

SPRING 2022

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177 / BROADWAY

ALUMNI *in* GOVERNMENT

From Boulder to Washington, D.C., across the nation and around the world, Colorado Law graduates working in government are making a difference in their communities.



Colorado **Law**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



Service is also at the heart of our institutional mission, and it factors into how we define and refine notions of excellence. This culture of service and excellence is nowhere better seen than in our alumni engaged in government service work.

—*Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss*

Message *from the* Dean

I can scarcely believe that I am approaching a year since I became the dean of the University of Colorado Law School. They say that time flies when you're having fun. While that adage seems a bit too flippant to describe what has been a year of both triumphs and challenges, still, it offers some descriptive value.

I have indeed enjoyed my role as dean. That enjoyment has often occurred during moments of joy in the accomplishments of members of the Colorado Law community, especially our students, who have logged successes in their classroom studies, in internships, and in arguments before the courts. That enjoyment has also occurred in more trying times as I took pride in the way that members of our community came together to face difficulties such as the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the Marshall Fire. It is apt to say of my time thus far as dean, paraphrasing an old Peace Corps service advertisement, "This is the toughest job I have ever loved."

Service is at the center of my work, and of the work of many of our faculty, our staff members, and our alumni. Service is also at the heart of our institutional mission, and it factors into how we define and refine notions of excellence. This culture of service and excellence is nowhere better seen than in our alumni engaged in government service work.

In this issue you will see how some Colorado Law graduates have, via government service, been able to challenge some of the taken-for-granted patterns in legal and other realms. These law graduates exemplify the importance of being not just careful and prudent risk-managers, but also thoughtful and creative risk-takers and change-makers. This is how leaders are created.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lolita Buckner Inniss".

Lolita Buckner Inniss
Dean and Provost's Professor of Law

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On the cover: Colorado Law alumnae Junie Joseph ('21), mayor pro tem for the city of Boulder and member of Boulder City Council, and Teresa Taylor Tate ('06), Boulder city attorney, in front of the Penfield Tate II Municipal Building in Boulder. Penfield Tate II ('68) was the first and (so far) only Black mayor of Boulder. Read more on Page 8.



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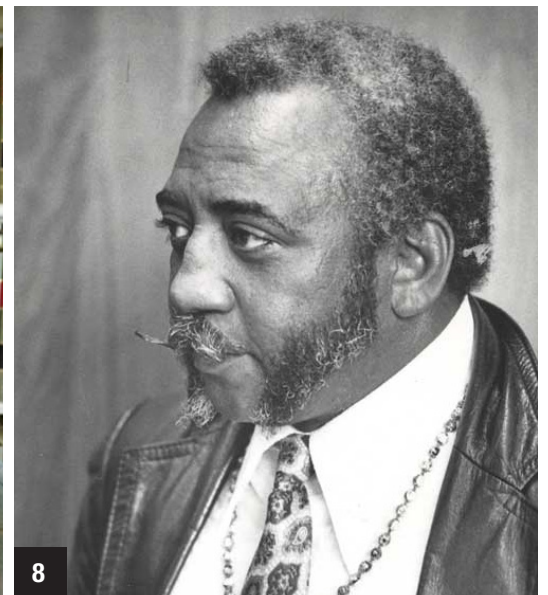
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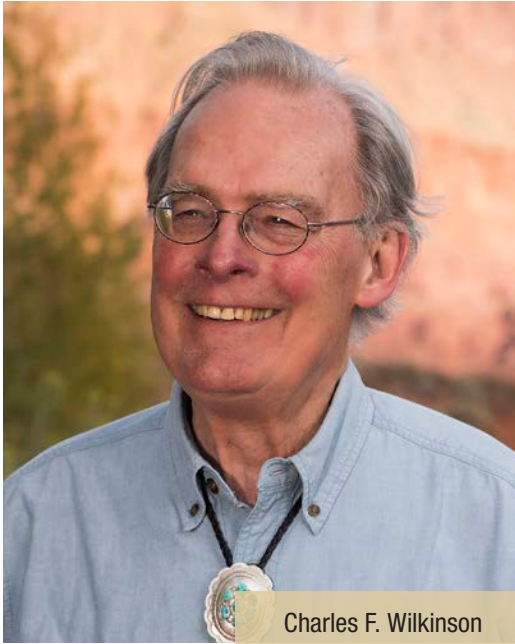
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Charles Wilkinson Receives Colorado Book Awards Lifetime Achievement Award



Charles F. Wilkinson

In recognition of his contributions to the Colorado and national literary and legal communities, Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Charles F. Wilkinson** received the Colorado Book Awards 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award in History. Wilkinson's 14 books include the standard law casebooks on Indian law and federal public land law. He is a two-time winner of the Colorado Book Award, for *Messages from Frank's Landing* (2000) and *Blood Struggle—the Rise of Modern Indian Nations* (2005).

Wilkinson, who retired as a full-time faculty member in 2018, earned his law degree from Stanford University in 1966. He moved to Colorado in 1971 to help found and serve as a staff attorney for the Native America Rights Fund and began teaching at Colorado Law in 1984, becoming the Moses Lasky Professor of Law in 1989. In 1997, he was named a Distinguished Professor by the Regents of the University of Colorado. In over 32 continuous years at Colorado Law, Wilkinson has become one of the most widely celebrated names in American Indian law, the history of the American west, public land law, water law, and environmental law—even being labeled by *Outside* magazine as “the West's leading authority on natural resource law.”

Adopted Alumnus Publishes Book

A new book by adopted alumnus and attorney **Richard Schaden** combines three of his passions: engineering, law, and aviation. *Unsafe at Any Altitude*, published in August 2021, takes readers through Schaden's engineering and legal career in his decades-long effort to force the aviation industry to make air travel safer.

The book details Schaden's early days as a young engineer at Boeing and his “training by fire” as a novice attorney representing criminal defendants in the 1967 Detroit riots—before he even had a chance to take the bar exam—and through his career representing air crash victims and their families, the book's description notes.

Schaden, who has over 50 years of litigation and trial experience, began his career as an aeronautical engineer, working as a flight test engineer for the Boeing Co. and a jet engine project engineer for Continental Aviation and Engineering Corp. His tenure at Boeing was cut short after he discovered that he could do some of his best aeronautical engineering and re-engineering, and make aviation safer, in the courtroom, rather than in commercial aviation R&D departments. With a career encompassing more than 400 aviation accident cases, Schaden has obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in courtroom verdicts and settlements.



Richard Schaden

Among his extensive philanthropic efforts, Schaden is a longtime supporter of experiential learning at Colorado Law. In 2008, he established the Schaden Program in Experiential Learning and created the Schaden Chair in Experiential Learning (currently held by Professor **Deborah Cantrell**). At the 2012 Law Alumni Awards Banquet, he was named Colorado Law's first official Adopted Alumnus. Since then, the award—given annually by the school's Law Alumni Board—has been known as the Richard Schaden Adopted Alumnus Award.

‘Pillar’ of the Law School and Longtime Business Manager **Kari Robinson Retires**

After 33 years at Colorado Law, Business Services Manager Kari Robinson retired on Jan. 1, 2022.

Robinson joined Colorado Law in March 1989 as an administrative clerk, where she worked under the leadership of Dean **Gene Nichol**. She’s held various titles, including administrative clerk, administrative assistant, program assistant, and, most recently, business services manager.

“It was my honor and privilege to work at Colorado Law for 33 years and I will miss everything about it,” Robinson said. “I have stayed in touch with numerous alumni over the years and will be forever grateful for their friendship and support during my law school career.”

In addition to being the first point of contact for many entering the Dean’s Suite, Robinson has guided countless students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the law school through delicate situations and even emergencies. Colleagues noted how Robinson met each person with respect and compassion—even in the face of challenging situations. This compassion extended into Robinson’s relationship with her colleagues, who said they could count on her to provide a sympathetic ear, and then to follow up to see if their problem had been resolved.

She recounts her favorite memory as serving on the building committee for the construction of the Wolf Law Building, which was completed in 2006.

“As one of the staff representatives, I appreciated having input on what would be the future home of our faculty, staff, and students. I also was heavily involved in the physical move from Fleming Law to Wolf Law and the many details that came with that transition,” she said.

Robinson took seriously her role as the steward of the building, which to her meant showing up every day, whatever the weather, and attending to the many

unseen tasks that go into keeping a building like Wolf Law functional and effective.

“It is easy to think that doors just unlock when they should, rooms restock themselves with masks, tissues, and sanitizer, and moveable furniture finds its own way back to where it belongs,” Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss** said.

“When things just seemed to work, that’s because Kari was always here, putting them right and anticipating needs before they became problems. I am sure Kari has saved us many thousands of dollars this way. More than that, she has provided our students and all of us with the peace of mind that comes from comfortable, operable, and sparkling surroundings.”



“
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anticipating needs before
they became problems.
—Dean Lolita
Buckner Inniss

Robinson has been recognized with numerous awards over the years. In 1996, she was one of 10 CU Boulder classified staff selected to attend a reception honoring state classified employees at the executive residence of Gov. **Roy Romer** (’52). She is a four-time recipient of the law school’s Excellence in Service Award (2011, 2014, 2015, and 2017) and received the Humanitarian Award from the Class of 1996. In 2008, CU Boulder’s Facilities Management awarded her the building Proctor of the Year Award for her “effectiveness as a proctor, her cooperation with our department, and all her efforts related to the move into the new Wolf Law Building.”

Former Director of Operations and Financial Management **Dennis Russell** said at the time, “Kari is really the pillar of operations for the law school.”

“This institution is only as venerable as we make it, and Kari faithfully did her part,” Inniss said. “She applied a quiet but relentless standard of excellence to everything she did here, and it shows. We will undoubtedly be circling back to her often as we try to carry forward her legacy. We are so grateful for the career she spent with us.”



Violeta Chapin

Clinical Professor **Violeta Chapin** was selected by Congressman **Joe Neguse** ('09) as the winner of the 2021 Polly Baca Raíces Fuertes Community Service Award.

Neguse established the award in 2020 to recognize an exemplary leader in the 2nd Congressional District who best exhibits a commitment to the service of others and dedication to social justice. Chapin, who leads the Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic, has an extensive record of service to the Latinx community as an educator and activist. Chapin's nominator noted her career of service representing, defending, uplifting, and advocating for Latin American communities, whether in the classroom, the courtroom, the boardroom, or the community. They also highlighted her staunch defense of vulnerable communities and her compassionate approach to criminal justice reform.



Ann England

Clinical Professor **Ann England** received the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar's 2020 Advancing Justice Award. The award recognizes England's prior work as a state and federal public defender and years of teaching

aspiring lawyers in Colorado Law's Criminal Defense Clinic, where she has served as a role model and mentor for those new to criminal law. Over 120 of England's former students have gone on to work as public defenders in Colorado and across the nation.

England leads the Criminal Defense Clinic, in which law students defend clients charged with misdemeanor crimes in Boulder County and municipal courts in Aurora and Boulder. She also serves as faculty director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project, which she helped to establish at Colorado Law in 2010 and secure permanent funding for in 2015. Additionally, she coordinates the annual National College of Capital Voir Dire, which trains capital defense lawyers on the Colorado Method of capital voir dire.



Suzette Malveaux

Professor **Suzette Malveaux** and her partner, Catherine Smith, accepted the Gerald A. Gerash Advocacy Award presented by The Center on Colfax at the center's 45th anniversary gala. The award honors those who demonstrate a history of advocacy for the LGBTQ community.

The award came after Malveaux and Smith—a professor of law at the University of Denver—shared their journey as a “legal power couple” on Colorado Public Radio. Shortly after the interview, the center reached out to Malveaux and Smith to share how their story had impacted and inspired LGBTQ youth across the state.

Together the couple have used their experience and expertise to educate and inform future generations of civil rights lawyers. As a civil rights attorney, Malveaux represented victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and represented more than 1.5 million women in *Wal-Mart vs. Dukes*, the largest employment discrimination class action lawsuit in the United States. Smith also has a prolific civil rights and scholarly background, particularly in cases involving same-sex marriage, children's rights, and environmental justice.

Jane Thompson Establishes Fund *for* Staff Education

During her 35 years with Colorado Law's William A. Wise Law Library, most recently as associate director of faculty services and research, **Jane Thompson** has witnessed and taken part in many rewarding partnerships between law school staff and faculty. As a tribute to these collaborative relationships, Thompson, who retired Jan. 4, 2022, has established a fund to help staff further their educational pursuits.

The Matthew C. Zafiratos Fund for Staff Education honors Thompson's longtime colleague and friend **Matt Zafiratos**, the Wise Law Library's faculty services assistant for the past 15 years, for his outstanding service to the library and law school, intellectual engagement, and compassion.

"I am overcome with gratitude for the fulfilling career and opportunities CU has afforded me over the past 35 years, and even more for the supportive community of law faculty, staff, and students with whom I've had the privilege to work," Thompson said. "The purpose of the fund is to express my deep appreciation to all Colorado Law staff, encourage lifelong learning, and assist staff in achieving their educational goals and aspirations."

Thompson began her career at the Wise Law Library as an instructor and head of public services in 1987 and transitioned to head of faculty services in 1994. She was later promoted to senior instructor and associate director of faculty services and research.

During her long tenure, Thompson helped oversee the library's migration from a card catalog to several iterations of online catalogs, and she created the library's first website homepage. She was instrumental in developing the library's physical collection and research databases, and in curating digital collections, including the faculty scholarship collection, David H. Getches and Getches-Wilkinson Center archives, and *Arizona v. California* litigation.

"I am grateful and thrilled that our colleague and longtime faculty member Jane Thompson has decided to pay it forward by creating the Matthew C. Zafiratos Fund for Staff Education with a very generous gift to honor her time at Colorado Law," Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss** said. "The staff is the backbone of Colorado Law. They are the key to our success and our future."

"Earlier in my career I was fortunate to secure funding for my education from a variety of sources: jobs, local grants, student loans, partial scholarships, etc.," Thompson said. "I hope this fund can be one of those sources for our staff, whenever the desire and need arise."

To learn more and contribute to the Matthew C. Zafiratos Fund for Staff Education, please visit giving.cu.edu/Zafiratos or contact Jill White at jill.white@colorado.edu.



Matt Zafiratos and Jane Thompson

“

The purpose of the fund is to express my deep appreciation to all Colorado Law staff, encourage lifelong learning, and assist staff in achieving their educational goals and aspirations.

—Jane Thompson

Faculty Focus **Suzette Malveaux**



Moses Lasky Professor of Law **Suzette Malveaux** joined the Colorado Law faculty in 2018. She is also the director for the school's Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. With expertise in the intersection of civil rights and civil procedure, she teaches Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination, and a Constitutional Civil Rights Law seminar.

Before entering academia, you were a civil rights lawyer and class action specialist who second chaired oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court and argued before the 11th Circuit Court of

Appeals. What sparked your interest in civil rights?

I grew up in a family that valued racial justice and equality. Ever since I can remember, my parents filled our home with the soulful and empowering tunes of Marvin Gaye, the Commodores, and Diana Ross and the Supremes. Our public education was supplemented with books about inspirational leaders like Rosa Parks, Dr. Charles Drew, and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. In fact, long before there was a national holiday to celebrate MLK's birthday, my parents pulled us out of school, refusing to let us attend in protest.

My parents themselves led the way. My father was the dean of Howard University Medical School and a physician with practices in Baltimore, Washington, and Columbia, Maryland. His work on health disparities in the African American community was groundbreaking at the time. It was a given that all of my doctors were Black; I was surrounded by excellence. My mother was in the trenches as a Head Start and first grade teacher, empowering children with little resources to read and hope. My father's unwavering dedication to an HBCU over the decades

and my mother's boundless creativity, encouragement, and commitment to igniting that spark in others were my fuel.

Growing up in the segregated South, my parents faced the hardships and violations of systemic inequities. The reality of being denied access to schools, churches, and swimming pools on the basis of race shaped them. My mom would recall her brother being called the "N-word" and his being beaten up walking home after school, or her sitting at the back of the Catholic church in pews cordoned off for "Negroes." I recall on one of the long, hot, two-day family car rides we would take every summer from Maryland to Louisiana to see my grandparents, how my dad was wrongfully pulled over by the police. He was taken to a small rural jail while us four kids and my mom were left in the car to fear the worst.

Because of these types of experiences, my parents went north and raised us in Columbia, Maryland, a planned community designed in the 1960s to promote integration on the basis of race, socio-economic status, religion, etc., and to protect the environment. Consequently, I grew up on a block with open green space, peppered with neighbors of every hue. That upbringing has shaped me today. My passion to pursue civil rights, whether as a lawyer or scholar, is part of a legacy of which I'm proud to be a part.

In your article "The Modern Class Action Rule: Its Civil Rights Roots and Relevance Today," you write that what we know today as class action jurisprudence is rooted in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. What ties the two together?

When we talk about class actions, sometimes we just think of it as a procedural mechanism, a type of joinder that springs from the federal rules of civil procedure. That can sound quite boring! But what class actions really are in the context of civil rights cases is the opportunity for collective action. As they say, there is strength in numbers. A class

action is not only a very efficient way to resolve a systemic problem in one stroke, it also enables individuals to pull their resources together to successfully challenge a sweeping injustice, like an unfair employment policy or overcharge for a loan. In a world where there are tremendous wealth and opportunity gaps, a class action is an essential tool that empowers “Davids” to take on “Goliaths.”

The modern trend of making it harder to collectively act disproportionately impacts the poor and powerless of all stripes. As my scholarship contends, “Veterans challenging untenable delays in medical benefits, women challenging sexual harassment on the job, African Americans challenging police violence, low-income people challenging draconian lending terms, and small businesses challenging monopolistic practices all benefit from a civil court system more geared toward providing them their ‘day in court.’”

I had the opportunity to learn this lesson in real practice. As a civil rights lawyer, I had the privilege to represent over 1.5 million women alleging gender discrimination against Walmart in the largest employment discrimination class action to date. After a decade of litigation, the case made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court just on the question of whether it should be a class action. This illustrates how powerful this tool can be.

The history of the modern class action rule is also telling. The drafters amended the rule in 1966 in response to fierce resistance to desegregation in the South. After the Supreme Court declared American apartheid unconstitutional in the public school system in *Brown v. Board of Education*, school boards across the South enacted “pupil assignment” laws to circumvent integration efforts. The rulemakers countered this “divide and conquer” strategy with a class action rule that made it easier to counter this obstructionist tactic. Armed with the sweeping Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1966 class action rule, victims of discrimination were able to bring about significant reform. That power continues to be necessary today.



I learned that in order to be successful, sometimes you have to move the goal post. It was a valuable lesson about the limitations of the law; it is just one tool in the tool box.

For six years, you served as pro bono counsel to the plaintiffs in *Alexander v. State of Oklahoma*, a federal lawsuit filed by victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. What did you learn by working on this case?

One of most valuable lessons I learned by participating in this case is the importance of resilience and never giving up. As a young lawyer I was fortunate to be part of a team that inspired creativity and an unwavering commitment to justice. Surrounded by giants like Johnnie Cochran, law professor Charles Ogletree, historian John Hope Franklin, and courageous community leaders and massacre survivors, our team worked diligently to exhaust all channels. We first sought relief in the federal courts, from the district court up to the Supreme Court. When that was unsuccessful because of the statute of limitations, we turned to the legislative branch, crafting a bill that would enable our clients to have their day in court. I pivoted to the scholarly route, writing a law review article that was entered into the Congressional Record. Having exhausted the U.S. legal system, we turned to the international courts, alleging a violation of human rights. When that did not prevail, we ultimately went on an educational campaign, touring the country with our clients telling the Tulsa massacre story at

churches, legal conferences, and in documentaries. Ultimately, we were able to elevate the voices of our centenarian clients and the Black Tulsa community. I learned that in order to be successful, sometimes you have to move the goal post. It was a valuable lesson about the limitations of the law; it is just one tool in the tool box.

Tell us about some of the highlights of the White Center’s recent programming.

I’m proud of the recent Rothgerber Conference, which was held April 7–8. This is an annual Byron R. White Center signature event which brings together scholars, lawyers, law students, and leaders from across the country to the law school to discuss a cutting-edge Constitutional law issue. This year’s theme centered around the book *The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson*, written by our new dean, **Lolita Buckner Inniss**. We explored various themes that emanate from the book, including educational institutional participation in slavery; government sanctioned racial massacres and remedies; modern vestiges of slavery; and the local implications of this history. To kick off the event, formerly incarcerated members of the community performed monologues and spoken word, with musical interludes. Our participants have the opportunity to reach an even broader audience by publishing their contributions in the *Colorado Law Review*. This was an incredibly powerful experience at such a critical time.

What advice would you give a law student or recent graduate looking to enter a career in civil rights law?

I would remind those entering a civil rights legal career to learn from those that preceded them. While the issues today are far more complex because of phenomena like the advent of social media, greater globalization of the economy, and increased diversity, so much of what happens is cyclical. With great progress there comes fear, ignorance, and backlash. I think it’s important that we treasure one another and recognize the throughline from our ancestors to ourselves today. I’m extremely grateful to my late parents for those lessons. It’s what gives me courage and inspiration to do this work.

Alumni

From Boulder to Washington, D.C., across the nation and around the world, Colorado Law graduates working in government are making a difference in their communities. On the following pages, we shine a spotlight on just a few of the many Colorado Law alumni who have chosen this highly rewarding career path. We selected these graduates to show a range of roles across local, state, and federal government.

As you will read, the alumni we spoke to report a deep sense of satisfaction from serving their communities. And Colorado Law, where they each began their legal journey, offers a plethora of opportunities for students interested in pursuing government work. The school's proximity to Denver, Colorado's capital and the largest city in the Rocky Mountain region, offers students unmatched opportunities with the Office of the Attorney General and dozens of state and federal government agencies headquartered in the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area.

Colorado Law participates in a regional government and public interest career fair that annually hosts 40–50 government employers, including federal, state, county, and municipal law opportunities for students to explore internships and jobs with

government agencies. The law school supports unpaid government internships with a robust Public Service Summer Fellowship program and one-year postgraduate fellowships in partnership with the Denver City Attorney's Office and Colorado District Attorney's Counsel.

"The most meaningful aspect of government work for me is the gratifying feeling one gets from serving the public and the satisfaction knowing my work contributed to the betterment of the community I was serving," said **John McKee**, director for government and public interest in Colorado Law's Career Development Office, who has worked for federal, county, and city employers. "I am proud that Colorado Law is so uniquely well-positioned to help aspiring lawyers achieve their dreams of positive change through public service."

About *the* Cover Photo

The cover photo of this issue honors one of Colorado Law's distinguished alumni in government: **Penfield "Pen" Wallace Tate II** ('68). In August 2021, the city of Boulder paid tribute to Tate by renaming the Municipal Building in his honor. Tate, who died in 1993, was the first, and so far only, African American mayor of Boulder and first African American person elected to Boulder City Council in 1971. He is also recognized in a mural on the north side of Boulder Public Library.

Tate, who served on Boulder's City Council from 1972 to 1974 and as mayor from 1974 until 1976, was a humanitarian and strong advocate for the rights and protections of minority groups,

including the LGBTQ+ community. He supported a then-controversial amendment to Boulder's Human Rights Ordinance that included protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Unfortunately, Tate faced a negative community response, receiving hate mail and death threats, and failed to win reelection.

After serving in local government, Tate remained active across Colorado. He served as a founding member and board member of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; a member of the



Penfield "Pen" Wallace Tate II ('68)

American Psychological Association Accreditation Committee; a legal advisor for the University of Colorado Black Law Student Alliance; a founding member of the Boulder Hospice; and a member and

chairman of the board for the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

Colorado Law honored Tate at the Law Alumni Awards Banquet in 1991 with the Small Practitioner Award, and again in 1993 with the Centennial Award.

Photo courtesy Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Town & Country Collection.

in Government

For law students interested in pursuing government work, McKee advises building a strong public interest record of internships and volunteer experiences that serve government or nonprofit legal employers, as well as taking courses such as Administrative Law that offer transferable skills applicable to many government roles.

“Exploring the many different levels of government work can be invaluable in helping guide students towards fulfilling public interest careers,” he said. “Networking with attorneys from different levels of government to learn more about the details of government attorney work among the many different federal, state, county, and city settings is an ideal tool to help students navigate a fulfilling government career.”

Lee Zarzecki ('11)

Assistant City Attorney, City and County of Denver



Tell us about your work at the Denver City Attorney's Office. What are your areas of focus?

I arrived at the Denver City Attorney's Office by way of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell. My practice has always primarily focused on environmental law. I represent the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment on matters ranging from public health to environmental law (e.g., Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act [CERCLA], Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA], Clean Water Act [CWA]).

Assuming the role as one of two senior environmental attorneys (shout out to **Lindsay Carder** ['14], another Colorado Law alum) is unquestionably my proudest professional achievement. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of intelligent, successful environmental attorneys throughout the state of Colorado. I am humbled daily by the fact that I was chosen to practice environmental law on behalf of my community. Also, getting to tell my 5-year-old son that “Dad's work is kind of like the Lorax” is pretty darn special.

How long have you been in your current role?

I have been an assistant city attorney for five years.

What activities were you involved in during law school?

The University of Colorado Boulder has nationally renowned programs in both environmental law and environmental studies. I completed the dual-degree program, obtaining both an MS in environmental studies and a JD, so most of my time was spent in the library or completing internships. Nevertheless, I was the president and member of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Dean's Diversity Committee, and I participated in a couple of the school's mock trial competitions.

What drew you to government work?

Put simply, working in the public sector is the most rewarding way I can contribute to society and earn a living. I have known since college that I wanted to work in the interest of the public.

What do you enjoy most about working in government and the City and County of Denver in particular?

On any given day, I can open *The Denver Post* and identify a handful of matters that I have touched in some way in my professional capacity. Denver is my family's home. It is the center of our universe. Working day in and day out to improve my community is exceptionally rewarding.

Tell us about your proudest professional achievement. How has your work impacted you personally?

Who, or what, inspires you?

First and foremost, my wife. Lara inspires me with the grace and composure that she brings to our family and her profession. She is my calming force, and she inspires me to be the best version of myself that I can be. Second, a seemingly unattainable goal. I played competitive sports for many years and learned that I thrive when someone utters the words “that's impossible.” I absolutely love a challenge, so being in a profession where we are expected to help problem-solve on a daily basis is unparalleled.

What advice would you give to law students interested in pursuing a career in government? Come intern with the Denver City Attorney's Office!

Junie Joseph ('21)

Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Member, City of Boulder



You were elected to Boulder City Council while you were a 2L at Colorado Law. Why did you decide to run?

I honestly believed that I would not have made it through law school if I did not take on some type of community engagement. I was living and working in a civil war-torn country a month prior to joining the law school community. My constant everyday was high pressure, high stress. Law school presented its own level of stress. But I needed something more—something that felt real. Something that made me feel alive. My run for City Council was that thing that made me come alive. It gave me the purpose that I promised myself that I would not give up on just because I chose to go back to academic life. Running for council was that thing that gave my life meaning and made it OK for me to be in law school and living in this little paradise called Boulder.

What do you enjoy most about serving on City Council?

Connecting with community members and also representing the city at the national level during conferences and working with local leaders from other jurisdictions—national, state, and local. Being a part of the Boulder City Council has been a fulfilling experience. I've been involved in many committees and have taken on a broad range of issues in my first two years as a council member.

Tell us about your proudest professional achievement.

Serving in the Central African Republic is my proudest professional achievement. As a human rights officer, I was a focal point for civilian protection in a

humanitarian crisis. On several occasions my job entailed transferring an individual, or a family, from one city to another because they were in imminent danger. I remember on one occasion putting an entire family with small children on a convoy to be transferred to a different city because they were being persecuted and feared imminent death. That's what I'm proud of—somewhere in the Central African Republic there is a family who escaped death because of the work I was empowered to do through the U.N. system.

As far as City Council is concerned, I have been in the job two years. I am proud of my service to the people of Boulder. I have done what I set out to do, standing in the gap to advocate for the most vulnerable. I have done that on Tuesday nights during our regular council meetings, and I have done that during committee meetings outside of the purview of the public. Beyond the borders of Boulder, my City Council role allowed me to work on national policies with the National League of Cities. Winning City Council was a pretty special experience.

What advice would you give to law students interested in running for office?

Oh, my! Go for it. Don't think about what you don't have at the moment. You have everything inside of you to be successful. I know the path is not always clear. But, God would never give you a dream that you could not achieve. I think Walt Disney said it best: "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." Every once in a while, try the impossible. You might surprise yourself, because I did. Many people told me it would be impossible to make it onto Boulder City Council because I was a student, a renter, and of the wrong race. To be honest, on many occasions I felt it was impossible too, but I stuck to it, and here we are today.

It has been the honor of my life to be a member of the CU community. Had I not been accepted as a member of the Colorado Law community, I don't think I would have been a Boulder City Council member. Colorado Law is really one of the city of Boulder's secret weapons. Colorado Law gave Boulder its first African American mayor, **Penfield Tate II** ('68) in the 1970s, and it also brought me as the first African/Haitian American mayor pro tem to Boulder in 2020. Colorado Law is that thread that connects all of us to Boulder. I am a proud Buff.

Anne Lee ('13)

Chief Transformation Officer & First Assistant Attorney General, Colorado Office of the Attorney General



Tell us about your background before law school.

I attended Stanford University and received my undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering and then received my MBA from the University of Michigan prior to obtaining my JD at Colorado Law. I feel fortunate to have started my career as a design engineer at Ford Motor Co., then working in product management for digital consumer products at Hewlett Packard Co., practicing IP litigation in private practice at two different firms, and working in-house in IP transactions at Hewlett Packard Enterprise before joining the Department of Law. My vast experience working in various roles and industries prepared me for my current role.

Tell us about your work at the Colorado AG's Office.

As the chief transformation officer, I'm helping transform existing systems and processes to improve productivity and efficiency at the Department of Law. By embracing technology, we are equipped to quickly innovate and implement creative solutions to meet the Department of Law's business needs. Example projects include transitioning the entire department to remote work, implementing a new performance management program, establishing a hybrid work culture, implementing a new technology platform to become a more data-driven organization, and many other transformation projects.

Additionally, as a first assistant attorney general, I lead the Data Privacy team on rulemaking for the recently enacted Colorado Privacy Act.

What do you enjoy most about working in government?

I was initially drawn to working at the Department of Law because I wanted to utilize my skills to serve Colorado, and help make a difference to ensure that Coloradans have access to justice and are able to continue to enjoy what makes Colorado such a great place to live.

What I enjoy the most is seeing how my work directly impacts Colorado and its people. I also really enjoy working with my colleagues at the Department of Law, who are exemplary public servants. I am privileged to have the opportunity to work under the tutelage of Attorney General **Phil Weiser** and Chief Deputy Attorney General Natalie Hanlon Leh, who have taught me how to become a better leader. I see firsthand their dedication to upholding the rule of law, protecting Colorado, and holding lawbreakers accountable.

Which law school experience(s) helped prepare you for your role and/or government work more generally?

While at Colorado Law, I was a member of the Dean's Diversity Committee because representation matters. It is important that people are able to show up as their authentic selves and have a sense of belonging, whether at school or work. This inspired me to serve as the vice president of the Asian Pacific Law Student Association (APALSA) and join as a student member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA). My early involvement in APALSA and APABA while in law school prepared me to later serve as the APABA president in 2020–21 during the pandemic.

I feel honored to have served as APABA president during a tumultuous year, which included the beginning of a pandemic, racial justice crisis, economic uncertainties, the 2020 election, the rise in hate crimes against the AAPI community, the senseless Georgia hate

shooting, and the horrific shooting right here in my Boulder community.

Despite all these challenges, I saw our community rise and support one another. The APABA board, and especially APABA board member Deborah Yim, who led the Community Outreach Committee, worked together with other local organizations to sponsor a hate crimes webinar, launch the free virtual APABA Cares legal clinic, collect gift baskets and meals for seniors, assemble Go Vote resources and video, host an estate planning webinar and estate planning virtual clinic, collect Lunar New Year gift baskets for refugee families, sponsor the Addressing Asian Hate Town Hall, compile the AAPI anti-hate brochure, and many other activities.

I'm so proud of how much APABA accomplished during my term and what APABA continues to accomplish under the current president, Clark Yeh. I bring my APABA experiences to my current role as I continue to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in my day-to-day work, and in the programs I implement.

What advice would you give to law students interested in pursuing a career in government?

I highly encourage law students interested in pursuing a career in government to reach out to attorneys working in government to get a better understanding of the work they do, the path they took toward becoming a public servant, and why they pursued a career in government. Another way to learn more about government work is to apply for internships—at the Colorado Attorney General's Office or elsewhere—to learn more about becoming a government attorney. For me, working in government has provided me with a sense of purpose and fulfillment that no other job has. I am thankful to Colorado Law for opening the door for me to become a public servant.

Nefertari KB Pross ('12)

Senior DEIA Advisor, U.S. Department of the Treasury
(DEIA: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility)



Tell us about your work before you joined the Department of the Treasury.

Previously, I served as senior equal opportunity advisor for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, where I enforced civil rights regulations in housing and mortgage lending. I started my legal career in New York City as a Presidential Management Fellow, and in 2016 joined the Detroit HUD office as a member of HUD's official response team to the Flint water crisis. I also served under the Obama administration as the White House jobs ambassador to the city of Flint, Michigan, where I worked to increase jobs and summer engagement for young people.

While living in New York, I also served as an adjunct professor for the Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY), a vibrant and unique nonprofit learning institution designed for nontraditional students and working professionals. My lectures focused on community building and social justice-related courses. Prior to joining MCNY and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, I worked at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, an Atlanta-based museum focused on educating visitors on the bridge between the American civil rights movement and the contemporary struggle for human rights around the world.

What were you involved in during law school?

I served as president of the Black Law Students Association and was a member of the Sports and Entertainment Law Association. I was also active in assisting with pro bono initiatives to assist Black arts institutions in the Denver area. I was also involved in many international initiatives. As a 2L, I traveled to London to study international law. As a 3L, I traveled to Quito, Ecuador, with the Criminal Law Clinic for a comparative law program co-sponsored by the American Bar Association. My most memorable experience included traveling to Butare, Rwanda, with former Associate Dean Dayna Matthew on a Fulbright-sponsored exchange with the National University of Rwanda, School of Law.

What are your areas of focus at the Department of the Treasury?

I serve as a senior DEIA advisor for the Department of the Treasury. I serve as the liaison to the White House DEIA Council and advise agency leaders on a myriad of important matters to ensure the organization implements policies, practices, and procedures that fully reflect diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

What drew you to government work?

I actually attended a brown bag program sponsored by Colorado Law's Career Development Office highlighting the Presidential Management Fellowship. I was impressed by the speakers and decided to apply for the PMF program and generally pursue law in government as a career path. The PMF program is a competitive two-year executive training program specifically geared toward attracting high-achieving recent graduates of advanced degree programs (JD, MD, MPA, etc.) The program has a 5% acceptance rate. I applied twice before being accepted on the third try. Persistence is key!

What do you enjoy most about working in government?

The opportunity to do meaningful work, all while having a good work/life balance. All of my positions have focused on civil rights, and diversity and inclusion. This is important work; however, it can be taxing and hard on the spirit. Having a good work/life balance allows me to rejuvenate by spending quality time with my family and working on other passion projects that are incredibly important to me—namely, music projects and working with arts institutions.

What is your proudest professional achievement?

In 2016, as a Presidential Management Fellow, I had the opportunity to do a detail with the White House. I served as the White House jobs ambassador to the city of Flint, where I worked diligently to increase jobs and summer engagement for young people. In honor of my work in Flint, I received awards from the Flint Housing Commission and the Flint Federal Executive Board for outstanding service to the city of Flint.

Who, or what, inspires you?

My family! My mother is a physician and medical diplomat. Even with all of her accomplishments, she continues to pursue new opportunities in her personal and professional life. The same is true for my father, a jazz musician and visual artist, who continues to make art and contribute to the world creatively. My husband supports my dreams wholeheartedly, and my children (1 and 3 years old) keep me grounded and focused on the things that really matter—kindness, justice, and love.

What advice would you give to law students interested in pursuing a career in government?

I would encourage current law students to apply for the PMF program, Legal Honors, or the various military JAG programs. Almost all of these programs provide an avenue into government specifically for recent law graduates, and offer exceptional training and competitive salaries.

Anthony Santos ('13)

Elder Abuse/At-Risk Crimes Prosecutor, Colorado 1st Judicial District Attorney's Office



Tell us about your job, community involvement, and education.

I am the elder abuse/at-risk crimes prosecutor for the 1st Judicial District, which encompasses Jefferson and Gilpin counties. I have been a prosecutor for over seven years and I have been in my current role for about six months. I am also in my second year as chair of the Education Committee for the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. I attended the University of California, Irvine, and I double majored in social/behavioral psychology and criminology.

What activities were you involved in during law school?

While at CU, I helped co-found the Criminal Prosecution Society and served as vice president, with the aim of helping provide information and pathways to those law students interested in pursuing a career in prosecution. I completed the CU Public Service Pledge and was a member of LLSA (Latino Law Students Association).

Tell us about your work at the DA's Office. What are your areas of focus?

I am in the Special Victims Unit, specifically responsible for prosecuting felony cases involving victims who are elderly or at risk due to mental or physical disability. Along with those duties, I go into the community to educate organizations and businesses such as banks and nursing homes to recognize the signs of exploitation/abuse/neglect among our most vulnerable, and how to report it.

What drew you to government work?

When I was in law school, I really wanted to make a positive impact on my community, as well as use my career as a vehicle to help others. Working for the government has given me the ability to focus my career on seeking justice and serving my community.

What do you enjoy most about working in government?

The American Bar Association Rule 3.8, Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor, refers to prosecutors not simply as zealous advocates but as ministers of justice. The responsibilities and obligations that come with being a prosecutor are immense and necessary. I appreciate the weight of my responsibilities and am proud to represent the people of Colorado in seeking to hold people accountable to the law. Every day as a prosecutor can be different, with numerous different challenges, legal arguments, and complex factual scenarios.

Which law school experience(s) helped prepare you for your role and/or government work more generally?

Interning/externing is the best way to decide if you want to pursue a specific legal career. I had amazing professors and great classes, but nothing truly prepared me for being in court more than being able to do it myself as an intern. Once I knew I wanted to be a trial attorney, classes like Advanced Trial Advocacy and Advanced Evidence really helped me appreciate the nuance and craft of trial work.

Tell us about your proudest professional achievement. How has your work impacted you personally?

The proudest moments in my career have been when a victim's faith in people and in the system of holding people accountable is restored or upheld. I truly feel fulfilled by the work I do and by the mission of my role as a prosecutor.

Who, or what, inspires you?

There are so many in my line of work who I am inspired by; however, the person who never ceases to amaze and inspire me is my wife, Alaina. Being a prosecutor means that sometimes I am in prep and trial for weeks at a time on extremely emotionally draining cases. Despite those challenges, my wife is a constant untiring support, an incredible mom to our two boys, and the nucleus of our home—all the while with a demanding career of her own.

What advice would you give to law students interested in pursuing a career in government?

Intern and reach out to people in positions that look exciting to you! The sooner you can gain practical experience in something that captures your interest, the sooner you can determine if that is what you are truly passionate about.

Dean Inniss' Fundraising Priorities



In my first 11 months as dean of Colorado Law, I have been consistently impressed with the caliber of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to preserving the mission and ideals that we impart in our teachings. As dean, I intend to ensure Colorado Law continues to grow its reputation on the national stage as a top-tier law school. We can achieve this by attracting exceptional students, retaining and recruiting top faculty, and creating an environment where collaboration and innovation are fostered and celebrated. To help us continue Colorado Law's upward trajectory along these paths, I have identified three main fundraising priorities.

Continuing Colorado Law's **Upward Trajectory**

Scholarships

A degree from Colorado Law not only signals outstanding academic achievement but also opens doors to better career opportunities. However, the rising costs of a law degree can be a barrier to entry for many, and significant levels of debt can deter graduates from pursuing their true professional passions. Decades-long declines in state funding and the resulting increases in tuition mean many students graduate with a heavy load of debt. Robust scholarship support is required to help ease that burden.

As a first-generation college student who benefited from scholarships, the importance of scholarship funding is not lost on me and thus stands as my top fundraising priority as dean.

For many first-generation students or students from low-income or underserved communities, scholarship support can be key to making a legal education possible—including reducing the need for unrelated jobs and allowing students to focus on their studies and future professional success.

Scholarships help recruit students of all backgrounds, ensuring that Colorado Law continues to recruit the best and brightest students and create a diverse and exciting intellectual environment. Through increased philanthropic giving, I aim to dramatically grow our scholarship funding during my tenure as dean and support the greatest areas of need for applicants and returning students.



Faculty Support

During my interviews for the deanship, I was consistently impressed with the caliber of faculty with whom I spoke. However, as competition continues to increase on the rankings stage, it is of the utmost importance to me that we maintain our outstanding current faculty and continue to recruit exceptional talent. Faculty support through the creation of new chairs, professorships, and fellowships is the most direct way to ensure that Colorado Law continues to retain and recruit the most preeminent faculty in their respective fields.

Each year, Colorado Law faces two crucial challenges when it comes to faculty: successfully competing with law schools with significantly greater financial resources to recruit top candidates, and retaining our own superb faculty members when they are sought by other top law schools around the nation. In both instances we rely on the generosity of our many alumni, friends, and donors to maintain and continue to enhance Colorado Law's tradition of excellence in legal teaching, research, and public service.



Collaboration

Much has changed in the nature of faculty and faculty-student interactions since the opening of the Wolf Law Building in 2006. In the intervening years, many law schools have flourished by creating vibrant intellectual spaces that prioritize innovation and collaboration.

As such, my third priority as dean is to foster increased partnerships between faculty, students, alumni, and staff through the creation of spaces where they can mix and share ideas, research, and knowledge. To that end, I have begun designing a physical space on the fourth floor of the Wolf Law Building for this express purpose. This space will allow for amplified interaction and ensure that our students have greater access to some of the brightest legal minds in our country.

I believe the creation of a dedicated space for creative discourse and innovation will place Colorado Law on the path to becoming one of the most sought-after destinations for the nation's top law students and enterprising faculty.

Join us!

I hope that you will find something that resonates with you among these strategic fundraising priorities.

If you would like to help support these initiatives, please contact:

Peter Sanders
 Assistant dean for advancement
peter.sanders@colorado.edu
 303-492-0752

Support *the* Colorado Law Dean's Fund *for* Excellence



The Dean's Fund for Excellence is Colorado Law's main source of unrestricted funds, enabling the dean to quickly address the most pressing needs and most compelling opportunities throughout the academic year. Although allocations differ year to year, the majority of these funds are invariably directed toward students with financial needs; student organizations; and the school's clinical programs, research centers, and public service and advocacy programs. The Dean's Fund also provides emergency support for students who encounter unexpected financial hardships or health issues, which, without rapid additional support, might otherwise disrupt or halt their legal education.

Giving Societies honor and thank alumni and friends who advance the law school's mission through generous financial support to the Colorado Law Dean's Fund for Excellence during a fiscal year (July 1–June 30).

Consider joining the Colorado Law Giving Societies with your gift of \$1,500 or more to the Colorado Law Dean's Fund for Excellence.

Visit giving.cu.edu/lawdean

\$1,500 DEAN'S CLUB

- Annual recognition at Annual Alumni Awards Banquet
- Dean's annual impact report

\$2,500 DEAN'S CIRCLE

All of the above, plus

- Invitations to special events
- Complimentary CLEs

\$5,000 DEAN'S CABINET

All of the above, plus

- Dinner with the dean

\$10,000+ ROTHGERBER SOCIETY

All of the above, plus

- 1:1 meeting with the dean
- Exclusive opportunities to meet with students, faculty, and special guests

Jacksons' Blended Estate *and* Current Use Gift Supports Diverse Students

Longtime supporters of Colorado Law, Judge **Gary** ('70) and **Regina Jackson** have committed to supporting the law school for future generations through a generous estate gift.

As a young man, Jackson never considered a career in law. He studied political science at the University of Colorado Boulder and planned to become an engineer. But when he met the parents of **Sonny Flowers** ('71), his best friend and roommate at CU, his future shifted.



Judge Gary ('70) and Regina Jackson

"They were the first lawyers I had ever met—white, Black, or brown," he says. "I was so impressed with the civil rights work Sonny's father was doing in Arkansas that I applied to law school."

The University of Colorado Law School accepted both Jackson and Flowers into the Class of 1970. When they entered the program in 1967, all the law professors were men, and none were Black. "That motivated me, some 50-plus years later, to make a concerted effort to help diversify the law school with our scholarship gift," Jackson said.

The Jacksons hope their gift will open doors for students of color who might otherwise struggle to afford a law school degree. The Gary and Regina Jackson Scholarship Fund at the law school continues the couple's lifelong commitment to diversity and racial inclusion by providing scholarship awards for students who have demonstrated interest in equality, diversity, or social justice.

After a storied legal career spanning five decades, Jackson retired from his judgeship in the Criminal and General Session Divisions of Denver County

Court in 2020 and was recently inducted into the Denver Public Library's distinguished Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame. This award is bestowed upon a Coloradan who has been the first African American to accomplish a professional goal or to have been a

pioneer in their field while actively supporting the African American community.

Retirement meant that the Jacksons would be living on a fixed income, which is why they were pleased to be able to establish their scholarship as a blended gift—a current gift and a planned gift set out in their estate plan. "We are adjusting to a fixed income, and the university makes this option available," Jackson says.

A scholarship recipient himself, Jackson is passionate about motivating fellow alumni to support CU, especially those who are also celebrating their 50th reunion. "We have a responsibility to give back," he says. "Let's make positive changes together."

**This story originally appeared on the University of Colorado Office of Gift Planning website.*



Karen and Don ('89) Brown

Inspiring a Lifelong Love *of the* West

Growing up in Ohio, **Don Brown** ('89) had never heard of natural resources law, let alone the critical importance of water law to the American west.

"My second year of law school, I took a class called Public Lands taught by **Charles Wilkinson**," Brown said. "He spent the first three days reading poetry about the grandeur of the West. I didn't know what natural resources law was, but I enjoyed the class so much, I took Water Law with Charles. It was the only time in law school I got the top grade in a class."

Brown went on to take Wilkinson's Advanced Natural Resources seminar during his third year of law school, which culminated in an unforgettable field trip to study the Yellowstone ecosystem and how the legal constructs affect it. From that class, he developed lifelong friendships and a deep appreciation for the West.

Brown and his wife, Karen, a 1984 CU Boulder graduate, hope their \$150,000 gift to support the Advanced Natural Resources

seminar and \$50,000 gift to support the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (GWC) at Colorado Law will ensure more law students will have the same opportunity to learn directly from the places and people they study in the classroom.

Initiated by Wilkinson in 1988, the Advanced Natural Resources seminar examines issues facing a specific geographic area from several legal and cultural perspectives and culminates with a field trip to that area. Past seminars have studied important watersheds across the Southwest, the Colorado Plateau, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon.



"We didn't just learn about Indian law or water law or natural resources law, but about how they are all tied together," Brown said. "That experience taught me to look at things in a holistic way. There are so many other places in the West where that concept applies."

In 2019—30 years after Brown was a student in Wilkinson's seminar—an opportunity arose for him and Karen to relive the experience. The Browns, who sponsored two students' participation on the field trip, audited the class, taught by Professor **Sarah Krakoff**, and attended the two-week rafting trip through the Grand Canyon alongside 15 law students.

The best part, they said, was attending the weekly classes and getting to understand what the students had been learning. Once back home, they knew they wanted to make the trip feasible for more students.

"Every person who has been lucky enough to participate in this place-based learning opportunity would agree, it is among the top educational experiences you could ever hope for," said **Alice Madden** ('89), executive director of the GWC. "These on-the-ground, experiential lessons are invaluable. With their generous gift, Don and Karen have assured the seminar will continue for years to come and be accessible to all."

By supporting the GWC, the Browns are proud to honor the legacy of the center's namesakes—Wilkinson and **David**

Getches—"two amazing humans," Karen said.

"The GWC is on the forefront of critical issues," said Brown, who serves on the GWC's advisory board. "Programs like the GWC Water Fellows, the Acequia Project, and the Advanced

Natural Resources seminar help keep that community together and help keep CU top of mind when anyone thinks of natural resources law."

Colorado Law's First LLM Scholarship Established *by the* Heaths

LLM DEGREE

MASTER OF LAWS

University of Colorado Law School

Alan ('68) and **Jerry Heath** (Educ'70) have established the first endowed scholarship at Colorado Law for LLM applicants.

Colorado Law's LLM degree program is global in scope and designed for talented lawyers from diverse backgrounds and countries. The LLM program fully immerses students in Colorado Law and offers inclusive access to programming, courses/modules, and the greater CU Boulder campus. JD and LLM students learn side by side and from each other.

Alan and Jerry were inspired to establish the scholarship with a focus on international students due to their personal and professional ties to Latin America. "My wife, Jerry, and I have had a long relationship with México and Latin America, going back over 30 years," Alan said. "I have worked in México and Central and South America over

the years, and we have made many friends in the area as a result. Consequently, we decided to establish a scholarship primarily benefiting lawyers in México and South America who desire obtaining an LLM in the U.S. from a respected law school."

LLM program course options are diverse, and all LLM students have the ability to design programs of study suited to their academic and professional interests. While students complete most courses at the law school, they have the opportunity to complement their legal studies with graduate-level courses in other departments across campus.

The Heaths hope that by establishing this scholarship, other students can take advantage of the LLM program in the same manner Alan did and receive financial assistance in the process.

Gift from Libby Cook ('82) to Support Range of Programs

In December, Colorado Law received one of its largest gifts in several years.

A generous four-year commitment from alumna **Libby Cook** ('82) will provide robust support to three exceptional programs at Colorado Law.

First, the gift will support the school's outstanding clinical faculty by creating five 3-year fellowships. Clinical faculty play an indispensable role in guiding and mentoring students through the school's nine legal clinics, which include American Indian law; civil practice; criminal defense; immigration; natural resources, energy, and environmental law; technology law and policy; entrepreneurship; sustainable community development; and family law, serving hundreds of pro bono clients from throughout Colorado each year.

"I feel fortunate to be able to support Dean Inniss and Colorado Law in a way that aligns with our mutual goals," Cook said. "I am excited about Dean Inniss' appointment as dean and hope this gift will further strengthen Colorado Law's reputation as a premier law school."

Cook's gift will also propel Colorado Law's ability to diversify the student body through the creation of four Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) Fellowships, which will be funded over the next three years. The LILAC fellowship program strives to recruit and develop students from backgrounds underrepresented in law schools and

in the legal profession. LILAC Fellows are from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, have diverse cultural identities, or have overcome significant obstacles. With their unique experiences, backgrounds, and accomplishments, LILAC Fellows have the potential to use their law degrees to be transformational leaders in law and community.



Libby Cook

This commitment will also provide annual support to the New Venture Challenge, CU Boulder's premier entrepreneurial program and competition for students, staff, and faculty to try out entrepreneurship. Colorado Law's Silicon Flatirons Center runs the information technology track of the competition,

which is geared toward businesses with technology as the primary driver.

"This gift elevates three of Colorado Law's areas of excellence and strategic importance: our Clinical Education Program, which helps students make the transition from legal theory to legal practice while supporting our communities; our commitment to fostering a more diverse student body; and Colorado Law's premier business and entrepreneurial law offerings," said Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss**. "I am deeply grateful to Libby for her generous investment in our students, faculty, and outstanding programs."

Why I Established a Scholarship at Colorado Law: An interview *with* **Michelle Lucero ('89)**

Why was it important to you to establish a scholarship in honor of your mother at Colorado Law?

My mother, Phyllis Estrella Lucero, was and always will be my guiding star and ultimate mentor. Her commitment to making the world a better place, community service, and giving back to the community are qualities that she instilled in her children—all 11 of us! I established a scholarship in my mother's name to honor those life tenets. She would tell me time and time again, "Hita, when you make it (whatever that means), it's your responsibility to pull someone up with you. It is all of our obligation to give back to the community that raised us." The need to support Latino/Latina law students is so important. I was blessed to earn and receive scholarships along my educational journey. It is now my time to give back.

“

I was blessed to earn and receive scholarships along my educational journey. It is now my time to give back.

—Michelle Lucero



Michelle Lucero

What do you hope to accomplish with this scholarship?

I hope to honor my mother and her life's work. Secondly, I hope to help in any way possible to assist with fulfilling a dream to attend law school, by supporting Latinos/Latinas along that path, or a woman like my mom who had to struggle and work very hard with an eighth grade education to earn her GED and ultimately earn a college degree in her 50s. Finally, it's to honor those who are contributing to the Hispanic/Latino community. I would like to bring together all the recipients of my scholarships here at Colorado Law and other organizations annually to build a community and share the story of the amazing woman, my mother, whom the scholarship is named after.

What does giving back to your alma mater mean to you?

I was blessed to receive an amazing law school education at the University of Colorado Boulder and establish lifelong friendships. This scholarship is a nod to say "thank you" and to pay forward some of the good I received.

What impact do you want this scholarship to have at Colorado Law?

Assistance of any amount helps. I hope to grow the endowment for this scholarship to the point that it provides an annual full scholarship. Until then, I figure any amount helps. I truly hope to help someone's dream of earning their law degree come true, to show that all the hard work has paid off, and to show the amazing Latino/Hispanic students that someone believes in them.



Letter from the Law Alumni Board Chair David Stark ('73)

Colorado Law Alumni,

When I wrote to you in the fall *Amicus*, my theme was thoughts in a time of transition. We have moved through that transition, although not necessarily in ways anyone could have predicted.

The law school has gone from virtual to in-person classes with masks and some accommodations. In addition, the devastating Marshall Fire has impacted many, including students, faculty, staff, and members of our alumni legal community.

Most at CU and in the legal profession are vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, as they should be. And it looks like we might be ready to move to a different kind of “normal” (notice I didn’t call it the shopworn “new normal”).

As we emerge into this new period and look toward spring, I believe it makes sense to talk about how you can get involved in the Colorado Law activities that give you joy and hope.

First, our Colorado Law Alumni Awards Banquet took place on March 10, 2022, at the Seawell Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. After two years on Zoom, this year’s event was held in person with a hybrid option for those who felt more comfortable joining us remotely. This year, with your support, we raised \$130,000* for student scholarships, programs, and initiatives consistent with the University of Colorado Law School’s vision and mission, and had over 480 registrants.

Other ways to get involved include joining in our alumni fundraising effort. Alumni giving dropped from 20% in 2017 to just 11% in 2021. The Law Alumni Board has taken the lead in reversing that trend, and I can report that every member has contributed in fiscal year 2021 and we are on our way to achieve that again in fiscal year 2022. You can do the same. While large gifts are appreciated, of course, any contribution is important. I believe the key is to see that all develop a habit of giving each year. I started giving \$50 each year to the Professor William J. Bowe scholarship and kept that up so that years later, when I could do more, I did so.

Finally, there are many more ways to contribute to our law school community. For example, become a Law Alumni Ambassador, host or attend a Colorado Law Talk or alumni event by contacting lawalumni@colorado.edu, or mentor a law student. For more information about mentoring, please contact **Alexia McCaskill**, senior director for professional development, at alexia.mccaskill@colorado.edu. Also, you can nominate next year’s award recipients. Award descriptions and an online nomination form are available at colorado.edu/law/award-nomination.

We have come a long way since the fall of 2021, but we have much left to do. With the leadership of Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss** and her wonderful team of professionals, we can accomplish great things and continue to support Colorado Law as a preeminent public law school.

David Stark

**75% of the net proceeds will benefit the Dean's Fund for Excellence and 25% of the net proceeds will benefit the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund.*

Law Alumni Board

The members of the Law Alumni Board act as representatives of Colorado Law alumni and promote the best interests of the law school by stimulating interest in, building loyalty for, and increasing support for the law school in the community and among its alumni and students. The 2021–22 board chair is David Stark, and the chair-elect is Michael Carrigan.

Desta Asfaw ('11), Holland & Hart LLP

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

Christopher Brock ('14), Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

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

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

Marco Chayet ('97), Chayet & Danzo, LLC

Amber Cordova ('02), T-Mobile

Hiwot M. Covell (Immediate Past Chair) ('09), Colorado Attorney General's Office

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

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

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

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

D. Jeffery Grimes ('89), Astex Pharmaceuticals

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

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

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

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

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

Kristin Moseley ('97), Somach, Simmons & Dunn

Richard Murray ('07), Polsinelli

Lisa Neal-Graves ('06), retired

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

Siddhartha Rathod ('07), Rathod I Mohamedbhai LLC

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

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

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

Sarah Wallace ('99), Ballard Spahr LLP

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

CLASS ACTIONS

1968

John Torbet ('68) announced his retirement after 53 years of practice in Colorado Springs. Forty-nine of those years were spent as a part-time municipal judge in the city of Fountain, Colorado. Torbet's practice is being carried on by his firm, Torbet Tuft & McConkie.

1970

The Honorable **Gary M. Jackson** ('70) was inducted into National Bar Association Fred Gray Hall of Fame. Jackson was honored for his countless professional achievements as a practicing lawyer and judge; his significant contributions to his community; and his tireless work on behalf of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and the Colorado judiciary. Jackson was also selected and nominated to be inducted into the Denver Public Library's Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame. This award is bestowed upon a Coloradan who has been the first African American to accomplish a professional goal or to have been a pioneer in their field while actively supporting the African American community.

1973

James M. Skorich ('73) retired after 20 years as a civilian intellectual property attorney with the Air Force at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before that, his legal career included positions as an intellectual property attorney with the Office of Naval Research in San Francisco, McDonnell Douglas Corp. in Long Beach, California, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in addition to serving as a deputy district attorney in Aspen. Interludes included a year backpacking overland from London to Bali, and another year drifting throughout South and Central America. The latter included attending criminal justice proceedings in Lima, Peru, and visiting with inmates in the yards of the national prisons in Lima and La Paz, Bolivia.

1976

Dan Edwards ('76) recently retired from the Colorado Attorney General's Office where he had served since 2007. He received the Attorney General's Exceptional Performance Award in 2010, 2013, and 2017, and the White Hat Award in 2020. He is an adjunct professor at the University of

Denver College of Law where, since 1988, he has taught over 200 courses in the areas of trial practice, evidence, and criminal procedure. In 2013, he was named the Colorado District Attorneys Council's Outstanding Faculty of the Year, and in 2021, he received the Sustained Excellence Sean May Award. He is a faculty member for the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute (NAGTRI), where he teaches Trial Practice and Evidence nationally. He received NAGTRI's Faculty of the Year award in 2017. Early in his career he received the 1985 Colorado State Public Defender of the Year award and was nominated in 1989 for the Jonathan Olom Award for Outstanding Criminal Defense Attorney in Colorado. Over his career he has been a public defender, an attorney in private practice, a magistrate, and a prosecutor.

1979

The Honorable **Kathleen Hearn Croshal** ('79), president of the Colorado Bar Association, joined the board of the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado in an ex officio capacity.

1982

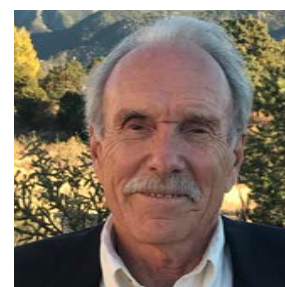
Bob Pepin ('82) received the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar's Jonathon Olom Award for 2020 in a COVID-delayed ceremony held Sept. 10, 2021. The award is presented annually to a member of the criminal defense community who has exhibited, among other traits, a willingness to defend an accused without regard to public sentiment, personal advancement, or profit; professional excellence in the face of adversity; and adherence to high ethical standards. Pepin retired from the Federal Public Defender office for the District of Colorado after 17 years in June 2019. He lives on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula.



John Torbet ('68)



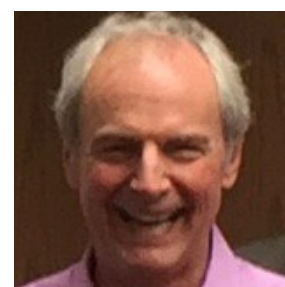
Hon. Gary M. Jackson ('70)



James M. Skorich ('73)



Hon. Kathleen Hearn Croshal ('79)



Bob Pepin ('82)



Submit a Class Action
lawalumni@colorado.edu

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

colorado.edu/law/reconnect.



Lorenzo Trujillo ('93)

1989

Patricia Corrales ('89) was a featured commentator in the Netflix documentary *Living Undocumented*. She was a senior attorney with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for nearly 18 years and now has her own practice.



Laurie Hager ('00)

1993

Lorenzo Trujillo ('93) is being inducted into the Jefferson County Hall of Fame. His photo and biography will be permanently installed in the Jefferson County Courthouse.

2000

Laurie Hager ('00) has joined the Portland, Oregon, office of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. after 20 years at her previous firm. Hager continues to serve clients in construction, real estate, commercial litigation, and insurance coverage matters in her new position.



Kara Veitch ('00)

Kara Veitch ('00) was named the chief legal counsel to Gov. Jared Polis. Polis selected Veitch in February 2019 to serve as state personnel director and executive director of the Department of Personnel & Administration (DPA). She began her role with DPA as the deputy executive director and chief of staff in July 2013.

2003

Jacki Cooper Melmed ('03) began a new role as chief legal officer for UC Health. Previously, she was the chief legal counsel to Govs. Jared Polis and John Hickenlooper.



Anthony Moore ('03)

Anthony Moore ('03) was promoted to member at Childs McCune. Moore gained extensive trial experience early in his career as a prosecutor with the Colorado Springs City Attorney's Office, where he eventually served as chief prosecutor. He obtained first chair civil trial experience before he brought his talents to the firm. Moore represents clients throughout Colorado in matters such as medical malpractice, premises liability, and general liability litigation, as well as the defense of administrative matters. Moore acts as chair of the firm's Mental Health and Well-Being Committee. He also contributes to the community as a member of the Board of Directors of Forge Evolution, and an at-large member of the Colorado Bar Association Litigation Section Executive Council.



Nicki Cerasoli ('06)

2004

Christine Garrison ('04) joined Farmland Partners Inc. and became general counsel and secretary on Jan. 1. Farmland Partners is a publicly traded real estate investment trust based in Denver with farms in Colorado and throughout the U.S. Previously, Garrison was general counsel for Global Student Accommodation, a privately owned international student housing owner and operator based in Dubai.



Teresa Taylor Tate ('06)

Meshach Rhoades ('04) joined Crowell & Moring as managing partner in the firm's newly opened Denver office. Rhoades, formerly of Armstrong Teasdale, focuses her practice on the regulatory aspects of litigation and advises businesses on compliance with the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other regulatory agencies.

Meghan Winokur ('04) has been appointed to Holland & Hart LLP's new senior leadership team as administrative partner in the firm's Aspen office. Winokur's practice focuses on water rights, real estate development, and land use planning to find creative solutions to their problems and achieve their goals.

Chad Woodford ('04) joined Relyance AI as senior product manager and privacy counsel. Relyance applies machine learning to the automation of data privacy and legal compliance within organizations. In this role, Woodford draws on his experiences as an engineer and a technology attorney in Silicon Valley over the past two decades.

2005

Laura Heinrich ('05) joined the Denver office of Spencer Fane LLP as an associate in the Special Districts Practice Group. She brings experience representing special districts, municipalities, and community associations.

Tasha Power ('05) joined Moyer White LLP as a partner in the firm's real estate section. Power supports Moyer White clients in real estate transitions from contract to closing.

2006

Nicki Cerasoli ('06) joined Holland & Hart LLP as of counsel in the firm's Denver office. A member of the firm's corporate practice, Cerasoli provides strategic counsel to public and private companies on a broad range of corporate transactions and financings.

Eric Lentell ('06) has joined Archer Aviation Inc. as its senior vice president, deputy general counsel. Lentell helped guide the company as it went public, which generated over \$800 million in proceeds. The company is now listed on the NYSE. Archer's goal is to be one of the world's leading urban air mobility companies.

Lisa Neal-Graves ('06) was elected to the board of II-VI Inc., a global leader in engineered materials and optoelectronic components.

Teresa Taylor Tate ('06) was appointed as Boulder's new city attorney. Tate was previously a deputy city attorney in Longmont, where she joined the staff in 2015 as an assistant city attorney. Before that, she was an associate with law firms Faegre Baker Daniels LLP in Boulder and Hogan Lovells in Denver.

2007

Maxine McReynolds ('07) recently shifted roles from senior environmental counsel to associate general counsel for environment, safety, and health (ESH) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The ESH Practice Group represents the lab in federal and state regulatory and court proceedings, and provides legal counsel regarding compliance with federal and state ESH requirements, including in the areas of air emissions, water discharges, management of hazardous and radioactive wastes, cleanup of legacy wastes, nuclear and worker safety, the National Environmental Policy Act, and historic and cultural preservation. McReynolds and her family live in the foothills of the Jemez Mountains at the boundary of the Santa Fe National Forest and enjoy hiking and local skiing.



Maxine McReynolds ('07)

2008

Lisa Yellow Eagle ('08) started a new job with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado. She continues to work on tribal water issues, focusing on federal Indian reserved water rights. She is happy to be back in Colorado.



Vivian Vassall ('09)

2009

Kylie Crandall ('09) was appointed to Holland & Hart LLP's new senior leadership team as administrative partner of the firm's Boulder office. Crandall focuses on real estate, water, and related project development, including purchases, sales, development, leasing, and property management and operation.

Meggin Rutherford ('09) received the 2020–21 Gary McPherson Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Colorado Bar Association. Rutherford was recognized for her community service, client-focused practice, and her work to help keep divorcing families out of court by her efforts to help pass the Uniform Collaborative Law Act.

Vivian Vassall ('09) joined the Washington State Attorney General's Office as an assistant attorney general in the Licensing and Administrative Law Division.



Desta Asfaw ('11)

2010

Sangeetha Mallavarapu ('10) was appointed as a district court magistrate in the 20th Judicial District in June 2021. Prior to her appointment, Mallavarapu was a practicing attorney at The Harris Law Firm, PLLP, where she specialized in domestic relations law.



Emily Garnett ('12)

2011

Desta Asfaw ('11) was promoted to equity partner at Holland & Hart LLP. Asfaw develops sophisticated estate, wealth transfer, and wealth preservation planning solutions for high net worth individuals, families, and closely-held businesses.

Maggie Garborg ('11) became a shareholder at firm Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. Garborg's practice focuses on real estate finance transactions.

Andreas Wokutch ('11) joined Frost Brown Todd LLC in Louisville, Kentucky. Wokutch's practice focuses on commercial real estate and renewable energy development transactions.

2012

CiCi Cheng ('12) has been elected to the Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP partnership. Cheng represents sophisticated companies in breach of contract, trade secret, antitrust, and commercial class action matters.

Chester Fernandez ('12) joined the Training and Education Department of the Office of Chief Public Defender in Connecticut. He is responsible for training more than 300 public defenders in the state. Since graduating from Colorado Law, he has been a public defender in Connecticut for just over three years and previously served as a public defender in Massachusetts for three years.

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP welcomed back **Emily Garnett** ('12) to its Litigation Department. Garnett returns to the firm's Denver office as a shareholder after serving as a lead investigative attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Lisa Saccomano ('12) has joined the Kutak Rock LLP partnership. She is a seasoned trial attorney who advocates effectively on behalf of her clients in high-stakes commercial disputes.

2013

Travis Bruner ('13) and **Ashley Palomaki** ('13) were married at the Grand Canyon on Sept. 17, 2020, and welcomed Fiona Grace Bruner to the world on Sept. 2, 2021. They live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Michael Wagner ('13) joined Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP as a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group. Wagner, a registered patent lawyer, has extensive experience handling all aspects of intellectual property matters with an emphasis on patent prosecution, postgrant proceedings, licensing, opinions, litigation, and due diligence.

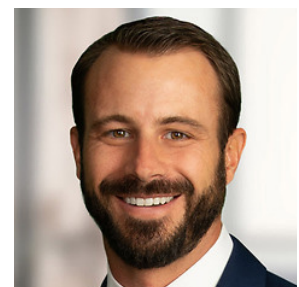
Lauren Hirt ('13) joined Polsinelli as a shareholder in its Denver office. Hirt joined the firm's real estate practice and brings experience in financing, acquisition and disposition, and leasing of commercial real estate.



Ashley Palomaki ('13) and Travis Bruner ('13)

Dietrich Hoefner ('13) will help lead the new renewable energy end-of-life planning group at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP in Denver. Hoefner, a partner at the firm, will look at how to manage industrial materials used in renewable energy throughout entire life cycles, assisting clients on a variety of issues.

Rick Lee ('13) received the Robert R. Gallagher Prosecutor of the Year Award. Lee is deputy district



Michael Wagner ('13)



Ryan Thurber ('13)

attorney at the Denver District Attorney's Office. Lee was recognized for consistent and outstanding performance across all aspects of his job.

Rachel Marion ('13) was named CEO of the Denver Metro Commercial Association of Realtors.

Amy Ostdiek ('13) is now section chief of Interstate, Federal, and Water Information at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), where much of her work focuses on Colorado River matters. Before joining CWCB, Ostdiek worked at the Colorado Attorney General's Office as counsel to CWCB and the state in Colorado River matters.

Ryan Thurber ('13) was elected shareholder at Polsinelli. Thurber is a member of the firm's Health Care Operations Practice Group.

Emily Wasserman ('13) was promoted to partner at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. She focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, intellectual property disputes, and counseling clients regarding their intellectual property rights.



Katie P. Ahles ('15)

2014

Megan Garnett ('14) joined the Crocs legal team as senior legal counsel. Garnett comes to Crocs from Simply Good Foods, where she handled commercial contracts, IP, data privacy, and ESG.

2015

Katie P. Ahles ('15) rejoined Woody Law Firm, LLC, where she started her career six years ago as a student law clerk while attending Colorado Law. Ahles practices exclusively in domestic relations to include dissolution of marriage and allocation of parental responsibilities matters.

Alyssa Bamonti ('15) is continuing her career in prosecution as a deputy district attorney in the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office in the Special Victims Unit. She is excited about the opportunity to be in this specialty unit and seek justice for victims and the community in Larimer and Jackson counties.

Kelsey Peterson ('15) recently became city planner for the city of South Burlington, Vermont. As city planner, Peterson works closely with the planning commission and city staff to improve and update the city's land use regulations consistent with community values and priorities, including land conservation, affordable housing, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, equity and inclusion, community agriculture, and addressing climate change.

Mike Richardson ('15) joined the trial department at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as an associate. Richardson's practice will continue to have an emphasis on litigation pertaining to complex financial restructurings and bankruptcy matters.

2016

Brandon Archuleta ('16) joined the technology

transactions and data privacy team at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Seattle. He joins DWT with law firm experience at Lane Powell PC, and in-house experience at Molson Coors Brewing Co. and as a secondee with Microsoft.

Mahir Haque ('16) has joined the city of Hobbs in eastern New Mexico as an assistant city attorney, working on a variety of administrative, land use, and criminal prosecution issues. While living in a more rural location has been an adjustment, he is looking forward to meeting new people and broadening his character backstory.

Jennifer Knight Lang ('16) joined Moye White LLP as an associate. With a focus on the construction and real estate industries, Lang represents clients in a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including contract disputes, property rights issues, construction defect claims, and general business litigation.

2017

Jim Hubbard ('17) joined National Storage Affiliates Trust in Greenwood Village, Colorado, after two years with Prestige Care Inc. in Vancouver, Washington. Hubbard's new position as corporate counsel will focus on commercial and operational contracts, insurance, litigation, privacy, and transactional matters.

Jessica Wagner ('17) has joined Uplight, a software as a service company in the clean energy sector. Her role is primarily focused on drafting, reviewing, and negotiating complex commercial agreements. She also works with others across the organization to improve the way her company manages contracts and compliance with key terms.

2018

Jordan Blisk ('18) was one of three longstanding LGBT legal activists to be honored by the American Bar Association Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity with its 10th annual Stonewall Award during a ceremony on Feb. 12 at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Seattle. Blisk is the assistant director of chapters at the American Constitutional Society, a progressive legal organization, and executive director and board chair of the Colorado Name Change Project.

Yolanda Clarke ('18) was promoted to senior associate at national cannabis firm Vicente Sederberg LLP. Clarke's focus is on licensing and regulatory compliance.

Abby Frame ('18) joined Woods Aitken LLP as an associate attorney in Denver. Frame joins the firm's growing litigation team, working with clients in the construction law and commercial litigation practice areas.

2019

Alison Gordon ('19) joined McCabe Law as an associate attorney. Gordon continues to specialize



Mahir Haque ('16)



Jennifer Knight Lang ('16)



Jordan Blisk ('18)



Yolanda Clarke ('18)



Abby Frame ('18)

in criminal defense, providing services to clients in the Boulder and Denver metropolitan areas in pending cases, as well as appellate and postconviction contexts.

Rachel Hammond ('19) joined Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP as an associate in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group. As a registered patent lawyer, she has experience drafting and prosecuting patent applications and has served companies of all sizes.



Marissa Kardon Weber ('19)

Zach Kachmer ('19) joined Faegre Drinker as an associate in the firm's Patent Litigation Group. In this role, Kachmer will help clients protect and enforce their intellectual property rights, with a particular focus on accusations of patent infringement relating to software and medical device technologies.

Marissa Kardon Weber ('19) has joined Herischi & Associates LLC as a human rights litigation attorney. Through strategic human rights litigation against Iran in the U.S. District Court for D.C., she works on cases serving victims of human rights violations committed by Iran, such as torture and extrajudicial killing. Kardon Weber is also an independent legal consultant for a truth commission in Seychelles, and works on cases in various international tribunals and commissions.



John Broadbent ('21)

2020

Adrian Untermeyer ('20) announced that his long-running research on the law of food and beverage service on American railroads has at last drawn to a close.

2021

John Broadbent ('21), an associate in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP's Denver office, has joined the Special Olympics Colorado Young Professionals Board, a group of professionals committed to raising funds and awareness to help end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.

Wesley C. Kettelkamp Jr. ('50)

Levi Martinez Sr. ('51)

Richard J. Bernick ('52)

Kenneth E. Barnhill ('53)

Charles Butler ('54)

R. Allan Glover ('59)

Lawrence Brandon Robinson ('59)

Gary L. Greer ('64)

James Briscoe ('69)

Britton White Jr. ('70)

Cliff M. Harrington ('72)

Peter Ralph Bateman ('74)

Roy Franics Malahowski ('74)

David Wilkinson ('76)

Ronald James Coca ('77)

Eugene Reis ('78)

Julie M. Murray ('95)

Shayleen Tiffany Idrogo ('96)

Robert C. Gavrell ('05)

Vincent Romance Mathias ('16)

Deaths reported July 1–Dec. 31, 2021

Linda Kato ('85)

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Professional title: Senior Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel, Region 8, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Community involvement: Founding member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Colorado, President in 1998–99

Lives in: Denver, Colorado

What is your favorite part about your job at the EPA?

From a purely personal standpoint as a geek, I enjoy working with capable, smart scientists. While working on any given case, the technical staff teach me, for example, how a hydrologic cycle works to recharge wetlands, or how emission controls work on vehicles and what a marvelous job the technology is doing to keep our air breathable. Toxicologists explain how substances such as asbestos scar the human lung or what lead does to the developing brain of a child once it enters the bloodstream. Working on these cases requires not only an understanding of the environmental laws, but also the science behind the laws. I get paid to learn from these hands-on tutorials and it's constantly challenging and intriguing.

Who are some of your role models, professionally and personally?

First and foremost, my parents, who were children of Japanese immigrants. They began life with very little but never lost their resolve that they would control their futures. They persevered through the hysteria of World War II and just kept moving forward, as so many people who start from scratch still do every day. I count myself lucky to have learned life lessons from them. Another personal role model is my great friend Kathryn Haight, who had grace, humor, and an unshakeable sense of self. To this day, whenever I face a question of how to stay true to myself, I ask what Kathryn would do. As do many lawyers, I count **Brooke Wunnicke** ('45) as a professional role model. I admired her strength of will and her belief in the law. And my friend Ken Scott, an international human rights lawyer who continues to fight for the rule of law and whose work reminds me that our civilization cannot survive without it.



Linda Kato

Who was the biggest influence on your career?

Because I met her when I was young, I would say the person who influenced my career the most was Patricia Locke, whom I worked for as an undergraduate. Pat was half Chippewa and half Sioux and grew up on the Fort Hall Indian reservation. She was a force of nature who cajoled and bullied private foundations and the federal government into establishing community colleges on tribal reservations. She was instrumental in establishing the Indian Education Act, which gave the tribes autonomy over their schools' curricula. I'll never forget that she even let me help draft portions of the bill. She was my mentor who took me to reservations so I could see why we were doing our work. Most important, she encouraged me to have confidence that change is possible, and commit to making a difference, wherever I landed.

What advice would you give to recent law graduates and students who are preparing to graduate?

If you intend to enter into public service, be proud of that motivation and hang onto it. There will be times when you will wonder if you are tilting at windmills and maybe think it would be better to just make more money in the private sector. To be sure, some public sector jobs are not particularly soul satisfying. But if you secure a position where your mission is to improve some segment of society, try to zoom out from time to time to keep your perspective. You may face internal obstacles from mind-numbing bureaucratic rules or get a whiff of condescension from someone in the private bar who believes that attorneys who work for the government or a nonprofit couldn't make it elsewhere. You may have to buy your own supplies, and don't even think about an

office with a window. But on those days when you wonder if it's worth it, remind yourself to take a step back and take the 10,000-foot view of what you are trying to accomplish. If your job is to make the world better by preventing securities fraud, ensuring that our food and medicines are safe, fighting to keep the criminal justice system honest or fighting to protect the public from wrongdoers, promoting fairness or safety in the workplace, keeping the air and water clean, or performing any of the myriad functions that the public expects of the government so that our society can keep running, remember that you are working towards something that matters. Every day I realize I am fortunate to have work that has meaning because its purpose is to help protect the planet for everyone. That meaning has value far beyond any bonus.

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Scholarships by the Numbers

- About **75% of students** rely on **financial aid** to attend Colorado Law.
- **Scholarships could not be awarded to about 9%** of continuing students applying for the 2021–22 academic year.
- Those who borrowed at least one loan and graduated in spring 2021 had an **average debt load over \$100,000**.

Need for Increased Scholarship Funding

- **Tuition for 2021–22 increased by 3%** following nine consecutive years of flat tuition costs, and is anticipated to rise again.
- **Scholarship dollars are limited**, and students apply for more scholarship funding than is available.
- **Admissions loses excellent applicants** to law schools with more competitive scholarship packages.



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— ■ **Dean's Choice Awards** ■ —

**William Lee Knous
Award** ■ —



George V. Berg
Richard Schaden Adopted
Alumnus Award



Kathleen B. Nalty ('85)
Sonny Flowers Award



Gail H. Klapper ('68)

— ■ **Distinguished Achievement Awards** ■ —



Victoria J. Ortega ('90)
Distinguished Achievement—
Public Service



Herrick K. Lidstone Jr. ('78)
Distinguished Achievement—
Private Practice



Dru R. Nielsen ('97)
Distinguished Achievement—
Small/Solo Practitioner