ve written extensively about the role of AI algorithms in decision making. How do you see the future of balancing decisional authority between humans and machines?**

This is a hard one. I don’t see my role as predicting the future, necessarily. I’m more interested in



trying to figure out what the law can do to ensure that human values stay on the table—that as we increasingly create and use sociotechnical systems, we put in place whatever’s necessary to make sure we don’t lose sight of what matters. I definitely believe, for a number of reasons, that there are some decisional realms where we will always use humans. Legal decisions, for example, aren’t just about correctness and efficiency. Legitimacy, justification, accountability, even a respect for the dignitary rights of the person affected by a decision—these are all reasons why law, at least as an ideal, isn’t suited to automation.

The most interesting problems aren’t about whether to use a machine or a human, but about how to get them to work together. For example, I’ve co-authored this recent article on “humans in the loop,” or the people involved in automated decisions. Often, well-intentioned lawmakers will look at a decision made by an AI system and try to solve some set of perceived problems by requiring that a human be involved. It’s not that humans are worse decision makers than machines—in fact, humans still do a lot of things, like crossing contexts or dealing with edge cases, much better. But putting a human in the loop thoughtlessly actually creates new problems. Hybrid human-machine systems have known weaknesses and can be subject to complex failure cascades. So if we’re going to put a human in the loop of particularly significant automated decisions, we have to know why we’re putting her there, and set her (and the system) up to succeed.

**You recently worked with Colorado Law’s Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic to develop comments responding to the Attorney General’s Pre-Rulemaking Considerations for the Colorado Privacy Act. Tell us about that work.**

I feel so lucky to be at a school with a tech law clinic! Professor [Blake] Reid ’10 is a joy to work with, and his students (who are often also my students, from other classes) take their work very seriously and produce impressive and important output. This most recent project, responding to the Colorado AG’s office on the Colorado Privacy Act, is a great example. Two clinic students worked to exhaustively identify aspects of the act that could benefit from a focused rulemaking. They did an extraordinary amount of research, ranging from technical articles on how to best design an effective consent stream, to organizational literature on how to make an impact assessment successful. They also pointed the AG’s office to resources on other privacy laws,

both in Europe and in other states like California. This is particularly important as states like ours weigh the benefits of harmonization, which typically makes for lower compliance costs for businesses, with the appeal of being a policy leader in the consumer protection space.

**Colorado Law’s Tech Law and Policy program, along with the law school’s Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship, are nationally recognized. How would you like to see these programs evolve or grow?**

Again, I feel very lucky to be at a school that has so many faculty members working in related spaces. Each of us does something slightly different—Professor [Kristelia] Garcia works on copyright law, Professor [Brad] Bernthal ’01 on entrepreneurship, Professor Reid on telecommunications and platform law, Professor [Harry] Surden on patent law and a different area of AI—but we’re able to collectively offer our students a depth of expertise and classes that aren’t really available elsewhere, except at a few very top law schools. There is, however, always room for growth. I would love to see us be able to offer our students more privacy courses, in particular. It would be amazing to be able to offer data privacy for practitioners or an international privacy course. We also, despite the expertise on our faculty, have yet to offer a class on law and AI!

**What research themes or projects are you most looking forward to digging into in the coming year?**

I have a few projects I’m really excited about. This “humans in the loop” piece I already mentioned is a big one. So is a piece I’ve been revising this summer called *Regulating the Risks of AI*. Most laws targeting AI have been risk regulation—the kind of thing we use, for example, in environmental law, or that companies use to try to mitigate risks. Risk regulation comes with a particular set of policy baggage. It’s been fun—and challenging!—to dig into how aspects of it do and don’t work when it’s applied to algorithms and associated practices. I’m also really looking forward this fall to getting back into a piece I’ve been calling *Data as Speech Infrastructure*, where I’ll be looking at data privacy laws through the lens of the First Amendment. And there’s a good chance something will come of all of the discussions I’ve been having about the data privacy implications of the Supreme Court’s decision revoking the right to abortion in *Dobbs*.

In short, there’s always something to do.

## REIMAGINING OUR FUTURE:

## Solidarity Suite Celebrates Grand Opening



By Clement Asante '22, Verónica González '23, Michele Manceaux '24, VanMichael Moore '22, Leo Nguyen '24, Claire Song '24, Kelsea Suarez '23, and Hanna Wynn '22

*Colorado Law celebrated the grand opening of its newest student lounge, the Solidarity Suite, on April 13, 2022. Managed and cared for by student leaders on the Council for Racial Justice and Equity, the suite has become an integral part of the Colorado Law community.*

### Founding the Suite

The actualization of Colorado Law's Solidarity Suite was—in every sense of the phrase—a collaborative effort. The idea for creating a safe space for minoritized students at CU was one of the first things **VanMichael Moore** '22, former Black Law Students Association (BLSA) co-president, heard from a 3L student of color when he began his law school journey in 2019. “We were just chatting about me being a Black man, and her a Latina woman, at this predominantly white institution. There was a common feeling of being isolated from the sense of community that most white students took for granted,” he recalled.

Still, creating a space for solidarity remained an unlikely aspiration until the following year, when our country faced what many described as a racial reckoning. In the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, the BLSA executive board, including Moore and his classmates **Clement Asante** '22, **Hanna Wynn** '22, and **Kehinde Winful** '22, wrote an open letter urging the Colorado Law community to take a public stance in opposing police violence against unarmed Black people. Many students and staff members responded with overwhelming support, voicing a collective willingness to engage in allyship and advocacy for the Black community. Capitalizing on the momentum of the moment, the BLSA collaborated with other student leaders of color—including **José García-Madrid** '22 of the Latinx Law Student Association (LLSA)—and

demanding that the administration implement policies to better serve BIPOC students. On the list of items demanding attention was the creation of a space on campus that would garner a sense of community and camaraderie for students of color.

This coalition of diverse students established the Council for Racial Justice and Equity (CRJE) and soon galvanized support from **Fernando Guzmán**, the law school's assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence, and **S. James Anaya**, former dean. During the 2020–21 school year, after a series of negotiations between the BLSA, CRJE, and administration that included open forums for student input led by **Essence Duncan** '23, Anaya confirmed that many of the proposals by the BLSA and CRJE, including the Solidarity Suite, would be implemented. He designated room 1B02A in the newly renovated garden level of the law school to become the new lounge.

### Implementation and Grand Opening of the Suite

Fall 2021 was the first time that the majority of students were back in the Wolf Law Building after a year and a half of remote learning during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also the first time that student organizations had access to the Solidarity Suite, and students were initially uncertain about how they might use the space. Within a few days, however, the suite became a refuge for BIPOC students and a vibrant space for law students schoolwide to study together,





Founding members of the CRJE with former dean S. James Anaya and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence Fernando Guzmán.

grow, and reimagine how the legal arena can best serve our diverse range of communities. The suite's uses ranged from hosting the Women of Color Collective's monthly meetings to planning celebrations like the LLSA's Día de Los Muertos. Ultimately, the suite evolved into a space for students to celebrate diversity on their own terms.

Throughout the 2021–22 school year, **Kelsea Suarez** '23 designed and painted the suite with meaningful artwork and two quotes. One quote, by African revolutionary Thomas Sankara, reads, "We must dare to invent the future." For Suarez, the quote provides a vision that "we do not come to law school to assimilate to be like every other lawyer, but rather that we dare to break out of that mold and be our own type of lawyer," she said. The

second quote, by Aboriginal activist Lilla Watson, speaks to the concept of solidarity: "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

In April 2022, the Council for Racial Justice and Equity student leadership, including Suarez and co-facilitators **Larrisa Alire** '23, **Liam Garcia** '23, and **Verónica González** '23, held a grand opening of the Solidarity Suite with the entire Colorado Law community to commemorate and celebrate the hard work put in by multiple classes of BIPOC students. It was a night to remember with lots of food, laughter, live jazz music from the CU Jam Society, and local BIPOC artists showing off their art!





### The Future

The Solidarity Suite played a significant role in the 1L journeys of the Colorado Law Class of 2024. **Claire Song** '24, **Michele Manceaux** '24, and **Leo Nguyen** '24 recall that when they began law school, they needed to learn how to navigate a new in-person learning environment, an ongoing pandemic, and a predominantly white institution. The suite helped the 1Ls quickly find each other and face these challenges together. Small moments like eating lunch together made a big difference. They found time to laugh, smile, and celebrate each other's wins, even with a heavy course load.

"Ultimately, the suite evolved into a space for students to celebrate diversity on their own terms."

# SOLIDARITY

In the suite, these 1Ls built amazing relationships with 2Ls and 3Ls who helped them navigate law school as people of color. From this safe space, the Class of 2024 grew a community of talented peers and mentors who empowered them to get involved in affinity groups. The space hosted many meetings for students to participate and learn more about how each group advocated for inclusive learning. Now in leadership positions of affinity groups, Song, Manceaux, and Nguyen are grateful for what the suite gave to their class and are excited to incorporate the suite into events celebrating incoming BIPOC students.

In the future, students will continue to strengthen the suite community by expanding and adding artwork, creating connection opportunities for new students, and providing a space for affinity groups to promote their events and efforts. Song, Manceaux, and Nguyen are also working to solidify the Solidarity Suite's role in the Colorado Law community by undertaking new initiatives. The CRJE is building a lending library for students to share study materials and supplements. Affinity groups can use the suite as a meeting space

for mentoring relationships between students, faculty, attorneys, and judges, thus transforming the suite into a physical nexus between Colorado Law students and the wider legal community. Additionally, student leaders and community members can request use of the space for larger events by emailing [CRJE@colorado.edu](mailto:CRJE@colorado.edu).

*The **Council for Racial Justice and Equity** is a student-led activist organization that works to challenge existing policies and practices at Colorado Law to increase diversity, equity, and racial justice. The Council is currently led by co-facilitators Malia Eastman, Leo Nguyen, and Jemil Kassahun, all of whom are in the Class of 2024.*

L-R: Solidarity Suite mural artist Kelsea Suarez '23 and 2021-22 CRJE co-facilitators Verónica González '23, Liam Garcia '23, and Larrisa Alire '23.











## SEVEN GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI REFLECT ON

## 130 Years

To commemorate Colorado Law's 130th birthday, we brought together a diverse group of alumni spanning seven generations to share memories and stories of their law school days. Two major themes that emerged were the connectivity of the alumni community and the collaborative nature of the student body. While the challenges facing classes over the decades have been very different, each class has found its own unique ways to make the world a better, more equitable place.

THANK YOU TO OUR  
ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

**John Purvis '67, Natalie Ellwood '69, Hon. Gary Jackson '70, Betty Arkell '75, Bill Buck '83, Hon. Eric Elliff '87, Rich Lopez '91, Lucy Stark '98, Franz Hardy '00, Hon. Nikea Bland '05, Jon Milgrom '15, Adrian Untermeyer '20, and Lindsey Floyd '21.**

*The transcript of the discussion below has been edited for clarity, length, and style.*

**Foreground:** Rich Lopez '91 and Lucy Stark '98; **Background, clockwise:** John Purvis '67, Jon Milgrom '15, Bill Buck '83, Adrian Untermeyer '20, and Lindsey Floyd '21 participate in an alumni roundtable to commemorate Colorado Law's 130th birthday.

## What was the city of Boulder like when you were a law student?

Alumni living in Boulder in the 1960s and 1970s shared memories of grabbing a beer or bite to eat at the Lamp Post, Gondolier, or the Harvest House, and enjoying the natural beauty surrounding the law school through hiking, bicycling, and wading in Boulder Creek. Beyond its idyllic setting, however, alumni discussed Boulder's troubled history, including the redlining practices that pushed Black residents into a neighborhood known as the Little Rectangle (now Goss-Grove) in the 20th century. Alumni also reflected on Boulder's ongoing challenges with affordability and diversity.

"As a Black person in Boulder in the 1960s, I describe my experience using the movie *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*—that's my Boulder experience; being the Black person, trying to be a professional entering into a completely white society and trying to make it as a student," recalled **Hon. Gary Jackson '70**.

He continued, "From the time I arrived in 1964 until 1970, Boulder never had a Black barbershop. So, to get a haircut, I would go to Denver because a white barber was not

going to cut my hair. But Boulder, despite its failings during those periods of time, was also a place that I really embraced and enjoyed."

**Rich Lopez '91** arrived in Boulder in 1974 to take a job as city planner.

"I was pretty excited to get this job in this beautiful city," he said. "And it was even more exciting when I met the mayor, **Penfield Tate II '68**. I remember meeting him for the first time and my mouth just kind of my dropped open. I said, here's this Black man with a handlebar mustache, love beads, his hair slicked back. He was so avant garde. Of course, then I remember looking back and thinking, well, I was dressed in a yellow paisley suit, hair down to my shoulders, wearing platform shoes. It was a very strange time," he laughed.

**Lindsey Floyd '21** weighed in on the realities of living in Boulder today.

"Boulder is very cost prohibitive. So a lot of students in my class didn't live in Boulder; we lived in Broomfield or Longmont or Louisville or Denver. I lived in Boulder my first year and then Denver for the second two years. Boulder still lacks diversity too.

So that was something that the affinity groups at Colorado Law made up for—creating communities for ourselves that we didn't see represented in Boulder.”

Living in different towns had some unexpected perks, though. “The one nice thing about everyone being so spread out is that when we wanted to go out together or do things together, there was constant bickering about whether we do it in Denver or if we'd have to take the bus up to Boulder,” she laughed. “It did require us to be really friendly because if we were to go out, there's no way we could afford to get back to Denver or Boulder, so we'd sleep on people's couches. So, I do think that we got closer because of the mandatory bonding required by expensive transportation.”

Notwithstanding some of the shortcomings, **Adrian Untermeyer** '20 stated, “I'm pretty confident the future generations coming out of Colorado Law, teaming up with all of us, are going to do their best to try and solve these issues over the ensuing decades.”

### What did you and your classmates like to do for fun?

**Jon Milgrom** '15 was the first, but certainly not the last, to mention the “world-famous” Dark Horse, a Boulder landmark since 1975, popularized by its Tuesday Trike Night (where participants ride a tricycle around the bar) and karaoke. Others mentioned outings at the Rayback Collective, skiing at Eldora Mountain, intramural sports teams, and tubing Boulder Creek.

“My class—and I don't include myself among this at all—was pretty athletic,” said **Hon. Eric Elliff** '87. He remembered receiving a phone call from a frazzled classmate through the landline in the law library while he was studying. “I believe it was **Pat Carrigan** '87, and he said, ‘We're at the softball field, we're one short, and if we don't get somebody here, we're going to forfeit this game. So you need to come and play.’” Elliff agreed, under the condition that if the team won the championship, he wanted a T-shirt—which he later received.

**Bill Buck** '83, who got married two weeks before law school started, recalls the thrifty nature of being a law student. “It seemed like that was a fairly common situation for my class. The Dark Horse was a treat, but we could only afford that maybe once a month,” he said. “But the class was very enthusiastic about getting together. I remember multiple times through my three years going to other classmates' apartments, bringing your own six-pack, and that was how we entertained ourselves. We did a lot together as classmates throughout law school.”

### How would you describe the student body at the time that you were a law student?

Most alumni agreed that their classes were extremely collegial, collaborative, and friendly—the opposite of the stereotypical law school experience. One of the ways that alumni recall helping out fellow classmates was by sharing outlines.

“My roommate and I were nerds. We did nothing but study,” said **Lucy Stark** '98, laughing. “We had these really extensive

*(continued on page 23)*





## Which law school faculty had an impact on you?



Faculty members stood out to alumni for reasons ranging from their classroom demeanor to time spent outside of the classroom.



**"Mimi Wesson**, who has since retired, and taught criminal law, could break down how to analyze a statute (criminal or otherwise) better than anybody, and for years after law school I kept those notes," Eric Elliff said. "The other faculty member that had an impact on me was **Chris Mueller**. You will never see somebody more enthusiastic about the rules of evidence than Chris Mueller. I liked him so much that, my third year, I took complex civil litigation, which I used constantly in private practice. Those two were great influences on me."



"Mimi Wesson had us over to her house for barbecue, and she had alpacas," said **Hon. Nikea Bland** '05. "I really remember that because I took all these pictures and my parents were like, 'Where are you at?' And I was like, 'We're at my professor's house.' Like, we're not at the zoo. It was so fun. She was really great."



"And she had a Mazda Miata that she used to loan out for the student auction," Lucy Stark added.



Natalie Ellwood recalled **Frederic Storke** (1917) as "the only professor's name that I actually remembered from 1968 or 1969, when I took creditors' rights."



"He was an unbelievable teacher. He had taught at the law school for a long time. To make creditors' rights an interesting course is going some. But he did. And it was very challenging, but also a very kind of exciting course," she said.



Betty Arkell noted a successor to Professor Storke, **Cliff Calhoun**, who also taught creditors' rights and "could break down any statute."



Gary Jackson and John Purvis both recalled administrators that made an impact on them.

"I started law school in 1967, and affirmative action basically hit CU law school in 1968," he said. "Our dean was **Don Sears**, and our assistant dean was **Russ Olin** '67. Together with faculty member **J. Dennis Hynes** '60, I can remember going on recruitment trips where we would drive to Pueblo, Fort Collins, Greeley, trying to encourage diverse students, students of color, to come to Colorado. So, it was the administration and those three

individuals that stood out for me. They really took the leap on affirmative action and diversity programs here in Boulder."

**John Purvis** '67 remembered former dean **John Reed**. "He was the first world-class legal academic that I was aware of, certainly in the administration. I think John elevated the platform for that position and really elevated our position as a law school."

For **Franz Hardy** '00, **David Hill** was "probably my favorite professor. He had two rules: 'Show up on time, and be prepared,' and that was radical. He would close the door on time every day. If that door was closed, he would not let you in to that classroom."

"What I liked about David Hill's class was that it really felt like a traditional law school class, like what you see in a movie, because that was the only class I had like that where you didn't know if you were going to be called on, and you had to be prepared no matter what," said Nikea Bland. "It made it feel more authentic to what I had seen in the movies."

"Everyone loved **Scott Skinner-Thompson, Aya Gruber, Andrew Schwartz, Ben Levin, Helen Norton, and Ahmed White**," said Lindsey Floyd. "But by far, I think probably the fan favorite, at least of my class and probably of everyone who's ever had him, was **Frederic Bloom**. I had him for civil procedure, evidence, and federal courts, which are probably three of the worst classes I ever took. On the first day of civil procedure, my 1L year, he told us that he would never look at our grades. He will never know what we got in any class that we took unless we ask him to do so, because he wanted us to feel like no matter how we did in his course, we would still have someone who supported us in the law school, outside of our academic worth."

"**Helen Norton** always challenged me and my classmates to bring our A-game. It was a privilege and simultaneously terrifying to be called on by her," Jon Milgrom said.

Nikea Bland summarized what made so many of her professors memorable: "What I remember most about Professors Hill and Wesson and **Melissa Hart** and [former Professor] **Dayna Matthew** were that those were the people that had us over to their homes," she said. "And I think that just created a different dynamic going outside of the school for a party or celebration. I really thought that they all did a good job of building community."





**1965**

On March 7, 1965, civil rights demonstrators attempting to march to Alabama's state capital of Montgomery began crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



**1967**

On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be the first African American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.



**1968**

CU Boulder student protestors



**2020**

A Black Lives Matter protest on the steps of the Denver Capitol building



 2022


## 2013

Colorado Law students  
volunteer during the  
"100-year" Boulder flood.

outlines for every class, every semester. We would put them on loan in the library because I didn't care who had them—the exercise was putting them together. Everybody wanted them! So I just put them in the library, and the library would loan them out for anybody to copy. I think that says a lot about what we were like here."

Jon Milgrom described the surprising moment when he showed up for an exam not having received the memo that it had been designated open-note. When he arrived note-less, a classmate offered him theirs.

"You hear all these stories about law students ripping out pages from textbooks, and here we are in this tense moment, in a 2L year exam, and here's somebody who's willing to just give me their notes at the expense of themselves," he said. While he ultimately declined to use his classmate's notes, the gesture was nonetheless striking. "It was just such a cool moment that's always stuck with me as something that's very unique about CU—the collegiality and support structure that I felt we had from our classmates."

With nearly 50 years to reflect on her law school experience, **Betty Arkell '75** described her class as especially collaborative.

"I think other classes are that way, too, but I think ours is strongly that way.

There's a core of us that still gets together. Throughout our years of practice, we've been able to help one another and stay friends," she said.

Bill Buck concurred. "Most of my classmates had seen the movie *The Paper Chase*. I think there was a conscious decision among us that we were not going to be that," he said. "There was this desire to be helpful. The sharing of outlines, having just completely open study groups where you were not required to actually contribute—if you just wanted to come and sit through somebody else's study group, that was absolutely permissible. It's encouraging to hear that that seems to have been the culture in multiple generations of law students, and it was certainly true in my class."

"I love to hear how collegiate the subsequent classes were," said **Natalie Ellwood '69**. "I would not say that our class was collegiate; it was very, very competitive. There were 12 women who started with my class. I know two that graduated besides myself. I wish we had been more collegial, but I didn't see that in 1968." She reflected, "We were going through the Vietnam War, and we had a lot of conflict about that because some of us were not supportive and we had a lot of retired ex-military young men who came into our class."

"It's encouraging to hear that [collegiality and camaraderie] seem to have been the culture in multiple generations of law students, and it was certainly true in my class."

—Bill Buck '83

**What were some of the important historical moments that took place while you were in law school, and how did they affect you?**

For alumni who graduated in the 1960s and 1970s, historic events including the Vietnam War, civil rights movement, and assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy shook their law school experience while sparking changes within the law school community itself. More recently, the Black Lives Matter movement and the mass demonstrations in response to the murder of George Floyd created significant waves of change at the law school, including the creation of the student-led Council for Racial Justice and Equity and anti-racist components to the curriculum. Alumni shared their memories of how these historic events shaped their law school experience and lives.

"1967-1968 were big-time years," said John Purvis. "One of those two years, a group of us from the law school joined a bunch of other people from Boulder and the university when George Williams, for whom Williams Towers is named, arranged with Bob Six, who owned Continental Airlines at the time, to make an airplane available for us to go to Montgomery at the end of the Selma-to-Montgomery march. I'll never forget walking toward the Alabama Capitol in Montgomery and the song "We Shall Overcome" getting louder



and louder and louder—remarkable. And some of us from the law school were part of that.”

“When I entered law school, in August of 1967, Thurgood Marshall was selected to be the first Black Supreme Court justice. So, he served of course as a role model for me,” said Gary Jackson. “In 1968, that was the assassination of Martin Luther King and all the riots that took place after his and Bobby Kennedy’s assassinations.”

He continued, “During the summer of 1968, I went to live in Oakland, California, to find a job, and my best friend, **Sonny Flowers** ’71, went to New York. We both became associated with and experienced the Black Panthers. I can remember coming back to law school in September 1968, I had an Afro out to here. I was wearing a dashiki. Sonny had his ’fro. Our arrival back in September 1968 was the period of time that affirmative action started at CU, and those experiences affected the administration of the law school, the relationship with us and other students, and what I considered to be a real growth of the law school in terms of changing and going forward and becoming more progressive.”

“The Ronald Reagan assassination attempt occurred when I was a 1L,” Bill Buck recalled. “I would guess that there were not a lot of law students that had voted for Ronald Reagan, yet my recollection is the reaction within the entire law school was one of shock and horror, and real relief when Reagan pulled through. And I just compare and contrast

that to almost anything that could happen today, and I’d hope in the law school that there would still be a uniform reaction to whatever happened—shock, horror, and relief if things turned out well. At the time, I don’t recall anybody doing anything other than waiting anxiously to hear what had happened to the president of the United States, whether you voted for him or liked him or not.”

More recently, Adrian Untermeyer recounted the confirmation hearings of several U.S. Supreme Court justices, including the controversial hearings around Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

“It was the first time, I think, that a lot of us found ourselves getting phone calls from friends and relatives asking us to weigh in on a major legal issue of the day,” he said. “That was an interesting feeling, and it was sort of a new normal, because we all went on to be attorneys practicing in the communities, and of course we’re called upon all the time for advice. But as a student, you’re not really used to having a more senior person in your life looking to you for guidance on a major legal issue of the day. That was new.”

Jon Milgrom noted the “100-year” Boulder flood of 2013, which dealt catastrophic damages to homes and businesses in Boulder and the surrounding area. “A lot of law students were displaced and ended up having to live together and move into each other’s spaces,” he said. “It really brought us together as a community, and it was really cool to see folks volunteering, helping other people who had been



flooded out of their own homes. Down the river in Longmont, things were even worse, and a whole bunch of people trucked out there to help put up sandbags and help move people out. I think it ended up bringing people closer together.”

Bringing it back to the present day, Lindsey Floyd commented, “I cannot underscore how big of an impact Black Lives Matter in summer 2020 had on the law school and on my graduating class. We had other big events like COVID and the mass shooting at the King Soopers on Table Mesa. But the entire fabric of the law school changed in response to the protests in 2020. We’ve created more affinity groups, like the Council for Racial Justice and Equity and the Women of Color Collective. Professors who had never had a racial justice component to their syllabus added discussions and readings about the ways in which their subjects of law were not isolated from racism. I think it opened a lot of students’ eyes to the ways in which the legal system is really impacted by systemic racism. I truly think that the Class of 2021 and on benefited so greatly from such a harrowing time, because even people who practice in areas of law that might not traditionally touch issues of racism still recognize the impact that systemic racism has on their practice. That was a really big deal for my class and was really important to us.”

#### What were some of your favorite law school traditions?

Alumni recalled the Spring Fling, a dance in the law library with a band, visits to



## Increased representation of women & students of color

10-15%

WOMEN IN THE EARLIEST GRADUATING  
CLASSES IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

57%

WOMEN,  
CLASS OF 2025

15%

STUDENTS OF COLOR,  
CLASS OF 2015

34%

STUDENTS OF COLOR,  
CLASS OF 2025

the Dark Horse after finals and for Halloween, and FACs (Friday Afternoon Club) in “the Pit” in the old Fleming Law Building. And, as to be expected, there was no shortage of outdoor activities to burn off steam. Alumni organized a 1L camping trip, rode bikes together up Flagstaff Mountain, skied, and hiked in the mountains surrounding Boulder.

Betty Arkell’s Class of 1975 has a group called Law Review and Friends—though not exclusive to the Law Review by any means—that meets annually. “We get together, usually at someone’s home, and just keep up with one another,” she said. “Obviously lives have evolved since law school, and I think there’ll be a number of retired colleagues at this next one in a couple of weeks, but it’s really been a nice tradition starting shortly after we graduated to find a way to get together and support one another.”

“The Pit in Fleming was really an important gathering point for our class,” noted Eric Elliff. “Classes would get out and everybody would just congregate there. I really enjoyed that.”

**What positive changes have you seen at the law school since you graduated, and what direction would you like to see the law school head in in the future?**

Alumni reflected on the gender and racial makeup of the school, which has changed dramatically since the early 20th century and even in recent years.

Betty Arkell noted that she began seeing progress in gender equality in the profession—albeit small compared to today—starting in the 1970s. “My class was approximately 10% women, and there was one female professor,” she said. “Several of us got interviews with major law firms in Denver, which, two years before, women at the top of the class were not even invited to. I think the class now is at least 50% women, and that’s reflected in the practice. I think the school has really contributed to that. So, I saw that starting to happen in the mid-70s and I’m so pleased that it has continued and accelerated.”

Gary Jackson added, “I’m so grateful that we now have a Black dean. Having seen [diversity initiatives] start in 1968, to where it is today demonstrates a recognition of the type of progress, not only within our population but within our university, that having a diverse student body, staff, and administration will make us more prominent, will allow and attract a better-quality student, and will help change the legal profession.”

Rich Lopez also noted the importance of a diverse faculty and student body.

“Leadership should be reflective of the community that they’re serving. It goes to the bottom line. Having diverse leadership and staff is good business. And when we are diverse, this law school also becomes truly representative of the communities we see around us,” he said.

Diversity was something that Nikea Bland was very conscious of when she was a student. She recalls the Black Law Students Association putting in efforts into increasing diversity of the student body. “And then, it sort of went back to the status quo,” she said. “It was sad to me that if you’re not constantly working toward it, things revert back to the way they were. Being on the alumni board and working to increase diversity has been something that’s been important to me. I’m really happy that it does feel like things are changing at the school.”

John Purvis noted the school’s growing focus on experiential learning and tackling real-world challenges since he graduated.

“There’s been a remarkable change since I first got involved with the law school in terms of the academic energy that’s focused on real-world problems and issues,” he said, referencing former dean David Getches’ co-founding of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in 1970, which remains a close partner of the law school, and the work of former dean Gene Nichol and Jim Carrigan that focused on the real-world impact of laws of evidence and civil procedure. “That’s a real evolution for much the better, to see that academic energy taking that direction.”



## Reflections on Community

When asked if there was anything else they'd like to add to the conversation, alumni were quick to bring up the importance of the Colorado Law community in their own lives and careers.

"I feel like I owe because this law school changed the trajectory of my life, socially, economically, in so many different ways. I wouldn't be where I'm at without the opportunity that this law school gave me. So I feel like I owe, and it's just wonderful," said Franz Hardy.

"This CU law community is pretty tight-knit. They know each other; they look out for each other in the community well beyond the law school years. I've always enjoyed that, and I feel a debt of gratitude to this law school and I always will," he added.

"We've got advantages over big schools like Michigan," continued Betty Arkell. "We're a small school, and many people who graduate tend to stay in the area. And so I think they continue to feel the sort of commitment, the feeling of wanting to give back. We're so fortunate to have the kind of law school that we have and the people who remain committed to it after they graduate."

Jon Milgrom agreed. "It's been incredibly valuable with my mentorship from a lot

of folks and just building laterally with my classmates. Our firm is 17 people, and nine of them graduated from CU law, as far back as 1970 to more recently one from the Class of 2022. It's been a really great gift to be part of this community and to have that kind of support."

"It's a good phone-a-friend network," said Lucy Stark. "There are about five women from my class alone who are now managing large law firms in Denver. We get together regularly, and I feel very lucky to have that network."



"This CU law community is pretty tight-knit. They know each other; they look out for each other in the community well beyond the law school years."

—Franz Hardy '00



# We asked alumni who are leading the way in their areas of the law: “What’s next?”

## » CIVIL RIGHTS LAW **Ryan Haygood '01**

President and Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice



“I think a lot about **Franklin Anderson**, who in 1899 became the first Black graduate of the law school. I cannot imagine what Mr. Anderson endured, the hostility he confronted, or the racism he battled, and I drew inspiration from Mr. Anderson’s 1899 class photo every day as I walked past it in the law school. Mr. Anderson’s class picture is revealing not only for its depiction of him as a history-making pioneer, and an inspiration to generations of Black lawyers to come because of his sophistication, determination, and grace—but also because his classmate to his right is **LEANING AWAY** from him. There is little information about Mr. Anderson after he graduated and took the bar exam in Denver. But 100 years after his graduation, when I came from Denver to Boulder to enter law school as the only Black male in my class, along with two Black women, **Lisa Calderon** and **Joi Williams**, I’d like to think we were then—and are now, 20 years into my practice as a lawyer—walking in his footsteps. **Mr. Anderson has been an example to me both of what is possible and what is required of us now. And for inspiring us to use our law degrees to fight for it.**”

## » WATER LAW **John Entsminger '99**

Senior Deputy General Manager, Las Vegas Valley Water District



“The biggest challenge in Western water law over the next 130 years is going to be significantly reduced water supplies in the face of climate change. Applying the Prior Appropriations Doctrine strictly in that context will cause massive disruptions in our society, so modifications will be unavoidable. **The biggest opportunity is the flip side of that—when one system breaks down, we get a chance to craft something more functional.** I think the most important skill [for law graduates to have in this changing future] is being well rounded. Having a law degree is great and opens up a lot of paths, but having a law degree and being conversant in engineering, finance, political strategy and various scientific disciplines opens up a lot more. Don’t stop learning when you leave school.”

## » AMERICAN INDIAN LAW **Kimberly Craven '94**

Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate



“We need to be vigilant at protecting Tribal sovereignty and guard against encroachments by other governments including the feds, states, and counties. **It’s also important that our languages, culture, spiritual practices, and traditions are not usurped and that the things that make Native people unique remain intact.**”

One of my most favorite things about being a Tribal attorney is appearing in court for child welfare cases, when you actually get to exercise Tribal sovereignty while protecting the most vulnerable, our children.”

## » INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW **Emily Wasserman '13**

Partner, Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP



“One of the biggest challenges (and also one of the reasons why I think this is such an interesting and fun area to practice in) is that **technology changes and develops much faster than the law.** Given this, I think it is and will continue to be critical that IP lawyers are creative thinkers.

One big question for IP lawyers to be thinking about is, how do and will existing laws apply to new technology? One example that illustrates this challenge relates to personal jurisdiction and what constitutes sufficient minimum contacts when a company’s app or website is available everywhere. Given the speed with which technology develops, there are lots of opportunities to consider these types of questions.”

2022

## Alumni Awards Banquet Reunites Colorado Law Community

**O**n March 10, 2022, hundreds gathered to honor Colorado Law's incredible alumni community and celebrate the 41st annual Law Alumni Awards. Each of the evening's honorees reflects the qualities cherished by Colorado Law—professional excellence, the vigorous pursuit of ideas, and extraordinary service to the community.

With your support, the event raised \$130,000\* for student scholarships, programs, and initiatives consistent with the University of Colorado Law School's vision and mission, and had over 480 registrants.







The 2022 Colorado Law Alumni Award honorees (clockwise from left): Herrick K. Lidstone Jr. '78, Distinguished Achievement—Private Practice; George V. Berg, Richard Schaden Adopted Alumnus Award; Dru R. Nielsen '97, Distinguished Achievement—Small/Solo Practitioner; Victoria J. Ortega '90, Distinguished Achievement—Public Service; Kathleen B. Nalty '85, Sonny Flowers Award; Gail H. Klapper '68, William Lee Knous Award.



## Chayet Marks 25-Year Reunion with Multi-Year Gift

**Marco Chayet** '97 can trace many of his proudest professional and personal achievements back to his time at Colorado Law. He's developed a thriving career in elder law and created and grew a successful law firm with partner **Frank Danzo** '96, while developing lifelong friendships with his law school classmates. Now, he's marking his 25-year law school reunion with a multi-year gift to the Chayet & Danzo Colorado Elder Law Scholarship and the Dean's Fund for Excellence.

"Finding a way to give back to Colorado Law, while inspiring law students to consider the enriching and expanding field of elder law, became a priority for me not just because of the rapid growth and success of my elder law firm but also because of how much I truly love being a Colorado lawyer and the practice of elder law—all of which were made possible by my education and relationships from our alma mater," Chayet said.

Established in 2010 with a modest gift and encouragement of former dean **David Getches**, the Chayet & Danzo Colorado Elder Law Scholarship is awarded annually to one or more students interested in pursuing a career in the area of elder law and/or probate and estates to assist the elderly, disabled, and incapacitated and their families in times of need.

"Recommitting to an additional multi-year scholarship gift and a multi-year gift to the Dean's Fund was an easy choice," said Chayet, "after

being reenergized by Dean Inniss' enthusiasm and vision for Colorado Law while also recognizing the tangible impact of continuing to support for multiple years current and future law students in their studies and development into the next great elder law attorneys."

Chayet stays engaged with Colorado Law by serving as an adjunct professor (he taught the law school's first elder law class in 2015) and on the Law Alumni Board.

"I have been able to see firsthand the positive and significant impact we can have in supporting some of the brightest and most talented legal minds in the country," he said.

"I hope, as I was inspired by those who have given before me to Colorado Law, that my brief story of giving might spark a fellow alum to receive the gift of giving to Colorado Law."



## Sederberg, Colleagues Honor Late Partner with Scholarship

A new scholarship established by **Christian Sederberg** '05 and his colleagues at Vicente Sederberg LLP and VS Strategies honors the firm's late partner Steve Fox, who died in 2021, and supports students with a commitment to social justice who have overcome significant challenges in their lives.

"The skills, work ethic, and professional network I developed at Colorado Law prepared me not only to make a living but also to make a difference," Sederberg said. "I am extremely grateful that I get to work professionally on an issue I care deeply about, and I can think of no better way to pay it forward than to help foster the same opportunity for future lawyers."

The Vicente Sederberg LLP, Steve Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the legacy of Steve Fox, a leader at the firm since its formation in 2010 and an instrumental figure in the cannabis policy reform movement.

"Steve was passionate about healing society's ills, and he recognized cannabis policy as an avenue through which he could effect substantial and wide-ranging positive change," Sederberg said. "He was a transformational leader who inspired, guided, and empowered others to follow their passion for doing right in the world. He also revered our systems of law and government, working within them to realize his vision."

Sederberg, a founding partner at the firm, had a wonderful experience at Colorado Law and stays involved as a featured speaker, panelist, and advisor of the law school's Cannabis Entrepreneurship Academy. A scholarship recipient himself, he recognizes that the rising cost of tuition can feel overwhelming and would like to do what he can to lighten the financial burden for current students at his alma mater.

"Colorado Law provided me with the foundation upon which I have built my career," Sederberg said. "It is an honor to help provide that footing to future students. Especially those who have overcome significant challenges and intend to apply their legal education and their experience to advancing a righteous cause."





## DeVan Establishes First-of-Its-Kind Scholarship for First-Generation Students



**Amy DeVan** '01, executive director at Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP, has established a first-of-its-kind scholarship to cover the cost of books for first-generation law students with financial need for all three years of law school.

By removing this barrier, DeVan hopes to ease financial anxiety for students and open the door to a richer law school experience.

"When I was a first-generation law student, finding ways to navigate the process—both

emotionally and financially—was pretty tough," she said. "I really would like to alleviate that stress and give another first-generation student of

limited economic means the chance to experience law school—which is hard enough!—without that worry."

While exploring philanthropic opportunities at Colorado Law, it was important for DeVan to feel a personal connection to her giving. After several conversations with the Advancement team, DeVan proposed the idea for the scholarship—"an idea I'd had for a while that really mattered to me, had personal significance, and excited me," she said.

She encourages other alumni to take a similar creative approach.

"The university is very open to working with alumni interested in donating to find a way for them to do it in a meaningful fashion—and that's a win-win," she said.

## Grimes Establishes Lambda Liberation Endowed Scholarship Fund

When **Jeffery Grimes** '90 looks back on his time as a student at Colorado Law, he cannot remember a single other openly gay student and certainly recalls no formal support for non-heteronormative students. This experience, coupled with the controversial 1992 passage of Colorado's Amendment 2 prohibiting anti-gay discrimination laws in all of Colorado (including those municipalities that already had anti-gay discrimination laws in place), sparked in him a calling to LGBTQ+ advocacy.

Today, as the only member of the Law Alumni Board who identifies as LGBTQ+, Grimes has harnessed this passion to create a newly endowed scholarship to help defray tuition costs for gay, lesbian, and/or transgender law students.

"[We] are more than twenty years past the 'Hate State' era," said Grimes, who serves as vice president, corporate counsel, and compliance officer at Astex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. "Now there is an LGBTQ+ law student organization, OUTLaw. And gay people can legally marry. But the struggle law students now face is funding. The state legislature has regularly cut

funding for the law school to the point where it is nearly as expensive as a private institution. In 2020-21, law school tuition and fees for a Colorado resident were \$31,770 and \$38,556 for a nonresident."

The scholarship, whose name comes from the lowercase lambda symbol adopted by the gay community in the 1970s to symbolize the liberation that is achievable through self-acceptance and activism, addresses both inclusivity and law school affordability. "I cannot think of a better way to support my community and the law school than an endowed scholarship to fund LGBTQ+ students in a state that has had a dicey relationship with the LGBTQ+ community," Grimes said.



## New 1L Scholarship Honors Legacy of Alumnus



A new scholarship established by **Pam Flowers** in memory of her husband, **W. Harold "Sonny" Flowers Jr.** '71, aims to give incoming 1Ls a boost while encouraging them to open doors for others in need throughout their legal careers.

It was important to establish a scholarship at Colorado Law as Sonny always felt strongly that

the support of the law school faculty and staff was instrumental to him earning his law degree, which set him on a life course that allowed him to positively impact others' lives, Pam explained.

"Colorado Law allowed him do his best, so that his clients could deal with their legal issues in a way that helped them see their path to a better future—one in which they could succeed. He loved working with underserved and minority clients, often young people. He loved to be seen as both a role model and as someone they could count on for support, just as he felt he was supported by the law school," she said.

The scholarship provides \$5,000 each year for an incoming 1L student with financial need. Preference is given to underrepresented students, including those who are from geographic areas and socioeconomic backgrounds that are historically underrepresented in the field of law, first-generation college students, and students who have faced unusual adversity.

## Upcoming Fall Lectures at Colorado Law



Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Lecture: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. MT

Reception: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. MT

Hybrid (in person and virtual)

### 11th annual John Paul Stevens Lecture

**The Third Sovereign: Tribal Courts and Indian Country Justice** featuring **Angela R. Riley**, Chief Justice, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Supreme Court, and Professor of Law and American Indian Studies, UCLA

*In this fireside chat, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma Angela R. Riley will discuss Native Nations as the “third sovereign” within the legal framework of the United States. In conversation with Professor Suzette Malveaux, director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, she will explain the role of tribal courts in ensuring justice in Indian country. This is the first time a justice of the high court of an Indigenous Nation has presented this prestigious lecture.*

**REGISTER** [cu.law/RegisterStevensLecture](https://cu.law/RegisterStevensLecture)

**Save the date**

### Austin W. Scott Jr. Lecture

featuring Professor Harry Surden

Thursday, November 10, 2022

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. MT

Hybrid (in person and virtual)







## LETTER FROM THE

# Law Alumni Board Chair Michael Carrigan '94

Fellow Colorado Law alumni,

## Law Alumni Board

The members of the Law Alumni Board act as representatives of Colorado Law alumni and promote the best interests of the law school by stimulating interest in, building loyalty for, and increasing support for the law school in the community and among its alumni and students. The 2022–23 board chair is Michael Carrigan, and the chair-elect is Caitlin McHugh.

**Desta Asfaw** '11, Holland & Hart LLP

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

**Christopher Brock** '14, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

**William “Bill” R. Buck** '83, Exxon Mobil Corporation Upstream (retired)

**Michael Carrigan** '94 (Chair), Holland & Hart LLP

**Sonny Cave** '85, ON Semiconductor

**Marco Chayet** '97, Chayet & Danzo, LLC

**Amber Cordova** '02, T-Mobile

**Margaret Cordova** '02, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel

**Hiwot M. Covell** '09, Colorado Attorney General's Office

**The Hon. Thomas R. French** '77, Judicial Arbitrator Group

**Tim Galluzzi** '14, Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC

**Stanley Garnett** '82, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

**Velveta Golightly-Howell** '81, Sister-to-Sister: International Network of Professional African American Women Inc.

**D. Jeffery Grimes** '89, Astex Pharmaceuticals

**Greg Hearing** '12, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

**Steve Hillard** '76, Council Tree Communications

**Linda S. Kato** '85, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

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

**Caitlin McHugh** '12, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

**Kristin Moseley** '97, Somach Simmons & Dunn

**Richard Murray** '07, Polsinelli

**Lisa Neal-Graves** '06, Aurora Wellness Community

**Gregory J. Ramos** '92, Armstrong Teasdale LLP

**David W. Stark** '73 (Immediate Past Chair), Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

**Beale Tejada** '12, Crane & Tejada, P.C.

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

**Sarah Wallace** '99, Ballard Spahr LLP

Whether you are a Colorado native like me or a newcomer, it is impossible to not be impressed when cresting Davidson Mesa and looking down into Boulder. From that vista, the majestic Flatirons touch the sky and the distinctive red tile roofs of the University of Colorado Boulder form a warm beacon. As every visitor and student to CU Boulder knows, the shortest path to campus is to exit U.S. 36 at Baseline and head west. It is fitting that this path takes such travelers directly to the Wolf Law Building as the outward face of the University of Colorado Boulder. This location is ideal given the essential role the law school plays at CU Boulder.

As the oldest and best-known campus in the University of Colorado System, CU Boulder is home to 30,000 undergraduates and over 6,000 graduate students. The academic offerings at CU Boulder have made it one of the most competitive public universities in America, with top-rated programs in physics, geology, aerospace engineering, and ceramics. The Boulder campus and its labs have led discoveries resulting in five Nobel Prizes.

This success has resulted in CU Boulder being a member of an elite group of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). The AAU is a group of 65 elite research universities, all of which are known for offering exceptional undergraduate and graduate programs. The AAU includes many Ivy League schools and some of the highest-ranked public universities in the nation. Even among this select group, CU Boulder stands out, because it is one of the few AAU members without a medical school (as CU's medical school is on the Anschutz Medical Campus as part of CU Denver). **Instead, it is the strength and reputation of the Law School that has been an essential part of CU Boulder's entry and ongoing participation in the AAU.**

CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano puts it well: “CU Law is more than a place where students study to earn their degrees. It is deeply intertwined in the fabric of the campus as we strive to become a more just and equitable community that embraces democratic values and the rule of law. Colorado Law faculty, students, and staff enrich our campus and community in countless ways. As we approach the upcoming year, the law school will help us understand individual rights, the role of the Constitution, and our role as citizens in society.”

So while all Colorado Law graduates should be proud of their legal education, that pride should go far beyond the Wolf Law Building, to the amazing university on which it was built.

Michael Carrigan

# CLASS ACTIONS



Suzanne Carmichael '71

## 1969

**Michael John Smith** '69 was honored by the Florida Bar for 50 years of legal practice. The Florida Bar honors those members who are in good standing and have a cumulative legal practice for at least 50 years in the United States.

## 1970

After 50 years in the practice of law and judiciary, **Hon. Gary Jackson** '70 retired on Dec. 30, 2020. This past year of semi-retirement has been fulfilling. In July 2021 he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Fred David Gray Hall of Fame for his professional accomplishments and work on behalf of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. He is only the second Coloradan to be inducted into this historic organization. In September 2021 he passed the state and national real estate examination and was hired as vice president of marketing for Action Jackson Realty. In February 2022 he was inducted into the Denver Public Library's Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame, which placed him shoulder to shoulder with some of Colorado's most notable Black professionals and community members. It has been a great semi-retirement year.

## 1971

**Suzanne Carmichael** '71 launched an advocacy organization, Maine Widows in Action, to support and empower widows to be change agents in their communities, the state, and the nation. She also writes a twice-monthly blog, "Aging Fearlessly," that discusses the issues we all face as we age.

## 1975

**Nancy D. Miller** '75 announced she is going inactive in the practice of law and gives her heartfelt thanks to her law partners, staff, lawyers, judges, clients, and others for their support.

## 1981

**Michael Guyerson** '81 announced that he is retiring from the practice of law.

## 1982

**Bill Callison** '82 has joined Holland & Hart LLP as a partner. He continues to practice in the corporate and affordable housing and community development areas.



Bill Callison '82



Gregory J. Ramos '92



Sarah Pritchard '93



Whiting Dimock '96

## 1985

**Wanda Abel** '85 joined the board of directors of Pure Cycle Corporation, a NASDAQ-listed company, becoming the company's first female board member. Abel is a partner at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, where she practices corporate and securities law.

**John Seebohm** '85 was promoted to partner at Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC. Seebohm focuses his practice on estate and business planning, estate administration, and probate litigation matters.

## 1987

**Rick Kron** '87 retired after 32 years as an attorney at Spencer Fane LLP.

## 1991

**Shelly Dackonish** '91 has become a partner at Dufford, Waldeck, Milburn & Krohn, LLP. Her practice focuses on real estate and land use law.

## 1992

**Gregory J. Ramos** '92 joined Armstrong Teasdale LLP as a partner in the firm's Denver office. Ramos has more than 25 years of experience helping companies execute on their strategic vision through mergers and acquisitions, strategic business transactions, corporate reorganization, and succession planning.

## 1993

**Sarah Pritchard** '93 has been named chief legal officer for the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). Pritchard brings extensive knowledge of higher education and research protection, security, and compliance and will have primary responsibility for all legal-related activities—ensuring that UCAR is fulfilling its responsibilities as manager of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation.



**Submit a Class Action**  
[lawalumni@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalumni@colorado.edu)

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

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



## 1995

**Mark Honhart '95** has joined Allen & Curry, P.C. as a senior associate. His practice focuses on construction law, premises liability, product liability, trucking and transportation, and commercial and general civil litigation.

## 1996

After 11-plus years as senior assistant dean of students at Colorado Law, **Whiting Dimock '96**, formerly Dean Leary, resigned to found a law firm with **G Matthews '16**. Their firm, Dimock Matthews LLC, focuses on helping clients with DUI defense, family law, and employment discrimination.

**Kyle Hybl '96** received an Honorary Degree from the University of Colorado Board of Regents, which recognizes outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: intellectual contributions, university service, philanthropy, and public service. Hybl serves as president and chief executive officer for El Pomar Foundation and vice president of the Garden City Company.

## 1997

**Clay Fong '97** joined Boulder County as the commissioners' chief of staff after almost 15 years of working for the city of Boulder, primarily in the mediation program. In his new position, he will work closely with the Boulder Board of County Commissioners in a strategic and advisory role.

## 1998

Holland & Hart LLP announced that **Eben Clark '98** joined the firm's Boulder office as counsel in the real estate, development, and finance practice. Clark counsels on utility-scale renewable energy, telecommunications infrastructure, debt finance, and resort development projects and represents developers, landowners, and lenders in real estate development and acquisitions.

**Heather Perkins '98** was reelected for another four-year term as a member on the board of national firm Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. At Faegre Drinker, Perkins is a first-chair trial lawyer who litigates complex commercial and product liability disputes.

## 2000

**Nada Moeiny '00** is senior counsel at the University of Southern California, where she provides legal advice concerning student affairs and academic integrity.

## 2001

**Ryan Haygood '01** was honored by the University of Colorado Board of Regents with the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes those persons whose achievements and

contributions are particularly associated with the state and/or nation. A nationally respected civil rights lawyer, Haygood serves as president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where he leads a majority-women of color team of racial justice advocates whose cutting-edge work seeks to build reparative systems that create wealth, justice, and power for Black, Latina/Latino, and other people of color in New Jersey.

## 2002

**Damon Davis '02** is the Democratic candidate for Colorado House District 55, running to represent Grand Junction in the Colorado House of Representatives. He continues in his capacity as a shareholder and attorney in his personal injury law firm, Killian, Davis, Richter & Kraniak, P.C.

**Megan Holstein '02** was recently promoted to executive vice president of claims and absence product at global software company FINEOS. In this role, she is responsible for the North American region of FINEOS's Claims, Absence, and Integrated Disability and Absence Management (IDAM) software solutions. Holstein will also focus on strategic initiatives in the employee benefits and leave of absence market, and in concert with the FINEOS executive team she is responsible for driving growth for the FINEOS platform, the industry's most advanced and sought-after software solution for carriers providing employee benefits.

**Vandana Koelsch '02** has been promoted to shareholder at Allen Vellone Wolf Helfrich & Factor P.C. Her practice focuses on privacy and intellectual property.

President Joe Biden nominated **Kirk Taylor '02** to serve as United States Marshal for the District of Colorado. Currently, Taylor is sheriff of Pueblo County, Colorado, where he has served since 2007. He was previously an investigator for the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Pueblo from 1994 to 2007. From 1987 to 1992 he was a patrolman for the Alamosa, Colorado, Police Department. Taylor is also a veteran of the United States Navy.

## 2003

**Vaughn McWilliams '03** was elected partner in real estate and financial services firm Compton Jones Drescher LLP. He practices primarily in commercial real estate, especially with respect to acquisition, sale, and leasing of multifamily properties. McWilliams has been associated with the firm through its predecessor, Haskins Jones LLC, since 2014.

## 2004

**Maureen Espinoza '04** joined The Colorado Group Inc. as an associate broker, specializing in commercial real estate.



Clay Fong '97



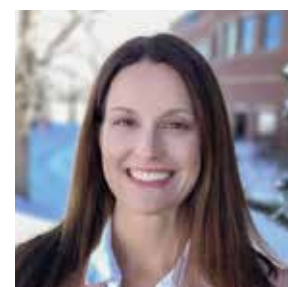
Megan Holstein '02



Vandana Koelsch '02



Vaughn McWilliams '03



Maureen Espinoza '04



Eric Gunning '05

## 2005

**Eric Gunning** '05 started a new job as chief legal officer of JumpCloud, where he will lead the company's legal efforts regarding compliance, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), international expansion, and capital markets. A seasoned executive, Gunning brings nearly two decades of international corporate legal experience and expertise to the areas of M&A, ethics and compliance, risk management, digital security, corporate governance, securities, and capital markets.



Affie Ellis '07

**Chelsea May** '05 was elevated to equity partner at Holland & Hart LLP. As a former certified public accountant, she advises high-net-worth individuals, fiduciaries, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs on issues related to estate planning, wealth transfer planning, income tax planning, and business succession.



Hon. Kim Cortez '09

## 2007

**Affie Ellis** '07 joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP as a shareholder in the firm's Cheyenne, Wyoming, office. She adds experience with tribal, state, and federal governments as the firm continues to build its Cheyenne presence.

## 2008

**Michi Tsuda** '08 was promoted to general counsel of Everside Health, where he is responsible for leading all aspects of the legal, compliance, and risk management functions of the company. Everside Health is one of the nation's largest providers of direct primary and mental health care. Despite the promotion, Tsuda says he is still moonlighting as a chauffeur for his three young children.

**Jill Van Noord** '08 was elected partner at Holland & Hart LLP. She provides comprehensive counsel to clients on a range of regulatory, compliance, permitting, and enforcement matters at the local, state, and federal levels.



Lara Grillos '09

## 2009

**Hon. Kim Cortez** '09 was sworn in as the 12th Judicial District's new district judge following the retirement of District Judge Martin Gonzales. Cortez previously served as county judge for Conejos County, a position to which she was appointed in 2017.

The Bureau of Reclamation has selected **Lara Grillos** '09 as its new Civil Rights Division program manager. In this role, she will oversee civil rights, diversity, and equal opportunity matters, ensuring the Bureau of Reclamation is an inclusive organization for people from all backgrounds.

**Paul Shoning** '09 started a new job as general counsel of Automox, provider of the leading cloud-native solution for IT operations.



Risa Borowick Brown '10

**Tiffany Todd** '09 joined Cerebral Inc. as senior employment counsel. Cerebral is a mental health telehealth company with a mission to improve access to affordable, high-quality, long-term mental health care. Todd is looking forward to taking this next step in her career in a fully remote capacity, which allows her to pursue a career with a company whose mission she is passionate about while living out a personal dream of working from Crested Butte, Colorado.

**Jessica Tsuda** '09 has been promoted to partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. She works in the labor and employment department, providing advice on a wide range of employment and human resources matters.

## 2010

**Risa Borowick Brown** '10 has been promoted to partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. She works in the litigation department, representing construction and real estate sector clients in a broad range of commercial litigation in state and federal trial courts, in arbitral forums, and on appeal.

**Michael Kopp** '10 has been elected as a shareholder at Trout, Raley, Montano, Witwer & Freeman, P.C. His practice includes compact litigation, water court adjudication, and related real property matters.

## 2011

**Elise Aiken** '11 was promoted to partner at Kotke & Brantz, LLC. Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation and estate planning, including probate administration.

**Taylor Bechel** '11 is a partner in the private client services group of Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP. Her practice focuses on advising individuals and families on estate planning, probate, estate administration, and trust administration. Her extensive tax background allows her to advise clients on the most effective ways to minimize income, gift, estate, and generation-skipping transfer taxes. Prior to joining Berg Hill, Bechel spent 10 years practicing high-net-worth trust and estate law at two AmLaw 100 national law firms.

**Ariel DeFazio** '11 joined Lowrey Parady Lebsack, LLC as counsel. She brings over 10 years of experience representing employees in federal and state courts, arbitrations, and at the appellate level.

**Vanessa Dittman** '11 recently accepted an offer to go in-house with U.S. Steel. She will be joining the company's environmental group as corporate counsel, where she will be primarily doing compliance counseling and general regulatory work.

**Anna-Liisa Mullis** '11, a shareholder in the Denver office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck,



LLP, was elected chair of the Colorado Bar Association Health Law Section's Executive Council. Mullis, who has been involved with the section for five years, will lead monthly meetings and help organize CLEs and social events.

## 2012

In November 2021, **Ashley Andrews '12** was sworn in as Pitkin County Court judge. Previously, she worked at the Denver Public Defender's Office for six years before moving to the Roaring Fork Valley in 2019 to work for the Public Defender's Office based in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

**Andrew Garnett '12**, an associate at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, joined the Colorado Succeeds Board of Advisors. His law practice focuses on a variety of commercial litigation, including product liability, premises liability, breach of contract, fraud, and catastrophic injury.

**Caitlin McHugh '12** was appointed to managing partner of the Colorado office of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP. A member of the firm's litigation practice group, she focuses on complex civil and commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels.

## 2013

**John Estes '13** joined Kapsak | Estes LLC as a partner. He will continue to focus his practice on estate and trust planning, Medicaid and disability planning, and estate and trust administration and litigation.

**Dietrich Hoefner '13** was promoted to partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP. He is a member of the firm's regulatory and government practice group and focuses on complex regulatory matters for a wide range of clients across numerous industries including energy, utilities, natural resources, and alcoholic beverages. He is also a member of the firm's renewable energy decommissioning industry team, focusing on strategies to address and anticipate changing regulations affecting end-of-life issues for renewable energy facilities.

**Jessica Smith '13** was elevated to partner at Holland & Hart LLP, where she leads the firm's nationwide religious institutions and First Amendment practice group and is a member of its commercial litigation group.

**Angela Vichick '13** was promoted to partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, where she is a member of the firm's litigation practice group. She focuses on business and real estate disputes, from navigation of pre-suit matters through trial and appellate proceedings. Vichick was also recognized for contributing over 6,000 hours of pro bono hours.

**Michael Wagner '13** has joined Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP in the Denver office as a partner practicing primarily in patent law.

## 2014

**Andy Evans '14** recently joined Stripe Inc. as commercial counsel. Stripe is one of the world's largest payment-processing technology companies. Previously, Evans was legal counsel at ShapeShift AG, one of the first cryptocurrency exchanges, which decentralized its operations after seven years.

**Leah Gould '14** co-founded the Brigid Alliance, a referral-based service that provides travel, food, lodging, child care, and other logistical support for people seeking abortions. Since 2019, the Brigid Alliance has helped nearly 3,000 women, raised millions of dollars, and has been featured on national and international news networks.

**Mary Sue Greenleaf '14** was promoted to member at Sherman & Howard L.L.C. She focuses her practice on construction disputes with a range of clients including general contractors, subcontractors, and property owners as they navigate challenges that arise throughout the life of construction projects.

**David Meschke '14** was elevated to shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck, LLP. His work encompasses high-stakes litigation, including securities law, class actions, complex antitrust cases, and breach of contract matters. His practice includes all stages of litigation in both federal and state courts. He also has significant experience with appellate briefing covering a wide variety of areas and has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit.

## 2015

**Christine Black '15** has taken on a new role as the equal employment opportunity manager for the Buffalo (N.Y.) District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**John Cook '15** was promoted to director and senior corporate counsel at Ciena, a networking systems and services company. He leads the legal team that provides guidance and support to Ciena's multibillion-dollar global supply chain, procurement, and R&D organization.

**Michael Daugherty '15** joined Lyons Gaddis Kahn Hall Jeffers Dworak & Grant, PC as an associate attorney in the water practice group.

**Mike Havlik '15** joined Guild Education in November 2021 as senior corporate counsel. Guild is a social-impact company that empowers American workers to unlock life-changing opportunities for personal and professional advancement through education, skill-building, and coaching. In Havlik's new role, he oversees a wide array of corporate matters, including legal aspects of M&A and strategic transactions, corporate financings, equity administration, IPO readiness, and governance matters with the executive team and board.



Ariel DeFazio '11



Andrew Garnett '12



Angela Vichick '13



Leah Gould '14



David Meschke '14



Chris Laughlin '16

**Mitch Holditch** '15 was promoted to partner at Patterson Earnhart Real Bird & Wilson LLP. He will be practicing in the Native law group team.

**Nathan Mutter** '15 was elevated to equity partner at Holland & Hart LLP. A member of the firm's patent prosecution, counseling and opinions, and intellectual property practice groups, he works with organizations with sophisticated technologies across the medical device and wireless communications industries.



Beth Michaels '16

**Harmon Zuckerman** '15 has become a shareholder with the firm of Frasca, Joiner, Goodman and Greenstein, P.C. He will continue to practice in land use, water law, real estate, and civil litigation.

## 2016

**Gregory Garcia** '16 started a new role as counsel at Walt Disney Studios, supporting the marketing team. His work focuses on the legal issues relating to the intersection of digital media technology and advertising as well as supporting the general marketing efforts for all studios under the Walt Disney Studios umbrella, including Disney+, Marvel, and LucasFilm.



Jon Nealer '16

In February 2022, **Chris Laughlin** '16 started a new job as an attorney advisor in the Competition Policy Division of the Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau.

**G Matthews** '16 left the Colorado Office of the Attorney General to found a law firm with **Whiting Dimock** '96. Their firm, Dimock Matthews LLC, focuses on helping clients with DUI defense, family law, and employment discrimination.

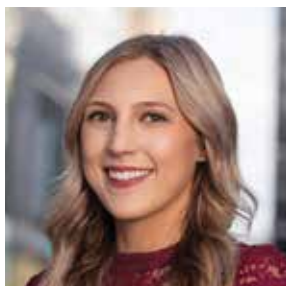


Matthew Simonsen '19

**Elizabeth (Beth) Michaels** '16 has joined Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP as an associate attorney in the firm's Denver office. A member of the firm's business litigation practice group, she focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation and appeals. Michaels represents clients across industries in a variety of business disputes and has particular experience with breach-of-contract cases, intellectual property matters, and securities litigation. She also represents creditors in bankruptcy court and receivership proceedings and is experienced in matters involving cryptocurrency.

**Sarah Mitchell** '16 is now a senior associate with Gendelman Klimas Ltd., practicing exclusively in family law.

**Jon Nealer** '16 started a new job as a real estate/corporate associate in the Denver office of Kutak Rock LLP. His practice has involved a wide array of corporate real estate transactions, and he frequently negotiates complex commercial leases and amendments, purchase and sale agreements, and title policies. He also helps with many other business issues, including entity formation and financial and tax solutions.



Nichole Burnett '20

## 2017

**Erin Coughlin** '17 joined the United States Trustee Program (USTP) in San Antonio, Texas, as a trial attorney. Her position entails taking legal action to enforce the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code and to prevent fraud and abuse. Prior to joining the USTP, Coughlin served as a term law clerk and then career law clerk for Chief Judge Craig A. Gargotta of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas.

**Ayshan Ibrahim** '17 has joined the public finance and infrastructure practice in the Denver office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP. She focuses on public finance matters with emphasis on tax-exempt bond financing and serves as counsel in various roles on an assortment of tax-exempt and taxable financing transactions throughout the state of Colorado.

**Austin Nelson** '17 started a new job as an associate with Robinson and Henry, P.C., where he practices criminal law.

**David Ong** '17 recently returned to his roots in the public sector in Indianapolis, Indiana, by joining the Marion County Prosecutor's Office as a deputy prosecutor.

**Tyler Weeks** '17, currently a major in the Air Force JAG corps, graduated from the Master of Laws (LLM) program at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) in May 2022. While at TJAGLCS in Charlottesville, Virginia, he focused his studies on government procurement/acquisitions law. Major Weeks was recognized as a Superior Graduate based on overall academic performance in the program, which included 107 judge advocates across all military service branches. Additionally, he received the "Most Innovative Paper in Contract and Fiscal Law" Award for his capstone research paper, which proposed an alternate acquisition system for the U.S. Space Force and is pending publication. Following graduation, he began work as the branch chief for research and development/specialized acquisitions at the Air Force Materiel Command Law Office located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio. In this capacity, he leads a team of 10 military and civilian attorneys that provides legal advice to program managers, contracting officers, and other acquisition professionals on the Air Force's most innovative and cutting-edge acquisition programs.

## 2018

**Luke Ewing** '18 manages legal and regulatory compliance for Eaze, the world's largest cannabis delivery app, and its dozens of brick-and-mortar locations in California, Colorado, Florida, and Michigan.

## 2019

**Matthew Simonsen** '19 joined Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC. He will have a broad litigation practice that includes Title IX, civil rights, and appellate litigation.



**Will Soper** '19 was admitted to the 2022 Downtown Denver Partnership Leadership Program. He is an associate at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, where he focuses on a variety of commercial real estate matters.

**Ryan Thompson** '19 has joined Murphy & Decker, P.C. as an associate. His practice focuses on insurance defense, construction defect, and civil litigation.

**Marissa Kardon Weber** '19 was selected as a 2022 American Bar Association On the Rise Top 40 Young Lawyer by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. She is a human rights litigation attorney at Herischi & Associates LLC in Bethesda, Maryland.

## 2020

**Nichole Burnett** '20, an associate in the Denver office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, has joined the Freedom Service Dogs (FSD) of America's Young Professionals Council. In her role on the council, Burnett will be part of a network of young professionals who help build and ensure the future of FSD through fundraising, advocacy, community outreach, and volunteer support.

**Bobby Dishell** '20, an associate at Moye White LLP in the firm's real estate section, was elected to the Teach for America Colorado Advisory Board. Prior to his career in law, he was a Teach for America corps member in Baltimore (Md.) City Public Schools.

**Savanna Griffis** '20 started a new job as a trademark and brand protection attorney at Holland & Hart LLP. In this role, she counsels clients in the outdoor recreation, food and beverage, and technology and media industries on a wide variety of trademark and copyright issues, including trademark prosecution and trademark enforcement strategies. She also counsels clients through Trademark Trial and Appeal Board disputes and copyright litigation.

## 2021

**Regina Zaragoza Frey** (MSL'21) was hired as the director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for the city of Salem, Massachusetts—a brand-new position for the city. She previously served as manager for inclusiveness and equity for Thorne Nature Experience, one of Colorado's first and largest environmental education organizations. She was also the founding member of Boulder County's LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce and served on the chamber's DEI Committee. She earned her Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree in ethics and compliance from Colorado Law in 2021.

# In Memoriam

William Robert Alexander '51

Don W. Mitchell '57

Roger L. Simon '57

John-David Sullivan '57

Harry M. Sterling '58

Joseph Bradley Blake '61

J. David Penwell '62

Billy B. Wyatt '62

Jay L. Gueck '63

E. Bentley Hamilton, Jr. '67

James A. Littlepage '69

Gilbert N. Whitmer '71

Paul Roger Bratfisch '73

Steven Lucien Maynard '73

William John Post '76

Robyn Meinhardt '84

Ronnie Sanchez '93

Patricia Templar Dow '94

*Deaths reported Jan. 1–June 30, 2022*



# Caitlin McHugh '12

**Hometown:** Arvada, Colorado

**Professional title:** Office Managing Partner, Colorado, Lewis Roca

**Community involvement:** Colorado Law Alumni Board, Colorado Lawyers Committee Young Lawyers Division Board and Executive Committee, Presidents' Leadership Class Alumni Board, Child Advocates Denver CASA Board

**Lives in:** Denver, Colorado



## What is your favorite part about your job at Lewis Roca?

I have two favorites: the people I have the opportunity to work with and the diversity of experiences I have had and will continue to have.

The people I have the pleasure of working with include both my colleagues and clients. At Lewis Roca, I am surrounded by smart and interesting people who love to dig in and problem solve. It is such a pleasure to work in teams with these dedicated professionals who have trained me to be a lawyer, advisor, and advocate, and have provided immeasurable support along the way. I also enjoy mentoring and training my junior colleagues and am continually impressed by their perspectives and insights.

In addition to my colleagues, working with clients is an incredible part of the job. We have fascinating clients who work in all different industries doing innovative work. Working with clients, earning their trust, and often helping them through difficult situations is a privilege.

Relatedly, I love the diversity of experiences I have at Lewis Roca. Because we have diverse clients with individual needs, the industries I work in and the specific problems my colleagues and I try to solve are constantly changing. The opportunity to work with our clients, and learn their businesses, their industries, their goals, and their challenges allows me to constantly keep learning and growing.

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

How important and meaningful the friendships I formed with my law school classmates would be. I've heard horror stories about other law schools and the competition between students. My experience at Colorado Law was the opposite. I made many close friends during law school who remain best friends today. The friendships and relationships I formed in law school and have continued to nurture have made the profession exponentially easier and more fun. I know

that there will always be hard days, but having a community of other lawyers who not only understand the hard parts but who are kind, empathetic, and fun has added so much to my career and my life.

I love being a lawyer, but even if I didn't, I would love law school because of the friendships formed during those years.

## What advice would you give to current law students and recent graduates?

Just because ours is an adversarial system does not mean that everything needs to be a fight. I enjoy my job the most—and get the best results for my clients—when I approach cases and issues as problems to be solved, not fights to be won. I have found that there are many opportunities where you can work collaboratively and creatively with opposing counsel to find solutions that are best for your client. Often those solutions are outside of the remedies that a judge or jury could award. When we as lawyers can help our clients get to an excellent (and sometimes unexpected) outcome, it's a great feeling.

Of course, there are absolutely times when you have to draw a hard line and go to the mat for your client, but even in those circumstances, remaining polite and professional and keeping the lines of communication open will almost always lead to a better result for your client and a more fulfilling career for you.

And, do more pro bono work!

## What is your favorite way to stay engaged with Colorado Law?

I've enjoyed my time on the Colorado Law Alumni Board and look forward to staying involved that way. I also enjoy opportunities to interact with students directly. Coming to campus for mock interviews is a great way to engage with students. The law school also hosts a great picnic each homecoming!



Would you like to be featured as the Last Word?  
Email: [law-communications@colorado.edu](mailto:law-communications@colorado.edu).





# RISE TOGETHER

Your gift to Colorado Law—no matter the amount—matters.

Your support directly impacts the school's reputation, the fiscal health of the institution, and, perhaps most importantly, the exceptional nature of our community.

## Alumni Giving

8,600+	LIVING ALUMNI	54%	have made at least one gift in their lifetime	36%	have made a gift to the Dean's Fund for Excellence	100%	giving by the 28-member Law Alumni Board for FY21 and FY22
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## Your Gift Makes an Impact

- 75% of law students rely on financial aid to attend Colorado Law.
- Excellent applicants choose other law schools with more competitive scholarship packages.
- We can attract, hire, and retain exceptional faculty.
- Tuition for the 2021-22 academic year increased by 3% following nine consecutive years of flat tuition costs; it increased by 3% again for 2022-2023.

**Your gift keeps us moving forward  
to a strong and vibrant future.  
Find the fund that speaks to you.**

For a list of Colorado Law scholarship  
funds and to make a gift

Or contact [law.advancement@colorado.edu](mailto:law.advancement@colorado.edu)  
or **303-492-0360** for assistance.



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## Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

October 27-29, 2022

Classes whose graduation years end in  
"2" or "7" will be celebrating reunions.

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



## 42nd Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Seawell Ballroom, Denver Center for the  
Performing Arts

[colorado.edu/law/awards](https://colorado.edu/law/awards)