

SPRING 2020

# AMICUS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL

## WHEN THEY SEE HIM

Korey Wise changed the face (and the name) of the Colorado Innocence Project. Now, the program has hit its stride.



Colorado **Law**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



## A Tradition of Public Service

As this issue of *Amicus* goes to press, we are experiencing many changes due to the impact of COVID-19. We have switched to fully remote classes for the rest of the semester, and are exploring alternative ways of celebrating the Class of 2020 in the wake of a canceled in-person May commencement ceremony. These are trying times, and I am proud of the resiliency and care for one another that our community has shown. Amid everything going on in the world, we still have much to celebrate, as we are reminded in the following pages. I hope this issue of *Amicus* inspires you.

Public service is a key component of a lawyer's professional obligations and an essential ingredient in a legal career. As a law school, we are committed to instilling an ethic of public service in our students and graduates. Personally, public service has been one of the most satisfying aspects of my career.

Last year, our students spent a total of 14,291 hours assisting the underserved through our nine legal clinics. More than 92 percent of 1Ls signed the Public Service Pledge, and the members of the Class of 2019 collectively contributed over 6,700 hours of unpaid law-related service during their time in law school.

On top of providing valuable experience through clinics and externships, we have introduced several public service projects led by faculty members. Our cover story features the namesake of one such program: Korey Wise, an adopted Colorado Law alumnus and member of the "Exonerated Five," who helped develop the Colorado Innocence Project, known today as the Korey Wise Innocence Project.

Other faculty-led initiatives include the Constitution Day Project, led by Professor **Colene Robinson**; the Acequia Assistance Project, led by Professor **Sarah Krakoff**; the First Peoples Project, led by Professor **Carla Fredericks**; Defy Colorado, led by Professor **Brad Bernthal**; and the Maya Land Rights and Development Project, which I lead along with Dean's Fellow **Patrick Lee** ('18).

We support our students' placement in public service jobs during the summer and after they graduate in several ways. Our public service fellowships award up to \$6,000 for students to pursue summer public service work at low-paying or unpaid positions. We also offer scholarships and postgraduate fellowships.

Many of our graduates are choosing to enter into public service careers. Twenty-five percent of employed Class of 2018 graduates work in public interest or government jobs, with an additional 18 percent in judicial clerkships. To support our alumni in public interest careers, Colorado Law's Loan Repayment Assistance Program approved 61 awards of \$5,500 each to qualified recipients in 2019.

We are also committed to supporting public service initiatives in the communities we serve. Last year, Colorado Law became a founding sponsor of Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice (LEJ), a small-business incubator that trains socially conscious lawyers to build sustainable practices providing affordable legal solutions to Coloradans. I am grateful to Colorado Supreme Court Justice **Melissa Hart**, who first identified the need for LEJ and was instrumental in launching the program.

As you will see in the pages that follow, our tradition of service runs deep, and our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are passionate about giving of themselves. I hope this issue of *Amicus* encourages you to learn more about the public service tradition at Colorado Law.

My best,

S. James Anaya, Dean

*"Many of our graduates are choosing to enter into public service careers. Twenty-five percent of employed Class of 2018 graduates work in public interest or government jobs, with an additional 18 percent in judicial clerkships."*

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Inquiries regarding content contained  
herein may be addressed to

Colorado Law  
Attn: Amicus  
401 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

or to [lawalum@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalum@colorado.edu).

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Roth

## EDITING

Paul Beique, Al Canner,  
and Julia Roth

## WRITING

S. James Anaya, Vayle LaFehr,  
Julia Roth, Andrew Sorensen,  
Amie Stepanovich, and Jake Stephens

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Julia Roth and Bea Steiner

## DESIGN

Cary Marks, University of Colorado  
Boulder Strategic Relations &  
Communications

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Glenn Asakawa, Patrick Campbell,  
Casey A. Cass, Julia Roth, and  
Katherine Struthers

## PRINTING

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**COVER /** Korey Wise,  
a philanthropist, activist, youth  
mentor, and namesake of the  
Korey Wise Innocence Project  
at the University of Colorado  
Law School.

## CONNECT WITH US



2 In Brief

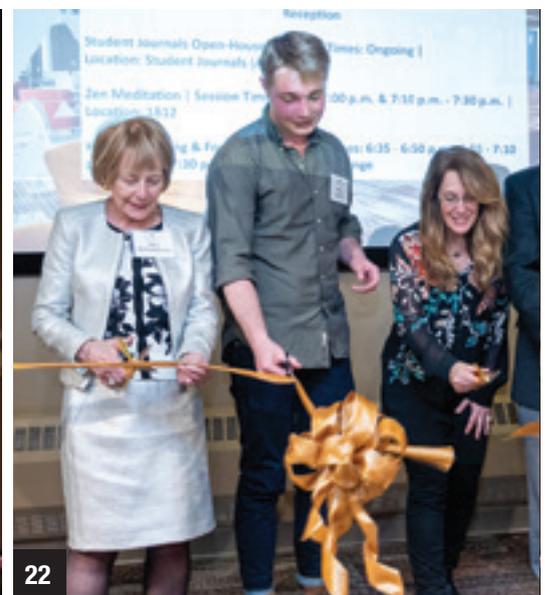
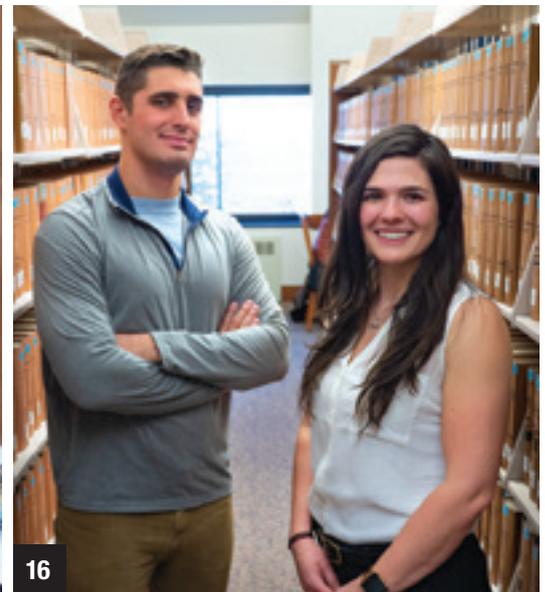
7 Faculty Focus

12 Features

22 Advancement

24 Alumni

32 Last Word



# in brief



## Executive Education Program Launches

*Inaugural courses include first-of-its-kind Cannabis Entrepreneurship Academy, Boulder Compliance Workshop, and Compliance Thought Leaders Forum*

Colorado Law's new Executive Education courses, taught by University of Colorado law and business faculty and industry leaders, will give attorneys, entrepreneurs, and compliance professionals the opportunity to deepen their subject area knowledge while earning CLE credits. This summer's offerings are the Cannabis Entrepreneurship Academy, June 13–16, and two courses for ethics and compliance professionals.

"After graduating from law school or finishing other university studies, it can be hard to find opportunities for extended learning," said Dean **S. James Anaya**. "We are excited to offer our expertise to attorneys, entrepreneurs, and compliance professionals as they immerse themselves in multiday courses on some of today's most cutting-edge legal and business issues."

The Cannabis Entrepreneurship Academy, in partnership with the Leeds School of Business, is the first program of its kind to engage cannabis business professionals and attorneys on the various legal, financing, and regulatory issues facing the industry.

"The Cannabis Entrepreneurship Academy is a unique educational experience which will bring the legal and the business sides of the cannabis industry together in one place. A multidisciplinary approach to this rapidly evolving industry is a necessity due to its highly regulated nature," said **Christian Sederberg** ('05), founding partner at Vicente Sederberg LLP, one of the nation's top cannabis law firms, who helped develop the course.

Two other Executive Education courses focus on professional development for ethics and compliance professionals.

The Boulder Compliance Workshop, June 1–3, will help entry- and mid-level compliance professionals broaden their knowledge of compliance across various industries, including health care, financial services, and cybersecurity, and remain

competitive in the employment market. The Compliance Thought Leaders Forum, June 3–5, offers top compliance executives the opportunity to share and learn best practices from other experienced leaders.

“Private companies, nonprofit entities, and public institutions all exist in an ever-complex regulatory environment and must develop compliance programs to gauge and manage risk, stay abreast of legal obligations, develop controls, and create positive, ethical cultures for their employees,” said **Melanie Kay**, faculty advisor and co-director of Colorado Law’s Master of Studies in Law degree in ethics and compliance, which trains nonlawyers for careers in compliance.

“These programs aim to fill these needs through multiday educational opportunities to learn and engage with cutting-edge compliance topics from some of the best in the business.”

Visit [colorado.edu/law/executive](https://colorado.edu/law/executive) for registration, schedule information, speaker bios, and more.



## Silicon Flatirons Celebrates 20 Years

In February, the Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship kicked off its 20th anniversary celebration, which will span 2020.

The center is using the anniversary to recognize the policy developments initiated by the center since its founding. Starting with a single conference, Silicon Flatirons has grown into a major center for innovation with a broad mission to elevate technology policy, support our entrepreneurial community, and prepare students for promising careers in the technology and entrepreneurial areas.

The celebration took place alongside the center’s annual flagship conference, this year considering the topic of “Technology Optimism and Pessimism.” With speakers including Federal Communications Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, Federal Trade Commissioner Rohit Chopra, and Colorado Attorney General **Phil Weiser**, who founded Silicon Flatirons in 1999 and serves as an executive fellow, the conference examined the positive and negative effects of technology with an eye toward extrapolating lessons that could help experts anticipate what critical discussions are still needed.

“Silicon Flatirons will continue to play a role in convening those discussions, while working over the next 20 years to ensure those discussions are inclusive, interdisciplinary, and respectful of the borderless nature of the technologies involved,” said **Amie Stepanovich**, the center’s executive director.



## Clinic Students Weigh In on Future of Automatic Speech Recognition Policies

Students in the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law and Policy Clinic (TLPC) are addressing concerns surrounding the oversight and implementation of automatic speech recognition (ASR), an artificial intelligence technology that detects speech and turns spoken words into text, and which is increasingly becoming the focus of debates in disability policy.

Some technology companies and accessibility technologists are excited about ASR's potential to provide immediate, inexpensive captions, and hope that this new form of speech recognition can fill in captioning gaps and perhaps even eventually replace traditional human captioning. However, ASR has a number of pitfalls, including the potential for problems with accuracy, privacy, and discrimination, which, if not properly addressed, could affect the civil rights of millions of Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Working on behalf of its client, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inc., and with a coalition of consumer organizations and advocates, TLPC students petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to address long-standing quality concerns with captioning for live television programming and internet protocol captioned telephone services (IP CTS).

In its petition, the clinic asked the FCC to build on its existing standards for the quality of captions by setting metrics for acceptable quality of live captions. The petition also urged the

FCC to issue rulings on whether and how ASR technologies can comply with human-centric frameworks.

"Being confronted with the tension between new technologies and the ways in which the law has not yet caught up was interesting and one of the reasons I wanted to participate in the TLPC," said **Tess Cartin** ('21).

ASR is also a significant issue in IP CTS, which provides captioning for people who are deaf or hard of hearing when making telephone calls. The clinic has called on companies seeking to provide ASR-based services to supply more information about the risks associated with ASR to the public.

"While we aren't opposed to the use of ASR and believe it has the potential to do great things in the future, it does pose privacy and consumer risks that don't magically disappear because artificial intelligence is being used instead of humans," said **Cooper Tollen** ('21).

While ASR may be a critical technology in improving captioning, oversight is needed to ensure that it respects the civil rights of Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing. The TLPC will continue its work on these topics into 2020.

## Artificial Intelligence and Justice

As the world grapples with how best to manage the growth of artificial intelligence (AI), some of Colorado Law's leading scholars and students examined the legal issues it presents at a November conference cohosted by Colorado Law and the College of Law at the United Arab Emirates University.



Associate Clinical Professor Blake E. Reid and students in the Technology Law and Policy Clinic

The conference highlighted challenges and opportunities that societies face as they move toward the use of AI.

Associate Professor **Craig Konnoth**, whose work lies at the intersection of health law and policy and civil rights, addressed several of these challenges in his presentation, “The Rise of the Robot Doctor: Promises and Pitfalls of AI in Medicine.”

Legal writing professor **Amy Bauer** moderated a roundtable discussion on the future of law in the era of AI with panelists **Amie Stepanovich**, executive director of Colorado Law’s Silicon Flatirons Center, and students **Freddy Steimling** (’20) and **Kristi Tammiku** (LLM’20).

“AI, like other forms of emerging technology, captivates people of all cultures, walks of life, and nationalities because of its wide-ranging applications, which encompass everything from surveillance to access to justice and human rights initiatives,” said Steimling, who is managing editor of the *Colorado Technology Law Journal* (CTLJ). “An important takeaway from the conference generally, and our roundtable discussion in particular, is that while AI has already delivered major social improvements, and will continue to do so in the future, its potential for abuse when employed by bad actors cannot be discounted. It was refreshing to hear a diverse group of researchers recognize this certitude.”

The CTLJ will publish several papers from conference presenters in its spring 2020 issue.



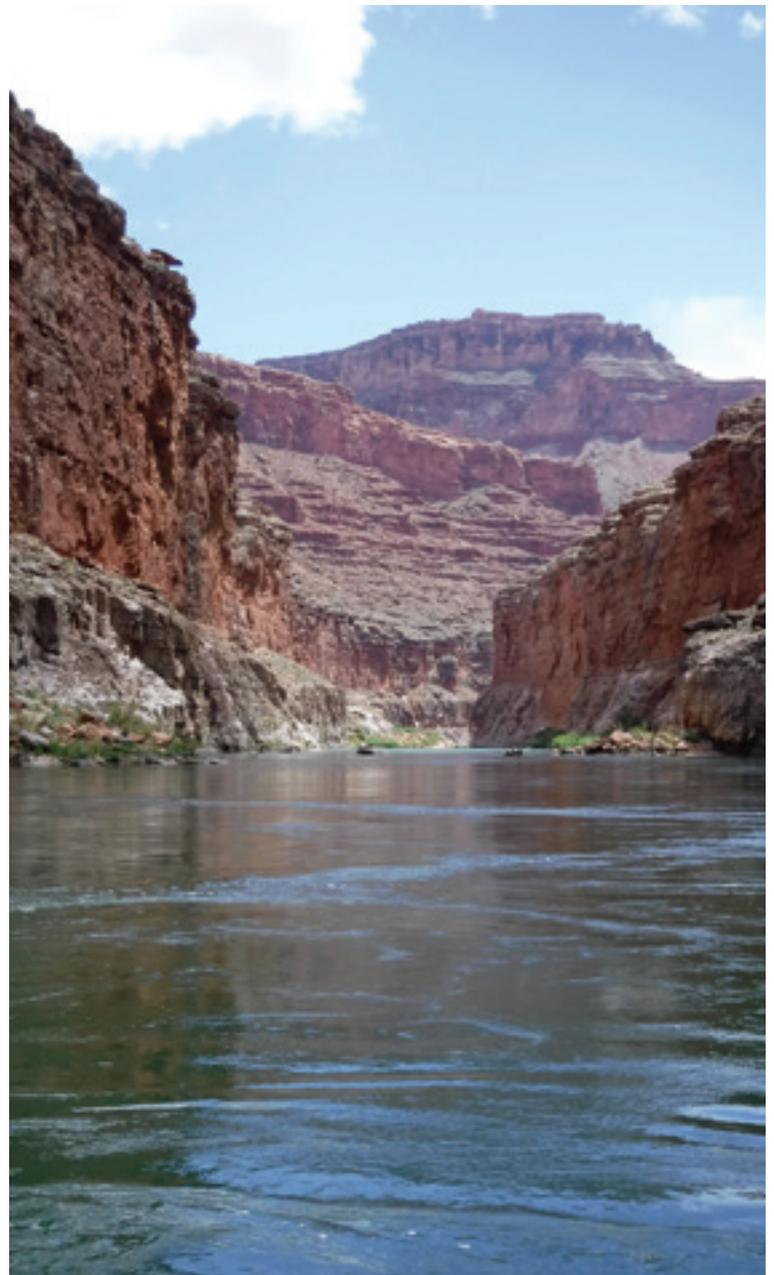
## Getches-Wilkinson Center Launches Fellows Program with Focus on Water in the West

The Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment (GWC) at the University of Colorado Law School has raised \$840,000 to launch the GWC Fellows Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative that will train the next generation of natural resource leaders.

The program will formally begin in late 2020 with the hiring of two full-time fellows. With a focus on water and the Colorado River in particular, the first two fellows will address critical issues affecting Western watersheds, conduct reform-oriented research on pressing issues in the field, and interact with public- and private-sector leaders to inform policymaking.

“In Colorado and beyond there is a rising need for thoughtful policy initiatives at all levels of government to manage water usage throughout the Colorado River Basin,” said **Sarah Krakoff**, Moses Lasky Professor of Law. “The GWC sees an opportunity to help address this unmet need, and similar ones throughout Western watersheds, while training the next generation of outstanding and diverse leaders in water law.”

The GWC Fellows Program is supported by David Bonderman, a lawyer, businessman, and significant supporter of conservation initiatives, who contributed a matching grant of \$420,000. Additional financial support came from an anonymous donor and the Water Funder Initiative, a collaborative effort to identify and activate promising water solutions through strategic philanthropic investments in the United States, starting in the West.



## Student Perspectives

We caught up with three Colorado Law students about their law school journey.



### Peter Selimos ('22)

Fulfilling a childhood dream

**Before law school,** I took a gap year to volunteer in the Alachua County, Florida, state attorney's domestic violence unit. I found that I really enjoyed public interest work, especially pretrial tasks. Whenever I wasn't working there, I would be either working on my motorcycle or at one of my night jobs.

**I knew I wanted to be a lawyer in the fourth grade.** I loved to argue as a child, and reading was my favorite subject throughout school. After a while, it began to feel like a vocation.

**I am fascinated by litigation,** and I hope to someday leverage that experience into becoming a judge. I generally find privacy law, zoning law, and environmental policy work interesting because those three areas directly affect my life.

**I chose to attend Colorado Law because** I thought the supportive student culture and the beautiful mountain playground surrounding it would be highly conducive to healthy habits and emotional well-being, which help me think clearer and learn more easily.

**I'd advise new law students to** keep a daily gratitude journal. It keeps life in perspective, especially when things get tough during the semester.



### Junie Joseph ('21)

Human rights advocate

**Before law school, I worked in human rights and development** both nationally and internationally. I supported the mandate of the United Nations as an intern by providing organizational assistance to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva; worked as a global law and development fellow on a USAID project in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa; and served in the Obama administration as an intern within the White House Domestic Policy Council. Most recently, I worked as a human rights officer within the U.N. Mission to the Central African Republic, serving internally displaced persons in the region of Bria.

**I knew from a very young age that I wanted to advocate for social justice and human rights.** Consequently, I thought being a lawyer would help facilitate my aspiration to one day become an advocate. I came to law school to understand the law so that I could be a more effective advocate of social justice and human rights.

**I'd tell new law students that** law school is but a moment in the trajectory of your life. You are meant to be here and make the best of it; lean on other people's strength where you are weak, and allow others to do the same. You got this!



### Nikki Nelson ('22)

Healing wrongs in the criminal justice system

**Cornel West once said: "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."** For many years I have wanted to advocate for people struggling in the criminal and family courts. Like Cornel West, I believe that our justice system holds an incredible power to heal wrongs and cure injustices. However, that system can be manipulated or unfair to certain defendants. I want to bring some love and justice into the world by advocating for those disenfranchised members of our society to whom the system is the cruelest.

**After graduating from the University of Colorado Denver, I worked as a probation officer in the 20th Judicial District.** I supervised an adult male sex offender caseload and an adult male domestic violence caseload. This work was incredibly challenging and humbling, but it was by far the most valuable experience of my life to date.

**I am most interested in criminal law—specifically criminal defense.** I believe that defense attorneys are the linchpin of the criminal justice system. Without their tireless advocacy there is no presumption of innocence and no one to safeguard our civil rights when faced with criminal charges.

**I hope to use my law degree to** free an innocent person from prison.

# faculty focus



## What Trade-offs?

Today's conversations around the transition to clean energy often neglect a fundamental issue: the costs associated with those decisions. A new website, EnergyTradeoffs.com, administered and overseen in part by Associate Professor **Sharon Jacobs**, aims to promote awareness and discussion of the energy transition and its associated trade-offs.

"It's easy when we talk about energy policy to focus on a single goal and downplay the effect of pursuing that goal on other things we care about," Jacobs said. "What we are trying to do on this site is to acknowledge that making changes to our energy grid will have a number of different consequences."

EnergyTradeoffs.com is jointly operated by Jacobs and energy law professors David Spence, University of Texas; James Coleman, Southern Methodist University; Shelley Welton, University of South Carolina; and Jim Rossi, Vanderbilt University. The website features interviews with scholars working on projects concerned with the energy transition and its

trade-offs, with a particular focus on research in governance, affordability, reliability, and the construction of new energy infrastructure.

While the site doesn't put forward any particular view about what our energy system should look like, Jacobs believes that we need to move to a greener, better coordinated grid as quickly as possible through incorporation of technologies like energy storage and advanced metering infrastructure.

But we can't pretend that there are no costs associated with this transition, she said.

"Instead of pretending that we can achieve all we want while maintaining low electricity rates, avoiding all environmental impact, and keeping everyone in the jobs they have right now, let's find creative ways to address the problems the green transition will inevitably create. Good policy doesn't come when we put our heads in the sand. It comes when we debate hard questions with those who disagree with us," she said.

## Protecting Indigenous Rights

**Kristen Carpenter** was elected chair of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). A subsidiary body of the Human Rights Council, EMRIP provides expertise and advice on the rights of indigenous peoples. Carpenter was appointed the North American member in March 2017.

## Reforming AI

**Margot E. Kaminski** received the Provost's Faculty Achievement Award for her work on artificial intelligence (AI), data privacy, and human decision-making. The faculty committee pointed to Kaminski's article, "Binary Governance: Lessons from the GDPR's Approach to Algorithmic Accountability," which was published in the *Southern California Law Review*, as having "significant practical applications as a resource for helping reformers and policymakers as they examine ways to regulate AI."

## Visiting Scholars

This spring, Colorado Law is pleased to welcome two internationally renowned scholars as visiting faculty.

**Robert Anderson**, professor and director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington School of Law, teaches American Indian law, public land law, natural resources law, water law, and property law. **Robin Fretwell Wilson** is associate dean for public engagement and the Roger and Stephany Joslin Professor of Law at the University of Illinois College of Law. She specializes in family law and health law.



# feminism's CRIMINAL LAW PROBLEM

In their quest to protect women from domestic violence and rape, have American feminists contributed to mass incarceration by embracing criminal law as a preferred government solution to social problems?

Colorado Law Professor **Aya Gruber**, a prominent scholar of criminal law, criminal procedure, critical theory, and feminism, thinks so. In a new book, Gruber argues that American feminists participated in the war on crime by emphasizing white female victimhood, expanding the power of police and prosecutors, touting the problem-solving power of incarceration, and diverting resources away from marginalized communities and toward law enforcement.

*The Feminist War on Crime: The Unexpected Role of Women's Liberation in Mass Incarceration* (University of California Press, 2020) is the culmination of Gruber's 25+ years of grappling with the dichotomy of pro-criminalization of domestic violence abusers and the problem of hyper-incarceration in the United States.

The book offers stories of feminist engagement and resistance to structures of law, demonstrating how zero-tolerance anti-violence law and policy exacerbate the American incarceration addiction and often make women less safe.

"Feminist activists were incredibly concerned about women facing violence, but they had to make tough choices and compromises within a legal system that was oriented away from social welfare and economic redistribution and very much toward the carceral state," Gruber said.

One modern example is the #MeToo movement. While #MeToo made gender salient and exposed the many ways in which women are disempowered in the workplace and society, Gruber makes it clear that aspects of the feminist #MeToo agenda are highly carceral.

"In a #MeToo era, the puzzling situation we're left with is this: There's a burgeoning consensus both on the left and the right that the U.S. imprisons too many people. It uses too much criminal law to solve problems. This is a bad mode of governance. It should be a last mode of governance, and yet #MeToo feminists offer full-throated defenses of criminalization," she said.

In telling feminists' stories, from the 19th century to today's issues including sex trafficking, prostitution, domestic violence, and sexual assault, Gruber aims to show readers the complicated—"sometimes amazing and liberating and at other times repressive"—feminist influence on criminal law.

Reconciling these ideas is not new to Gruber, who joined the Colorado Law faculty in 2010 and has spent her career balancing interests in women's issues and feminism with criminal justice. She began this work as a law student at Harvard, where she wrote an article on rape shield laws that was later excerpted in Joshua Dressler and Stephen P. Garvey's widely used casebook, *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law*, now in its eighth edition.

"Violence against women was a pressing issue when I was in law school, especially sexual assault. So I have that side of myself that was really interested in women's issues and feminism and feminist theory," Gruber said. "On the other side, I had been interning with a public defender's office since I was 15 years old. By the time I was in law school, I knew I wanted to be a public defender. I knew that I really wanted to represent poor people faced with the loss of their liberty who had no resources and were up against the massive power of the government."

As a public defender in the domestic violence systems of Washington, D.C., and Miami, she saw firsthand the ways in which early feminist reforms intended to protect women ultimately had the opposite effect, leading to a "prosecutorial machine" that adversely affected people of color.

"Rules made in the name of being protective were breaking up families, putting people in jail, and furthering the cycle of poverty they were in," she said.

That's not to say that domestic violence reform doesn't have upsides, she said, but the idea that arrest was a lifesaver for all women was just not the case.

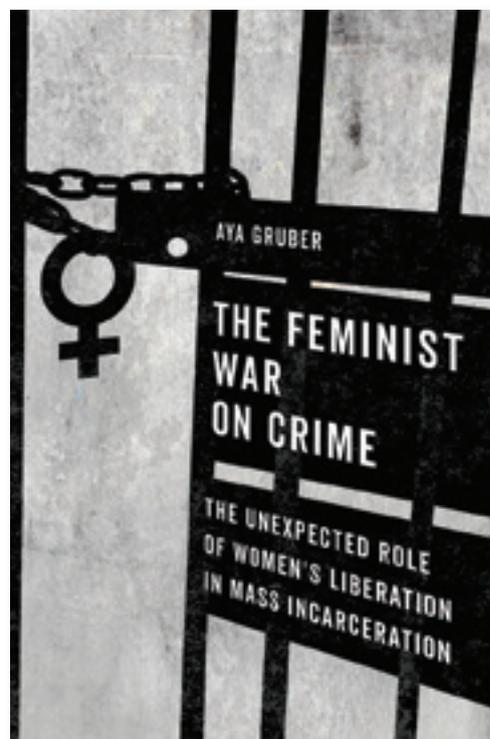
Gruber's groundbreaking scholarship traces the role of feminism in what we now have come to

know as mass incarceration. Her 2007 article "The Feminist War on Crime" (*Iowa Law Review*) laid the groundwork for the book by outlining the history of domestic violence reform to what is today "a politically powerful lobby deeply allied with law enforcement." Gruber's other widely cited articles include "Equal Protection Under the Carceral State" (*Northwestern University Law Review* 2018), "Consent Confusion" (*Cardozo Law Review* 2016), and "A Provocative Defense" (*California Law Review* 2015).

In sketching a path forward for young women, activists, and lawmakers to oppose violence against women without reinforcing the American prison state, Gruber hopes the book helps others reconcile their views as she has done.

"I want people to come away with the idea that being a feminist and being a prosecutor of sex crimes and deviant crimes are not synonymous," she said.

"I hope that the book will liberate feminists to imagine new, better, fairer, nonracist, nonclassist solutions to gender problems. And I also hope that it will free policymakers who deal with gender violence to not constantly have to worry about offending this carceral feminist sensibility. And liberate them to imagine ways to deal with these harms in a nonpunitive manner."



# pursuing citizenship

in the enforcement era

An Inside Look at the Newest Americans

Several times a year for the last several years, Associate Professor **Ming Hsu Chen** has taken students from the Immigration and Citizenship Law Program to meet immigrants who seek naturalized citizenship. It is a hands-on experience helping real people navigate the complex immigration system.

Participating in citizenship workshops, organized by the American Immigration Lawyers Association and Colorado Immigrants' Rights Coalition, has always been a valuable learning tool, and a great chance for students to get into the community and apply their classroom learning to a real-world problem. But in 2016, Chen noticed something had changed.

"People who had been eligible to apply for citizenship for 15 to 20 years and were not previously interested suddenly started applying in big numbers," she said.

As the line to become a naturalized citizen started ballooning, Chen couldn't shake the questions: What was causing these people to scramble for citizenship? Why now?

"Immigrants in these workshops complete a 20-page form," Chen explained. "There must be 50 questions on that form, but not one of them is, 'Why do you want to become a citizen? What do you hope to gain?' That's what I was interested in pursuing with my research."

She started conducting interviews in 2016 and continued after the election of President Donald Trump, eventually talking to more than 100 immigrants around Colorado, which turned into her forthcoming book: *Pursuing Citizenship in the Enforcement Era* (Stanford University Press 2020).



“In the book, there are immigrants in varying legal statuses in the interview pool: green card holders with U.S.-citizen spouses, refugees, and service members,” Chen said. “Some of the people reported they wanted to be able to vote for certain candidates or policy issues.” There are also DACA recipients and temporary visa holders not eligible to naturalize.

Many said they wanted citizenship as an insurance policy against immigration enforcement. They felt they couldn’t wait any longer.

And then there was Bob (an alias).

“Bob had been eligible to naturalize for a long time and has a U.S.-citizen spouse and kids,” Chen said. “He was debating whether he was going to submit his application or not.”

Trump enacted his travel ban in January 2017, reportedly resulting in more than 60,000 visas provisionally revoked for people from Muslim-majority countries.

For Bob, that was a tipping point.

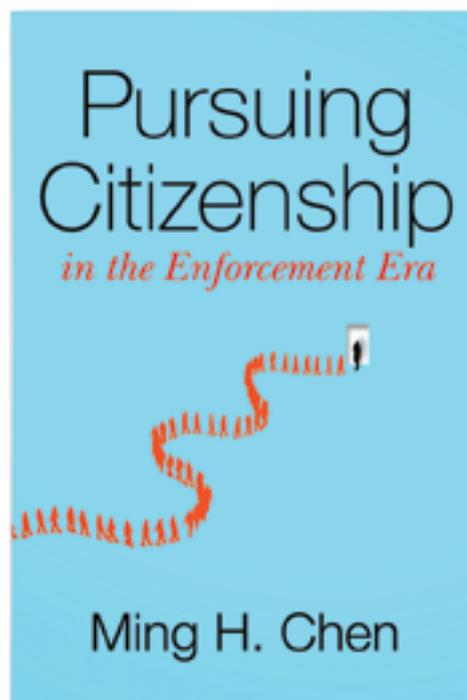
Here’s the twist: Bob is a white technology worker from Canada.

“While he’s not technically part of the travel ban, that made it clear to Bob that a green card was no longer enough to feel safe in America,” Chen said. Every immigrant was at risk.

For a long time, Chen said, a green card was seen as de facto citizenship. But as Bob saw lines of people with visas being turned away in airports, as he saw colleagues in his labs and doctoral students wonder whether they could travel to conferences and return to the U.S. safely to resume their research, the privilege of being a white high-skilled worker with a green card seemed to dissolve.

The travel ban also scared Latino green card holders, even though they were not from the targeted countries and held permanent residency.

“Citizenship needs to be a part of the conversation about immigration policy,” Chen said.



“Most of the people I interviewed for this book are noncitizens who are not at direct risk of deportation. These are people who live in our communities and are ready to become American, legally and in every other sense. Their worries extend beyond what we see at the border.”

While she appreciates the role of cities and nonprofits in helping immigrants, Chen believes meaningful immigration reform needs to involve the federal government. If the goal is belonging, there needs to be a pathway to citizenship, both in the formal sense of naturalization and the informal sense of welcome. The government needs to start reaching out to those people who are already here.

“I hope these portraits challenge peoples’ perceptions of who we’re talking about when we discuss immigration policy,” Chen said. “They’re from a broad variety of paths and have complicated feelings about who they are and where they belong. These are the immigrants most people want to come here, and they’re increasingly looking around wondering if they want to stay.”

## Citizenship Delayed

People applying for U.S. citizenship have seen application wait times double since 2016, according to a report from the Colorado State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights prepared in part by Associate Professor Ming Hsu Chen and Colorado Law students.

The increased wait times are contributing to a backlog of more than 700,000 naturalization applications, affecting applicants’ civil rights, including their ability to vote in the 2020 election, the report found.

“Naturalizing is an important step in America, and impediments on the ability to naturalize have negative consequences for civil rights, voting rights, and the democratic process. That is a key concern for the state advisory committee and the commission,” Chen said. “Yet naturalization is about more than elections. It is about civic engagement and belonging in America.”

Historically, backlogs of naturalization applications have occurred partly because applications rise ahead of election years. However, Chen said the backlog last cleared in 2006 and the present backlog is unprecedented in size and still growing. Colorado’s backlog growth, with 9,325 applications in the queue, is one of the worst in the country.

The Colorado State Advisory Committee, of which Chen is a member, recommends that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) look at new policies and technologies to streamline its processes, while maintaining standards. The committee also recommends that Congress hold USCIS accountable to the 120-day processing timeline.

# When They See Him

*Korey Wise changed the trajectory of the Colorado Innocence Project (renamed the Korey Wise Innocence Project). Now, thanks in part to a popular docuseries, the project has hit its stride.*

The weekend of May 31, 2019, started out normally for **Anne-Marie Moyes**, director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project (KWIP) at Colorado Law. She caught up with volunteers, reviewed applications, and made a few calls. On Saturday, one of KWIP's law student volunteers called to urge her to check the Facebook page: Hundreds of messages were pouring in following the previous day's release of *When They See Us*, a four-part Netflix docuseries about the Central Park Five.

The series, which a record-setting 23 million people watched in its first month, depicted the events leading up to the wrongful arrest and conviction of Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana, and Korey Wise for the rape and assault of a female jogger in Central Park in 1989.

The last two episodes put Wise's story front and center. At 16, he was the oldest defendant, served the most prison time, and was the only one sent to adult prison. The series reveals Wise's painful experience of enduring solitary confinement and repeated assault by other prisoners. As the series makes clear, Wise suffered this fate even though he was not initially a suspect and only got roped into the investigation because he chose to accompany his friend to the police station for questioning.

His experience resonated with viewers, who immediately began writing to the project at Colorado Law bearing Wise's name asking how they could get involved. Within a month of the docuseries' release, the project received nearly 200 times the number of individual contributions compared to the same period in 2018. By the end of the year, nearly 500 people—mostly first-time donors—from across the U.S. and internationally had donated to the project. Many wrote that they felt this was their opportunity to make a difference and right some of the wrongs that Wise had been dealt.

Founded in 2001 by a coalition of Colorado lawyers led by **Jim Scarboro** ('70), the Colorado Innocence Project moved to its current home at Colorado Law in 2010. For years, it was a volunteer-run project overseen by Professor Emeritus **Pat Furman** ('80) and Clinical Professor **Ann England**. In 2015, Wise, who was exonerated by DNA evidence in 2002, made an initial gift to the Colorado Innocence Project after learning about it from his lawyer, Jane Fisher-Byrialsen, who represented him in his civil lawsuit against New York





*“Just as DNA has exonerated hundreds of people across the country, we hope that the new scrutiny of problematic forensic disciplines will help to free many more innocent people.”*

—Anne-Marie Moyes



A team of volunteers at the Korey Wise Innocence Project office.

City and has ties to Colorado. His gift allowed the hiring of its first staff member, and the project was renamed the Korey Wise Innocence Project.

“Korey’s gift was life-changing for us as an organization. We went from a volunteer-run organization to an organization that has a director and can itself help take on the work of investigating and then litigating individual cases,” Moyes said.

Today, a team of around 20 law students, retired lawyers, and undergraduate students volunteer with the organization. In addition to screening applications—KWIP receives a steady stream of five to 10 each month from people incarcerated in Colorado—the project recently turned its focus to identifying cases with convictions based on flawed forensics, which Moyes calls the new frontier of innocence work.

Flawed forensics refers to forensic evidence that is unreliable or invalid, or that relies on overstated expert testimony. As the number of innocence cases relying on postconviction DNA testing dwindles, exposing flawed forensics cases offers another promising avenue to exonerate the wrongly convicted, Moyes explained.

The national Innocence Project reports that the misapplication of forensic science contributed to 45 percent of wrongful convictions in the U.S. proved through DNA testing. In many cases,

scientific testimony that was accepted at the time of a conviction has since been undermined by new scientific advancements in disciplines including hair microscopy, arson, and pattern evidence, which includes bite marks, shoe prints, blood spatter, and tool marks.

With regard to hair microscopy, a discredited discipline in which suspect hairs are visually compared to crime scene hairs under a high-powered microscope, the project is taking part in a nationwide effort to identify and screen cases from state forensic labs that relied on the discipline for years before it was largely debunked by DNA. Hair microscopy audits by innocence projects in other states have identified hundreds of cases worthy of reexamination.

“What we’re trying to do is identify cases in Colorado involving people who were convicted on the basis of forensic evidence that everyone now agrees is faulty,” Moyes said. “Instead of assuming that people wrongly convicted by bad science will write to us, we’re going to play a different role by seeking out these cases and strategically litigating the most promising ones.”

Many of the people who write to the project were convicted years, if not decades, ago, making it difficult to find new evidence of innocence, Moyes explained. But with the flawed forensics cases, the

project can hire experts to reexamine old physical evidence or prior testing and expose the outdated science that led to a wrongful conviction.

“Just as DNA has exonerated hundreds of people across the country, we hope that the new scrutiny of problematic forensic disciplines will help to free many more innocent people,” Moyes said.

The project is also involved in advocacy work and policy reform to address and prevent wrongful convictions. One such effort is reforming unregulated jailhouse informant testimony, one of the leading contributing factors of wrongful convictions nationally. KWIP has teamed up with the national Innocence Project to lobby for jailhouse “snitch” reform in Colorado.

For **Nikki Nelson** ('22), volunteering with the Korey Wise Innocence Project has been the highlight of law school so far.

“Innocence work is an incredibly important part of the legal profession, and getting to be a part of something so impactful has been a really enlightening experience. I am looking forward to what the next few years of working with the project will bring,” she said.

The project recently received a \$100,000 gift from Iris Smith, a first-time donor who learned of the project from a friend who saw the docuseries. This donation will allow the project to continue to grow.

Though innocence cases may be slow moving, Moyes said she believes they are making a difference.

“The innocence movement has been incredibly effective in shining light on flaws in the criminal justice system and why too often things go wrong,” Moyes said. “It’s achieved important reforms to prevent wrongful convictions at the front end. Because each exoneration takes years of hard work, innocence projects might only free a small number of innocent people each year, quite likely the tip of the iceberg of all the innocent people in prison. But by shining light on those individual cases, we educate the public about systemic problems and have a wider impact.”

As for Wise, he continues to make light out of tragedy. In addition to supporting his namesake innocence project in Colorado, he is an avid public speaker and advocate for criminal justice reform in his home state of New York and across the U.S.

“This is life after death. I always say that,” he told *The New York Times* in May. “From now on I know what Biggie was talking about. There’s life after death.”



# Called to Service

Before attending law school, **Amanda Bishop** ('20) didn't know much about public service or the fact that she wanted to do public interest work. What she knew was that she wanted to go to law school to help people—"public interest without the label yet," she said.

"My decision to come to Colorado Law largely was based on the Innocence Project and our criminal defense clinic. I knew I wanted the real-world, hands-on experiences that Colorado Law had to offer and that those resources would help me find the perfect avenue of law for me," said Bishop, who serves as co-president of the Public Interest Students Association. She has accepted a postgraduate position with the Colorado State Public Defender.

Public service at Colorado Law includes faculty-led service projects, which offer opportunities for students to teach high school students about the Constitution, help low-income farmers in southern Colorado assert their water rights, and mentor incarcerated people on business plans. Students are also involved in outside opportunities, such as the Colorado Name Change Project and citizenship renewal clinics.

In addition to programs designed to educate and prepare students for public service opportunities, Colorado Law provides

financial support to students and alumni interested in public service through scholarships, summer and postgraduate fellowships, and the loan repayment assistance program (LRAP).

In 2019, Colorado Law awarded 62 public service summer fellowships to students who took unpaid or low-paying positions at offices of attorneys general, public defenders' offices, federal agencies, nonprofits, and more. The school has been able to provide funding to every qualified student who applied on time.

"Fellowships, scholarships, and LRAP are critical ways that Colorado Law shows its commitment to supporting its students who want to do this type of work, and an example of how we back up our commitment to public service. We don't want any of our students to forgo pursuing public interest career paths because of the financial burden," said **John McKee**, director for government and public interest in our Career Development Office, who assists students seeking public interest careers and graduates seeking career transitions into public interest positions.

On the pages that follow, meet a few Colorado Law students who are engaged in public service.

# Adrian Untermeyer:

## Public Service Summer Fellowship

I

**Adrian Untermeyer** ('20) was on track to his recent internship with New Jersey Transit from an early age.

It started with his grandfather, who grew up between two major Chicago rail lines, taking Untermeyer train watching as a kid.

“And we always finished up at the Choo-Choo Restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois, where meals were served via model railroad,” Untermeyer said.

Untermeyer continued to be enthralled with transportation as he chugged along in his academic career. Through connections he made as an undergraduate and graduate student, Untermeyer did something big to make transportation a little better: He organized an arts complex in New York’s Port Authority bus terminal.

“Its 250,000 daily commuters now begin and end their days with music and art instead of just misery and drudgery,” Untermeyer said.

So, when he learned of an internship opportunity with the New Jersey Transit section of the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office and received a Public Service Summer Fellowship from Colorado Law, Untermeyer was full steam ahead.

“During the summer I worked there, New Jersey Transit was struggling to provide daily service to its 750,000 daily riders. A chronic staff shortage meant canceled trains and buses. A crumbling Hudson River tunnel meant any day could mean disaster,” he said. “It was a set of challenges too appealing to pass up.”

Through taking the system into work and eating lunch in the employee cafeteria, Untermeyer got a ground-level view of the problems he was trying to solve. With access to board meetings and similar events, he got the big-picture view. All of that came in handy with the actual work of keeping the trains running.

“From Transit Police disciplinary cases, to bus crashes, to massive infrastructure projects, and everything in between, I researched, wrote, and investigated to support New Jersey Transit’s mission,” Untermeyer explained.

He’s explored other angles of public service while at Colorado Law, working in jails by day and editing *University of Colorado Law Review* articles by night. But to Untermeyer, they’re all part and parcel.

“We simply cannot depend on anyone other than ourselves to achieve social, racial, economic, and yes, transportation justice in our society. If we are to build a better world, we must be the ones to do it.”





## II

### Ariel Amaru: Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project

Shaky and stumbling, a Pomona High School student earnestly fought to deliver his best legal argument. He'd prepared all semester, but the gauntlet of public speaking appeared to be taking its toll.

**Ariel Amaru** ('20), his teacher and a Colorado Law student, smiled, trying her best to encourage him. This is what she had been working toward this semester, too: a moment to create a spark of passion in someone else.

She'd received that spark on a volunteer trip to Ghana while she was in high school. That has helped her stay grounded through law school.

"It's important to engage with experiences outside of ourselves and to give back to communities in need when we are in the midst of a very privileged experience," she said.

Amaru started working at Pomona High School in Arvada in fall 2019 as a Marshall-Brennan Teaching Fellow, part of the Colorado chapter of the national Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, run by the law school's Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law.

The project partners upper-level law students with high schoolers. Law students like Amaru teach constitutional literacy and introduce their pupils to the U.S. legal system, while coaching them on public speaking.

Though he'd learned all that, Amaru's student squeaked through his oral argument on nerves alone.

"A few hours afterwards, he found me and asked if he could do his oral argument again, because he didn't feel he'd done well enough," Amaru remembered. "I said of course, and I sat and judged him again."

This time: lights out.

"He was tremendous the second time around—so much confidence was apparent in his demeanor. I was incredibly proud to see one of my students put forth so much effort," Amaru said.

Each spring, interested high school students participate in a statewide moot court competition at Colorado Law hosted by the White Center. Six finalists, chosen by justices of the Colorado Supreme Court, judges from the Colorado Court of Appeals, and other lawyers and volunteers, go on to a national competition.

At the statewide competition hosted at Colorado Law in February, one of Amaru's students was awarded the Best Oralist prize and will represent Colorado in the national competition this spring.

"Teaching students constitutional issues and the law served as a jumping off point to discuss cultural, political, and societal issues," she said. "I hope I've left my students with the faint twinkling of a spark."

## Josiah Cohen and Maura Guaderrama: Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic

If you work in the Criminal/Immigration Defense Law Clinic at Colorado Law, you're going to leave with at least one thing engrained in your litigative fiber: Your cases are about the people you're serving.

**Josiah Cohen** ('21) originally hails from Philadelphia, but spent his formative years nearly 1,500 miles south of the nearest authentic cheesesteak. While living in Santiago, Dominican Republic, Cohen traveled to Latin America extensively, giving his life a particular trajectory.

"During this difficult political moment, I want to use my education to assist our vulnerable, noncitizen neighbors," he said.

Serving his neighbors is a major part of his experience at Colorado Law.

"Far from prisoners of the ivory tower, these professors are plugged into the robust public service legal community," Cohen said. "Some of my most important connections have come through professors like **Violeta Chapin** and **Benjamin Levin**."

Under Professor Chapin, Cohen works in the Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic. He's worked on DACA renewals and an asylum case among other projects.

The primary legal lesson he's learned: compassion.

"I've learned that arguing a case is more than presenting a logical syllogism. Representing clients is an opportunity to listen to and retell their stories," he said.

**Maura Guaderrama** ('20) works in the clinic, as well. The El Paso, Texas-area native has worked for a criminal defendant facing deportation, clients with Temporary Protected Status, as well as on DACA cases.

Guaderrama has accepted a job as a public defender in Taos, New Mexico, and expects some of her clients may face the stiffer penalties immigrants can be subject to in the U.S. justice system.

"It's important that I understand as much about immigration as I can now so that I can be the best possible advocate for all of my clients in the future," she said. "My hope is that I'm ready to go, know the right questions to ask, and can provide my client with the best possible defense given his or her specific situation."

Guaderrama said public service is the best way she can think of to use her law degree. Cohen, who also hopes to be a public defender, agreed.

"Societies make it or break it based on individual willingness to put expertise at the service of others," Cohen said. "As a recipient of a terrific education from Colorado's only state law school, I'm excited to put that training to use serving our communities."



LAW  
BOULDER



COLORADO LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



# a supreme guest

On Oct. 22, about 2,000 people filled CU Boulder's Macky Auditorium for what was, for many, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to hear from a sitting U.S. Supreme Court justice. Justice Elena Kagan delivered the eighth annual John Paul Stevens Lecture, hosted by the law school's Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, as part of a two-day trip to Boulder. **Suzette Malveaux**, Provost Professor of Civil Rights Law and director of the White Center, moderated the fireside-chat-style discussion.

During her visit, Kagan also visited Associate Professor **Sharon Jacobs'** Legislation and Regulation class, where she participated in a lesson on statutory interpretation and answered questions from students. She also engaged the law school faculty in a discussion over lunch.

The Stevens Lecture brings a distinguished jurist to Colorado Law annually. Previous U.S. Supreme Court justices have included John Paul Stevens, Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, and Sonia Sotomayor.

"We are deeply grateful to Colorado Supreme Court Justice and Professor **Melissa Hart** for her leadership as the former director of the White Center and for facilitating Justice Kagan's visit," Malveaux said. "Justice Hart's signature program continues to inspire and educate our community at large."

"In many ways, Supreme Court justices are the pinnacle of the legal profession, so having both the opportunity to engage with Justice Kagan at her lecture and then again in Professor Jacobs' course was extraordinary," said **José Ramón García-Madrid** ('22). "Justice Kagan left many of my classmates and me with the impression that she is a justice who is practical, personable, and also sensitive to the perspectives of the American people."

**Justice Kagan on the legacy of Justice John Paul Stevens, Kagan's predecessor on the bench and the event's namesake:** "He is, and long has been, a hero of mine. He was a man of extraordinary brilliance, but even more of extraordinary wisdom, which is not the same thing. He was a man of great integrity and great independence."

**Justice Kagan's advice to law students as they think about their legal careers:** "You have this great opportunity to find out in law school what really moves you, what are the kinds of things that you really care about. And they'll be different for all of you. But if you come out of law school with a sense of, 'This is the kind of thing that if I worked on, I would want to go to work every day, and I would feel as though I was doing the job for the purpose and meaning,' that is a great thing to come out of law school with, and not everybody does. You know, some people find it later on in their legal careers. But to try to use law school as an opportunity to experiment in different things and an opportunity to try to find that passion, that sense of, this is really what I care about."

**On collegiality on the Court:** "There are really good friendships on the Court among people who disagree with each other about many things. My old colleague who I miss quite a lot, Justice Scalia, used to have a line where he said: 'If you take this personally, you're in the wrong business.' We're dealing with important matters, and of course we're going to criticize each other, and of course we're going to tell each other, 'Look, you got the law really wrong today,' but that doesn't mean that we can't think that the other person is operating in good faith and is a good person. It seems to me that you can have very good friendships with people you disagree with."



Watch a recording of the full conversation at [colorado.edu/law/stevens](http://colorado.edu/law/stevens).

# advancement



## Expanded Journals Suite Named in Honor of Esteemed Alumna

**Myra Monfort** ('75) and her family have spent decades giving back to Colorado Law and supporting Colorado communities through their philanthropy. Now, a brand-new space bearing Monfort's name in the Wolf Law Building's recently renovated garden level will stand as a physical testament to her generosity and deep commitment to the practice of law and legal education.

Monfort's children, Brad Ellins and Rachel Ellins-Iozzia, surprised their mother with the named space, which was officially unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February.

The Myra H. Monfort Suite houses the *University of Colorado Law Review*, the school's oldest journal of legal scholarship, on which Monfort served while she was a student. The 1,200-square-foot suite was designed for *Colorado Law Review* students to work collaboratively to publish first-rate scholarship that is read across the country.

Colorado Law's two other student-led journals, the *Colorado Technology Law Journal* and *Colorado Natural Resources*,

*Energy, and Environmental Law Review*, are located in yet-to-be-named suites in the newly renovated garden level.

Monfort graduated from Barnard College in 1960 and worked as an interior decorator to support her family while her then-husband attended law school at Columbia University. When his job brought the family to Colorado in 1972, she decided to attend law school herself, enrolling at Colorado Law that year.

After graduation, she practiced labor law and became vice president in charge of legal counsel at Monfort of Colorado, which later merged with ConAgra.

Monfort went on to become one of Colorado Law's esteemed alumni. She served on the Law Alumni Board from 2001 until 2005. In 1994, she received the alumni award for distinguished achievement in corporate counsel. In 2009, the Law Alumni Board recognized her with the school's William Lee Knous Award, Colorado Law's highest alumni honor.

Over the years, Monfort has enthusiastically given her time and resources to a range of community-related causes spanning law, music, health, education, and animal welfare. She and her late husband, Kenneth, established the Kenneth and Myra Monfort Charitable Foundation, which has supported a number of initiatives at Colorado Law and throughout the state.

In 1990, Myra and Kenneth created a named professorship in commercial law, to which Colorado Law's late Dean **David Getches** appointed **Mark Loewenstein** in 2009.

Inspired by Getches' work in environmental and American Indian law, the foundation in 2012 established the Myra Monfort and David H. Getches Public Service Fellowship to provide financial support for law students interested in a career in public service or in the nonprofit sector.

Monfort always dreamed of being an attorney, and for Brad, it was special to see his mother's name permanently inscribed at the institution that helped shape her career.

"Naming the space was special because Colorado Law was the place where her journey started," Brad said. "She believes the law is there to do the right thing. It is not there to manipulate as a means to an end. It's especially important to her in this political climate right now that we put the interests of society before our own interests. That we put the best interests of everyone above ourselves."

For Monfort's children, naming this space for their mother was an opportunity to give something back to a person who has long given back to others. The Myra H. Monfort Suite will serve as a hub for collaboration and community for future generations of law students.

*There are a number of philanthropic opportunities to support the expanded journals suite. Please contact Jason Bouck, senior director of development, for more information: [jason.bouck@colorado.edu](mailto:jason.bouck@colorado.edu) or 303-735-3689.*



Myra Monfort ('75) and her children, Brad Ellins and Rachel Ellins-Iozzia.



## Rare Books Room Renamed for John ('65) and Nancy Wittemyer

Frequent visitors to Colorado Law will recognize the Wittemyer name: the Wittemyer Courtroom is named in honor of the family, which maintains an annual scholarship for first-year students. Three generations of Wittemyers are Colorado Law graduates, and 17 family members have graduated from the University of Colorado system. So it's fitting that, in recognition of **John ('65) and Nancy Wittemyer's** longtime philanthropic support, the Rare Books Room in the William A. Wise Law Library was renamed the Wittemyer Rare Books Room on Feb. 25.

The Rare Books Room houses rare legal titles published before 1850, as well as a collection of historical materials and archival collections. The climate-controlled facility holds many of Colorado's early codes and other treasured works in our legal history.

John attended CU Boulder as a Boettcher Scholar and earned Bachelor of Science degrees in civil engineering and finance in 1962 and a Juris Doctor degree in 1965. After clerking for the Alaska Supreme Court and serving as district attorney in Juneau, he was a founding principal in the firm of Moses, Wittemyer, Harrison & Woodruff. In 1975, he became general counsel for the Platte River Power Authority, a position that he held until discontinuing the active practice of law in 2002. Nancy received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education in 1964 from CU Boulder. She has served as a director of the Women of the West Museum and the Dairy Center for the Arts, and as a board member of the University of Colorado Foundation.

# alumni

Alumni came from near and far for **Homecoming and Reunion Weekend**, November 7–9.



The John ('74) and Katherine Rosenbloom Endowed Lecture Series on the role of civil and human rights in countries' surveillance efforts



The Class of 1969 celebrates its 50-year reunion

**2020**

We are **celebrating classes ending in "5" and "0."**  
Contact [lawalum@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalum@colorado.edu) to learn how to **get involved in planning your class reunion.**

We celebrated alumni who passed the Colorado Bar Exam at the **Attorney Admission Celebration** in Denver on Nov. 4.



## Q&A Richard Murray ('07) Law Alumni Board Chair



### What do you enjoy most about serving as chair of the Law Alumni Board?

The most enjoyable aspect of serving as the board's chair is engagement with our incredible network of alumni, our students, and our faculty. Being chair provides the unique opportunity to talk with a wide range of alumni and friends of Colorado Law about the issues facing legal education today, including student debt, internship opportunities, job placement, and the bar exam.

### Tell us about some of this year's goals of the Law Alumni Board.

Over this year, the Law Alumni Board will work hard on assisting the dean and Colorado Law with recruiting great students and faculty, engaging with our alumni and friends, promoting financial support for the law school and for student scholarships, and striving to assist with placement of graduating students and alumni.

### What is your proudest professional accomplishment?

The first case I took to trial as first chair concerned claims of fraud and theft of investment funds. The trial resulted in a judgment of over \$2 million for our clients. Assisting individuals in a case involving the theft of their investment payments was extremely rewarding.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my law practice is helping people navigate through our complex legal system in a variety of business-related disputes. As attorneys and counselors at law, it is incumbent on us to take on the problems of our clients and faithfully guide them, putting their concerns ahead of our own. It is a very rewarding profession.

### What is your fondest memory of being a student at Colorado Law?

During my first year, in November 2004, the official groundbreaking ceremony was performed for the future Wolf Law Building. Earlier in 2004, while an undergraduate student at CU, I served as student body president (also known as a tri-executive) and took a lead role in securing funding for the new law school building and other buildings on campus, such as the ATLAS Building, Visual Arts Complex, and business school addition. Participating in the Wolf Law Building groundbreaking was a tremendous experience I will never forget.

### What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Even though I am a litigator at an AmLaw 100 national firm and have been in litigation ever since completing a judicial clerkship following graduation, I entered

law school with the plan of becoming a corporate and transactional attorney. During law school, I took numerous business-related courses, but during my third year, I interned at the Colorado Court of Appeals and the Colorado Supreme Court and found a passion for advocacy, research, and writing.

### What are your favorite ways to stay engaged with Colorado Law?

There are many ways I enjoy staying engaged with Colorado Law. The law school hosts wonderful events that I encourage our alumni to attend. These include the Homecoming and Reunion weekends, Colorado Law Talks presentations, the annual Alumni Awards Banquet, on-campus interviews, and coaching moot court teams.

### We hear you're a huge Buffs fan. What are your favorite CU sports and why?

The CU Athletic Department has done an incredible job with having successful programs across the board, including multiple national championships, but my two favorite CU sports are football and basketball. I am a proud member of the CU Buff Club and a longtime football season ticketholder. My wife, Elizabeth (who went to CU for her psychology degree), and I love taking our two kids, Cayden (7) and Olivia (4), to both football and basketball games. We enjoy reconnecting with friends at these events and supporting our alma mater. Go Buffs!

### Law Alumni Board

The University of Colorado Law Alumni Board members act as representatives of Colorado Law's alumni and promote the best interests of the law school by stimulating interest in, building loyalty to, and increasing support for the law school in the community and its alumni and students.

**Richard Murray (Chair) ('07)**, Polsinelli PC

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

Javed Abbas ('13), The Infinity Law Firm

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

William "Bill" R. Buck ('83), Exxon Mobil Corporation Upstream (retired)

Michael Carrigan ('94), Holland & Hart LLP

Bethiah Beale Crane ('79), Crane & Tejada, P.C.

Amber Cordova ('02), AT&T

Darla L. Daniel ('01), Balson & Faix LLP

Mark A. Fogg ('79), COPIC

The Hon. Thomas R. French ('77), 8th Judicial District (retired)

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

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

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

D. Jeffery Grimes ('89), Astex Pharmaceuticals

Franz Hardy ('00), Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Richard "Rick" Hosley ('00), Walmart Inc.

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

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

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

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

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

Lisa Neal-Graves ('06), retired

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

Siddhartha Rathod (Immediate Past Chair) ('07), Rathod I Mohamedbhai LLC

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

Lucy Stark ('98), Holland & Hart LLP

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

# CLASS ACTIONS



Brega ('60)

## 1960

After more than 50 years of practice in Denver, **Chuck Brega** retired from Fairfield and Woods P.C. Brega tried more than 400 civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts and before arbitration panels. He also handled hundreds of security cases in courts and before arbitration panels. Brega's awards and accolades include serving as a member and past president of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association; memberships in the American Law Institute, International Society of Barristers, and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers; and as a member of the Board of Governors of the American Trial Lawyers Association.



Fogg ('79)

## 1972

The Hon. **Brian Campbell** retired from his post on the Denver County Court on March 10, 2020.

## 1975

Following his retirement in 2019, the Hon. **Patrick T. Murphy** joined the distinguished arbiters at Judicial Arbitrator Group (JAG). Murphy was appointed to the 17th Judicial District Court bench in 2009 and served as chief judge from 2013 until his retirement.

## 1977

The Hon. **Thomas French** retired from his post as a district court judge in Colorado's 8th Judicial District. French served as a deputy and chief deputy district attorney in Denver from 1978 to 1982, and was in private practice in Denver and Fort Collins from 1982 until 2011.

## 1979

**Mark Fogg** received the 2019 Colorado Bar Association Award of Merit for outstanding service and contributions to the legal profession and the administration of justice in the community. Fogg is general counsel for COPIC, a professional liability carrier and patient safety advocacy organization.



Ortega ('90)

## 1981

**Velveta Golightly-Howell** was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. A lifelong champion for social justice and advocacy, Golightly-Howell is known as an exceptional role model for African American women and girls.

**Craig Silverman** joined Springer & Steinberg, P.C. as a senior trial lawyer. His practice focuses on civil and criminal litigation.

## 1982

**Henry Lowe** joined the Denver office of Holland & Knight LLP as senior counsel. Lowe concentrates his practice on transactional real estate; transportation; and corporate, financing, and franchise matters, with a focus on the automotive retail industry.

## 1987

**Thomas List** was elected to Moye White LLP's management committee. List serves as the firm's managing partner with more than 29 years of experience in commercial real estate.

## 1990

**Victoria "Vicky" Ortega** joined the staff of Denver Clerk and Recorder Paul D. López as deputy clerk and recorder. Ortega most recently worked in the Municipal Operations Section of the Denver City Attorney's Office.



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



Stark ('98)

**Christopher Thorne** joined global law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Denver as of counsel in the energy and natural resources, real estate, and environmental practices. Thorne, who previously practiced with Holland & Hart LLP and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, has more than two decades of experience in Western water law.

### 1993

The Hon. **David Yun** was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals. Previously, Yun was a partner at Jaudon & Avery LLP, where his practice consisted of civil appeals and professional licensing matters.

### 1995

**John F. Quill** joined Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.'s office in Boston, where he focuses on business immigration matters and improving immigration data reporting.

### 1996

**Janet Drake** received the Denver Bar Association's Award of Merit, which recognizes outstanding contributions made by a member to the DBA and the profession. Drake is senior assistant attorney general in the Special Prosecutions Unit at the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

The Hon. **Michael Gonzales** was appointed chief judge of Colorado's 12th Judicial District by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Coats ('77). Gonzales has served on the district court since September 2011.

**William Wilbar** joined the Denver office of Baker & Hostetler LLP. A member of the firm's intellectual property group, Wilbar focuses his patent prosecution practice on drafting and prosecuting patents for a variety of technologies.

### 1998

**Jenni Luke** joined the San Francisco 49ers as vice president, community impact. In this role, Luke will oversee the team's community relations, fan engagement department, 49ers Museum, and the 49ers Foundation. For more than 10 years, Luke served as CEO of Step Up, an organization dedicated to the support of teen girls from underresourced communities in the pursuit of higher education and career development.

**Lucy Stark** was appointed managing partner at Holland & Hart LLP. Stark joined

the firm in 2007 and is the practice group leader for its corporate practice.

### 1999

**Robyn Averbach** joined Ruebel Quillen, LLC as of counsel. Her practice focuses on construction defect litigation, professional liability, commercial litigation, and personal injury defense.

### 2000

**Marie Williams** is excited to announce the launch of Moore Williams PLLC, Colorado's Appellate Boutique. After more than 16 years at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, Williams decided to hang her own shingle and focus on her passions—appeals and sophisticated analytical writing. The new firm offers a wide variety of services, from full appellate representation to briefing services that support trial lawyers.

### 2001

**Nicholas Alexander** joined Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office. Alexander brings an extensive background in telecommunications law and policy issues, having served as a government attorney, as in-house counsel, and in private practice.

Gov. Jared Polis appointed the Hon. **Ericka F.H. Englert** to Colorado's 2nd Judicial District Court. Englert previously served as of counsel at Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP, where her practice consisted of civil business litigation and complex commercial matters, as well as criminal defense, investigations, and professional misconduct.

**Noelle Riccardella** joined Lewis, Bess, Williams & Weese P.C. as director.

### 2003

The Hon. **Jessica Curtis** was appointed district court judge in Colorado's 4th Judicial District.

The Hon. **Sueanna Johnson** was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals. Previously, Johnson was a senior assistant attorney general in the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

**AnaLisa Valle** started a new position as general counsel at Sphero, the Boulder-based industry leader in robotics fused with STEAM learning.

### 2004

The Hon. **Lisa Teesch-Maguire** was appointed district court judge for



Williams ('00)



Alexander ('01)

Colorado's 2nd Judicial District. She previously served as a magistrate in the 18th Judicial District, where her docket consisted primarily of domestic relations and dependency and neglect matters.

## 2005

In May 2019, the city of Northglenn appointed the Hon. **Amanda Bailhache** as the presiding municipal judge for the city. Prior to her appointment, Bailhache was deputy public defender for 13 years in the Boulder office.

Gov. Jared Polis appointed the Hon. **Nikea T. Bland** as district court judge in Colorado's 2nd Judicial District. Bland previously served as a senior associate at O'Malley and Sawyer, LLC, where her practice consisted of criminal defense and dependency and neglect matters.

Gov. Jared Polis appointed the Hon. **Daniel McDonald** to Colorado's 8th Judicial District Court. McDonald previously served as chief deputy district attorney for the District Attorney's Office in the 8th Judicial District, where his practice focused on criminal cases.

## 2006

**Jamie Starr** recently joined The North Face (TNF) as the brand's global director of sports marketing. In his new role, he is responsible for TNF's overall sports marketing strategy, including management of its global athlete team, expedition strategy, and partnership strategy. TNF recently relocated from the San Francisco Bay Area to Denver.

## 2007

**Joan Allgaier** joined Allen & Curry Professional Corporation, where she continues to focus her practice on general casualty, aviation, recreation and amusement liability, product liability, professional liability, commercial matters, and construction defects.

**George Green** was promoted to vice president and deputy general counsel of DCP Midstream. Green has been with the company since 2014.

**Ryan Howe** joined BillGO Inc. as general counsel. Howe oversees all aspects of the legal function at BillGO, a rapidly growing FinTech leader based in Fort Collins.

The Hon. **Crista Newmyer-Olsen** was appointed to the bench in Colorado's 12th Judicial District. She previously served as the elected district attorney of Colorado's 12th Judicial District, where her practice consisted of criminal prosecution.

The West Virginia Supreme Court cited an article by **Tara Righetti**, "Contracting for Sustainable Surface Management" (*Arkansas Law Review*), in two of its opinions. Righetti's most recent article, "The Incidental Environmental Agency," forthcoming in *Utah Law Review*, examines the environmental regulatory function of oil and gas conservation commissions and takes a close look at Colorado's SB 19-18. Righetti is an associate professor of law at the University of Wyoming, where she teaches courses in natural resources and energy law.

## 2008

**Michi Tsuda** joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP's health care and FDA practice office as a shareholder. Tsuda focuses his practice on corporate, governance, reimbursement, fraud and abuse, data privacy and security, and other regulatory compliance matters.

The Hon. **Vincente G. Vigil** was appointed to Colorado's 19th Judicial District Court. Vigil previously worked at the Law Offices of Robert E. Ray, where his practice consisted primarily of felony and misdemeanor criminal defense matters.

**Doug Vilsack** became assistant director for parks, wildlife, and lands at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. In this capacity, Vilsack is a policy advisor regarding issues, legislation, and state and national policy developments in natural resources, parks, wildlife, trails, and outdoor recreation that impact Colorado.

## 2009

**Mike Fredregill** joined Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. as special counsel in the firm's Denver office. Fredregill's practice focuses on real estate transactions and general business and corporate matters.

The Hon. **Lindsay VanGlider** was appointed district court judge in Colorado's 1st Judicial District. VanGlider previously served as a senior deputy district attorney in the juvenile unit of the Denver District Attorney's Office.

## 2010

**Kelly Crandall** joined Uplight as director of regulatory affairs. Uplight provides software and services to the world's leading electric and gas utilities, with the mission of motivating and enabling energy users and providers to accelerate the clean energy ecosystem.



Teesch-Maguire ('04)



Howe ('07)



Tsuda ('08)



Children of Berends ('11)



Children of Chan ('12)



Steinhoff ('15)

**Jonathan Haskell** became a shareholder of Wade Ash Woods Hill & Farley, P.C. on Aug. 1, 2019. Haskell will continue to practice in the areas of estate and trust planning, estate and trust administration, and expert witness testimony on the issue of trusts in divorce.

## 2011

**Amanda Berends** and her family welcomed a baby boy, Wes, on Oct. 5, 2019. Berends is associate general counsel at ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers.

**Richard Kiely** joined Holland & Hart LLP as an associate. Kiely represents clients in matters involving probate and fiduciary litigation, including disputes involving trusts, estates, and protective proceedings.

**David Mangum** was promoted to partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP. Mangum advises clients on corporate and transactional matters.

**Scott Melin** was elected to the Littleton, Colorado, City Council as an at-large representative.

**Stacey Shea** joined Otis, Bedingfield & Peters, LLC as an associate.

## 2012

**Elizabeth Bonanno** is now a partner at Gebhardt Emerson Moodie Bonanno, LLC, a Denver firm specializing in family law. Bonanno joined the practice as a named partner in August, bringing with her significant experience in serving hundreds of clients in their divorces, parenting, and other family law disputes.

**Naree Chan** joined the Oakland City Attorney's Office as a deputy city attorney assisting the city with its real estate and land use matters. Chan and her husband, Albert, welcomed their son, Kody, in July to his big sister, Dani.

**Chris Cook** accepted a new position as senior corporate counsel at T-Mobile. He focuses on regulatory compliance for T-Mobile's new products, particularly Internet of Things products and products designed to run on T-Mobile's 5G network, and network regulatory compliance.

**Janna Fischer** joined the Business & Licensing Section of the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

**Kevin Giles** joined the Aspen office of Holland & Hart LLP.

**Laura McNabb** started a new role as assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Colorado, where she is assigned to the office's Civil Division.

**Andrew Nickel** was promoted to special counsel at Hall & Evans, LLC. He centers his practice on health care litigation, medical negligence, and professional liability.

## 2013

**Kenneth Bradtke** started a new position as senior director of renewable transactions with Black Bear Energy.

**Anne Lee** was appointed director of performance and practice excellence at the Department of Law under Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser. Lee previously served as counselor for intellectual property transactions at Hewlett Packard.

**Kelsey Velemirovich** started a new job as technology transactions associate at Catalyst Law Group LLP in Boulder.

**Angela Vichick** joined the Denver office of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP as an associate in the firm's litigation practice group.

## 2014

**Kevin Cheney** was elected council member of the Colorado Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Cheney is co-founder and managing partner of Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC, which specializes in personal injury and criminal defense litigation.

**Kellen O'Brien** joined Probst Law Offices, S.C. as an associate in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He focuses his practice on family law.

## 2015

**Brad Revare** joined Colorado Succeeds as director of corporate development. In this role, he helps business leaders create systems to change education for Colorado's kids.

**Michael Richardson** joined the trial department at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. His practice will continue to emphasize litigation pertaining to complex financial restructuring and bankruptcy matters.

**Rob Steinhoff** joined the real estate practice group at HunterMaclean, a

leading business law firm with offices in Savannah and St. Simons Island, Georgia.

## 2016

**Allison Daley** started a new role as assistant city attorney in the Denver City Attorney's Office. She works in the mental health unit of the Denver Department of Human Services, which focuses primarily on mental health certifications, involuntary commitments, and involuntary medication.

The Denver Bar Association honored **Shalyn Kettering** with its Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award. Kettering is an associate in the Environmental Group of the Natural Resources Department at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP.

**Andrew Michael** joined DaVita HealthCare Partners, where he oversees and implements the compliance program for Nephrology Care Alliance.

**Savannah Schaefer** joined CompTIA's advocacy team as senior director. Schaefer focuses on the development and advocacy of CompTIA's policy positions on cyber and supply chain security, and other tech and telecom issues at the federal and global levels.

**Kendra Snyder** joined the Denver office of Hall Estill as an associate.

**Lia Szasz** joined the Greeley office of Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC. She focuses her practice on business and real estate litigation, trust and probate litigation, and agricultural law.

**Bryce Wilson** joined Silicon Legal Strategy as an associate in its San Francisco office. He focuses on serving the firm's emerging growth company and investor clients on general corporate and financing matters.

**Elias Thomas** and **Kristina Rosett** are happy to announce their marriage on Oct. 5, 2019. Thomas is a hearing officer at the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and Rosett is an attorney at the Law Office of David Lichtenstein, LLC. The couple live in Denver and will honeymoon in Japan next fall.

## 2017

On Sept. 1, 2019, **Kiki Council** and Jack Falk were married in Boulder. Council is an associate in the commercial litigation practice group at Holland & Hart LLP.

**Ashton Seip** married Patrick Madigan on Sept. 7, 2019. The couple reside in

Colorado, where Seip is in-house counsel for Equinix Inc.

**Luke Westerman** joined Faegre Baker Daniels LLP's product liability practice in Minneapolis. He previously worked for an international law firm in Denver, handling agribusiness and commercial litigation matters.

## 2019

**Zachary New** was one of two winners of the *Yale Law Journal's* annual student essay competition, focused this year on emerging issues in immigration law. New's essay, "Ending Citizenship for Service in Forever War," analyzes the recent policies that are causing a decline in U.S. citizenship for service, a tradition dating back to the Revolutionary War in which noncitizens earn their citizenship after serving in the U.S. military. New works at the Denver office of Joseph & Hall P.C., where he focuses on corporate immigration and federal litigation.



Rosett ('16) and Thomas ('16)



Seip ('17)

## In Memoriam

Thaddeus Baker ('50)

John Romanick ('51)

Gerard Blaufarb ('55)

T.J. Harshman ('56)

Robert Burroughs ('61)

Walter Wagenhals ('62)

Joseph Murphy ('63)

Henry Coors ('64)

Douglas Bragg ('68)

James Cotton ('70)

Lanny Hiday ('75)

The Hon. Jon Thompson ('79)

Jeffrey Winslow ('85)

Beverly Chapman ('92)

*Deaths reported July 1–Dec. 31, 2019.*

# last word

## Hon. Nikea Bland ('05)

District Court Judge, Colorado's 2nd Judicial District



### **What drives your commitment to public service work?**

I have always wanted a career where I felt I could work to improve the lives of others through my work. Prior to attending law school, I wanted to be a social worker, and I interned with various social work agencies in Richmond, Virginia, when I attended the University of Richmond. The experience that resonated with me the most was working for a nonprofit transitional housing program for homeless women and children. From the women in my program, I learned what it means to be resilient. No matter what their circumstance, these women kept fighting for themselves and their children, and worked hard to improve their lives.

That experience informed my work as a public defender and a defense attorney in the criminal justice system. My work taught me that the cyclical nature of poverty, lack of economic resources stability, and mental health contribute most to people making bad decisions that lead to their involvement in

the criminal justice system. As a judge, I remain committed to improving the lives of others and serving my community. My previous clients and my background have taught me lessons that I hope to continue to incorporate into my philosophy on the bench.

### **Did you always envision a career in criminal defense, and now as a judge?**

In a word—no. I had not contemplated attending law school until I had my first position as a counselor after I graduated from college. When I moved to Denver, I began working at a group home for male juveniles who were committed after being adjudicated delinquent. Part of my responsibilities included transporting the kids to court hearings. That was my first introduction to the justice system and sparked my desire to be a criminal defense attorney. One of the things that struck me was the kids did not understand what was happening in their court proceedings. As an attorney and now as a judge, I want to ensure that everyone understands the proceedings so they can be empowered to make the best decisions for their future.

My desire to be a judge was sparked by other judicial officers encouraging me to explore the position. While I was initially reluctant, I realized that my voice would be a beneficial addition, not only for the other members of the bench, but, more significantly, for the people in my community because of my past experiences working with undervalued members of society.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job on the bench of the 2nd Judicial District?**

Right now, I have a criminal docket. I enjoy interacting with the public and the accused who are brought before me in court. I like the fact that no two days and no two cases are ever the same, and it is my job to ensure the fairness of the proceedings for everyone. I like that I get to use my interpersonal communication skills as much as my knowledge of the law.

### **What is your proudest achievement?**

Attaining my judicial appointment while simultaneously raising a family with two small children is my proudest accomplishment.

### **What would you tell Colorado Law students and recent alumni interested in pursuing a career in public interest law?**

I would encourage everyone to serve. I understand the financial ramifications of choosing a public interest career may not be sustainable forever, but I believe that it will only enhance your practice and make you a better-rounded attorney and individual. These jobs are hard work, and we may not always be appreciated, but when we are and you feel that you have made someone's life better, there is nothing more meaningful and worthwhile.

# Support tomorrow's leaders in law and community

We need to ensure access to a Colorado Law education for students who represent the diverse identities and capacities for leadership in the law that are found in our state and country.

The **Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC)** Fellowship program advances diversity in legal education and the legal profession by recruiting and developing law students from backgrounds underrepresented in the legal community. Colorado Law welcomed its inaugural class of six LILAC fellows in fall 2017 (pictured), four fellows in 2018, and six fellows in 2019.

For more information on how to support LILAC, and other programs at Colorado Law, please contact

**Jason Bouck**,  
senior director of development  
[jason.bouck@colorado.edu](mailto:jason.bouck@colorado.edu)  
303-735-3689.



**University of Colorado Law School**

2450 Kittredge Loop Road  
401 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

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## WHAT WE'RE WATCHING: COLORADO LAW TALKS

Featuring our faculty and other members of the Colorado Law community, each talk provides an opportunity to hear about the lecturer's current scholarship and to discuss the questions and ideas that motivate, influence, and shape their work.

See dates and catch up on past lectures at [colorado.edu/law/colorado-law-talks](http://colorado.edu/law/colorado-law-talks).

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### 2020 LINEUP:

#### Wrongful Convictions

Ann England and Anne-Marie Moyes

#### Governing AI

Margot E. Kaminski

#### Cases Every Business Lawyer Should Know

Mark Loewenstein

#### Pursuing Citizenship in the Enforcement Era

Ming Hsu Chen

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### July 16

Supreme Court Review

#### Sept. 23

Alumni Awards Banquet

#### Oct. 23-24

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

*Professor Anna Spain Bradley discusses recent challenges and threats to human rights in the U.S. and around the world.*

