

FALL 2023

# AMICUS

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL



## REMOVING OBSTACLES TO A LEGAL EDUCATION

How scholarships are uplifting  
the next generation of lawyers



Colorado **Law**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



“At Colorado Law, scholarships have provided a beacon of hope and a pathway to achievement. These scholarships have allowed us to attract not only the future legal giants of Colorado and the nation but, just as importantly, the civic giants who will champion justice and fairness in our society.”

Today, I wish to reflect upon a topic that has left an indelible mark on my own life and countless others: the profound impact of scholarship support.

Scholarships have been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of my own academic journey. As a young student coming from a background where options were limited, I received offers of full scholarships from prestigious institutions such as UCLA and UC Berkeley. Ultimately, I chose to attend Princeton, and there's no doubt that without the transformative power of scholarships, I could not have embarked upon the academic odyssey that has brought me here today, serving as your proud dean.

Reflecting upon my own experiences, I am acutely aware of the changing landscape of legal education. Though crucial to my undergraduate pursuits, scholarships didn't play much of a role in my time at law school. Those of you who attended law school a few decades ago know firsthand that public law school tuition fees were comparatively low, and the income earned from many summer associate positions was more than sufficient to cover the costs. The reality today's students face is vastly different. The financial burden of pursuing a legal education has grown exponentially, making scholarships mission critical.

At Colorado Law, scholarships have provided a beacon of hope and a pathway to achievement. These scholarships have allowed us to attract not only the future legal giants of Colorado and the nation but, just as importantly, the civic giants who will champion justice and fairness in our society.

It is with immense gratitude that I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the alumni donors who make scholarships possible. Your generosity has empowered generations of students to pursue their dreams and contribute to the legal profession and society at large. You have provided the means for deserving individuals to transform their lives, and your impact will resonate far beyond the confines of our campus.

As we celebrate these successes, we also find ourselves mourning the loss of one of our beloved community members, **Charles Wilkinson**. Charles was an accomplished professor and a distinguished scholar. Long before I came to Colorado Law and became personally acquainted with Charles, his scholarly work on the public trust doctrine helped to guide me as a junior professor teaching property law. I was far from alone in admiring Charles—he was an esteemed mentor to many, and a source of inspiration for all who knew him. His unwavering commitment to justice, his profound love for the law, and his compassionate spirit touched the lives of countless students, colleagues, and community members.

The pages of this magazine are filled with stories of achievements and aspirations, as we celebrate the role scholarships have played in shaping the lives of our students and graduates. Let us be reminded of the transformative power of education, and the importance of ensuring that it remains accessible to all. Together, we can continue to build upon our legacy of excellence, propelling our institution and its graduates to even greater heights.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to every one of you. It is through your dedication that we are able to make a difference in the lives of our students, and through their accomplishments, we create a brighter future for us all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lolita Buckner Inniss". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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

# AMICUS

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Inquiries regarding content contained  
herein may be addressed to

Colorado Law  
Attn: Amicus  
401 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

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

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Julia Roth

## EDITING

Michelle Starika Asakawa, Robyn Munn,  
and Julia Roth

## WRITING

Emily Battaglia, Caitlin McHugh '12,  
Lolita Buckner Inniss, Robyn Munn, and  
Julia Roth

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Julia Roth

## DESIGN

Kristin Weber, Sugar Design

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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

## PRINTING

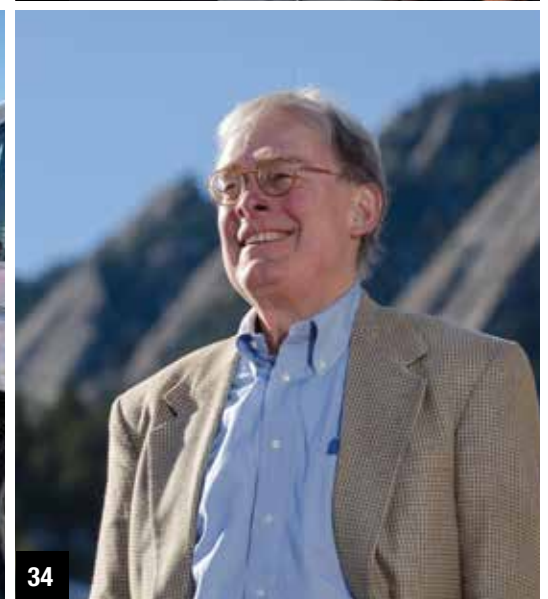
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## CONNECT WITH US



## ON THE COVER

**Ricardo Zorce '24** and **Mel Roeder '23**  
share their stories of how scholarships  
helped defray the cost of attending law  
school, allowing them to focus on their  
studies and give back to the community.  
Read more on page 10.



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# Welcome to the Class of 2026!

2,837

APPLICANTS

31%

COLORADO RESIDENTS

3.81

CUMULATIVE GPA  
(MEDIAN)

164

LSAT SCORE  
(MEDIAN)

24

AVERAGE AGE

169

ENROLLED FIRST-YEAR  
STUDENTS

104

UNDERGRADUATE  
SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

34%

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

36

STATES


18

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

Statistics as of Sept. 1, 2023

# Colorado Law Celebrates Class of 2023

On Friday, May 12, 2023, a total of 197 graduates from around the world gathered with faculty, family, and dear friends for the 2023 graduation recognition ceremony at Macky Auditorium. The graduating class included 175 Juris Doctor recipients, 11 Master of Studies in Law (MSL) recipients, and 11 recipients of LLM degrees.

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

IN BRIEF



“Serving as a lawyer is a noble calling, and you all have this opportunity and obligation to make a positive impact on our world.”

*Attorney General Phil Weiser*



## New Directors Take the Helm

This fall, two of Colorado Law's esteemed research centers welcomed new executive directors: **Brad Bernthal '01** became executive director of Silicon Flatirons, and **Chris Winter** was named executive director of the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment.

**P**rofessor **Brad Bernthal '01** became Silicon Flatirons' permanent executive director effective June 1. The move came 18 years after Bernthal first joined the center, in 2005, as a Silicon Flatirons Fellow. Bernthal is now an associate professor of law at Colorado Law with specialty in the fields of entrepreneurial law, early-stage finance, and innovation policy. He is the founder and director of Silicon Flatirons' Entrepreneurship Initiative, which supports entrepreneurship in the region and is a vital connector between the CU campus and the surrounding high-tech entrepreneurial community. Bernthal was part of the small cadre that launched CU's New Venture Challenge, which recently completed its 16th year.

Silicon Flatirons works to propel the future of law, policy, and entrepreneurship in the digital age, and as executive director, Bernthal is responsible for leading the center's strategic direction and operations. Through its initiatives, events, publications, and student programs, he will continue to build on the center's work to catalyze critical conversations among diverse stakeholders and develop professionals ready to lead.

Bernthal received a BA from the University of Kansas and a JD from Colorado Law.

### What's been your proudest Silicon Flatirons moment to date?

It is special when Colorado Law alumni who were closely involved in Silicon Flatirons while in law school become expert professionals and return to bring along the next generation of Colorado Law students. Silicon Flatirons inspires a lot of this virtuous cycle. My colleague **Blake Reid '10** once was a student in the Tech Law and Policy Clinic, and then he came back to do a superb job as the professor running the clinic. More recently, **Ariel Diamond West '17**, now with DLA Piper, took on an outsized leadership role to plug current students into the D.C. technology policy scene. Similarly, **Meredith Ashlock '14** and **Bryan McCutcheon '11**, each of whom

were once students in the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic, last year did a terrific job co-teaching the ELC. I could go on and on. Bottom line: it is amazing to see how individuals stay connected to Silicon Flatirons over time.

### What are your top priorities for Silicon Flatirons?

My priority is to ensure that fabulous people—initiative directors, staff, and those in our network—want to be involved with Silicon Flatirons. In order to succeed, we must have leading technology policy thinkers, great innovators, and a terrific staff excited about Silicon Flatirons. Lorne Michaels, producer of *Saturday Night Live*, is a role model. Lorne continually identifies talent, provides a powerful platform, and is protective about the show's brand. My job, similarly, is to find and support great talent associated with technology policy and entrepreneurship, get leading thinkers into the spotlight, protect the Silicon Flatirons' brand, and otherwise get out of the way.

### What are the most significant ways you've seen the center change and evolve over the past 24 years?

Steven Wright has a great line: "It's a small world. But I wouldn't want to have to paint it." This pretty much sums up technology policy today. When Silicon Flatirons launched in 1999, the focus was narrowly upon telecommunications, especially competition in the phone network and the transition to digital systems. Fast-forward to 2023, and technology policy issues are everywhere in society. Silicon Flatirons' expertise, not surprisingly, reflects today's ubiquity of technology issues. We now have deep expertise in artificial intelligence (**Harry Surden**), privacy (**Margot Kaminski**), spectrum (**Dale Hatfield** and **Keith Gremben**), technology platforms (**Blake Reid**), and entrepreneurship (which I lead).



## CHRIS WINTER JOINS GETCHES-WILKINSON CENTER

**W**ith 25 years of experience in natural resources and environmental law, **Chris Winter** brings a remarkable track record in environmental advocacy, education, and policy development, making him an ideal leader for the renowned center named for two iconic figures in the law school's environmental law history, former dean **David Getches** and Distinguished Professor **Charles Wilkinson**.

In 2001 Winter co-founded a nonprofit law center based in Portland, Oregon, that represents public interest clients in federal and state courts across the Pacific Northwest.

He has won several challenging cases on behalf of grassroots organizations facing daunting odds and formidable opposition. Notably, Winter represented Alaska Native organizations in the U.S. Arctic, successfully protecting their subsistence activities from the impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration. He also served as lead counsel in *Rosemere Neighborhood Ass'n v. U.S. E.P.A.*, a landmark case that shed light on the EPA's inadequate investigation of citizen complaints under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. His litigation record includes numerous victories on a wide range of issues in federal and state courts.

Most recently, Winter led a national advocacy organization working at the intersection of outdoor recreation and public land management. He spearheaded efforts to restore Bears Ears National Monument, promote human-powered outdoor recreation, and conserve public lands.

Winter earned a BA from Cornell and a JD from the University of Michigan.

### What excites you the most about joining the Getches-Wilkinson Center and Colorado Law?

The GWC and Colorado Law have been leading the field of natural resources and environmental law for 50 years, and I am thrilled at the opportunity to contribute to that legacy of excellence for this community. I am drawn to this position by the mission, the people, and the impact of the GWC, and I can't wait to get started.

### What are your top priorities for the GWC?

The American West is facing unprecedented challenges in managing our public resources as

we confront the impacts of climate change, population growth, and the transition to a clean energy economy. I want to position the GWC to lead the innovation of natural resources law and policy to meet this moment while preparing the next generation of professionals who will continue this critical work in the years to come.

### You've dedicated much of your career to public land management, environmental justice, and representing Indigenous communities. What drew you to these areas?

I grew up spending time with my maternal grandparents, who were Japanese immigrants and farmers in Utah. I believe these experiences opened my mind at a young age to different ways that people connect with the land around them, which eventually drew me to learn more about environmental justice. When I started working directly with Indigenous communities in northern Alaska, I was inspired by how they navigated the complex intersection of climate change, resource protection, and their subsistence traditions.

### What are your favorite ways to enjoy the outdoors?

I've always been drawn to the mountains, a gift I inherited from my father and grandfather. I love climbing, backcountry skiing, and exploring vertical terrain.



## Reflections on Mark Loewenstein's 44-Year Career at Colorado Law

**S**ince joining the faculty in 1979, Professor Mark Loewenstein has been a steadfast member of the Colorado Law community, teaching numerous courses—including Contracts, Corporations, Securities Litigation and Enforcement, and Agency, Partnership and the LLC—and mentoring hundreds of students. He's served as associate dean three times: for faculty development, research, and academic affairs, as well as on numerous law school and university committees.

A prolific author and speaker in the areas of business associations, agency law, and securities law, with a particular interest in corporate governance, his widely used casebook, *Agency, Partnership and the LLC: The Law of Unincorporated Business Enterprises* (with J. Dennis Hynes '60), is used in business law school classrooms across the nation. As Professor Loewenstein nears retirement, we look back at his academic career.

### **What accomplishments over the course of your career have brought you the most satisfaction, and why?**

Occasionally a former student reaches out to tell me that I made a positive difference in their life. Sometimes that is a chance encounter, but regardless of the circumstances, I am always taken aback because the student generally is not one who came to my office for help or otherwise struck up a relationship with me. To have made a difference in another person's life is, at least in part, what teaching is all about. If we are committed to the craft of teaching—to be prepared, to impart our commitment to the law, to model competent and ethical behavior—you can reach students where they are and maybe make a difference.

### **How has the field of business law evolved since you began your career?**

Business law has undergone a revolution of sorts in the past 50 years (gasp!). When I started practice in 1974, businesses were organized as corporations or partnerships and the rules governing each were largely decades old. But that started to change at about the time I graduated law school, with the advent of limited liability companies. LLCs are now, by far, the dominant form of business entity. The law that developed around LLCs then triggered

**“To have made a difference in another person's life is, at least in part, what teaching is all about.”**

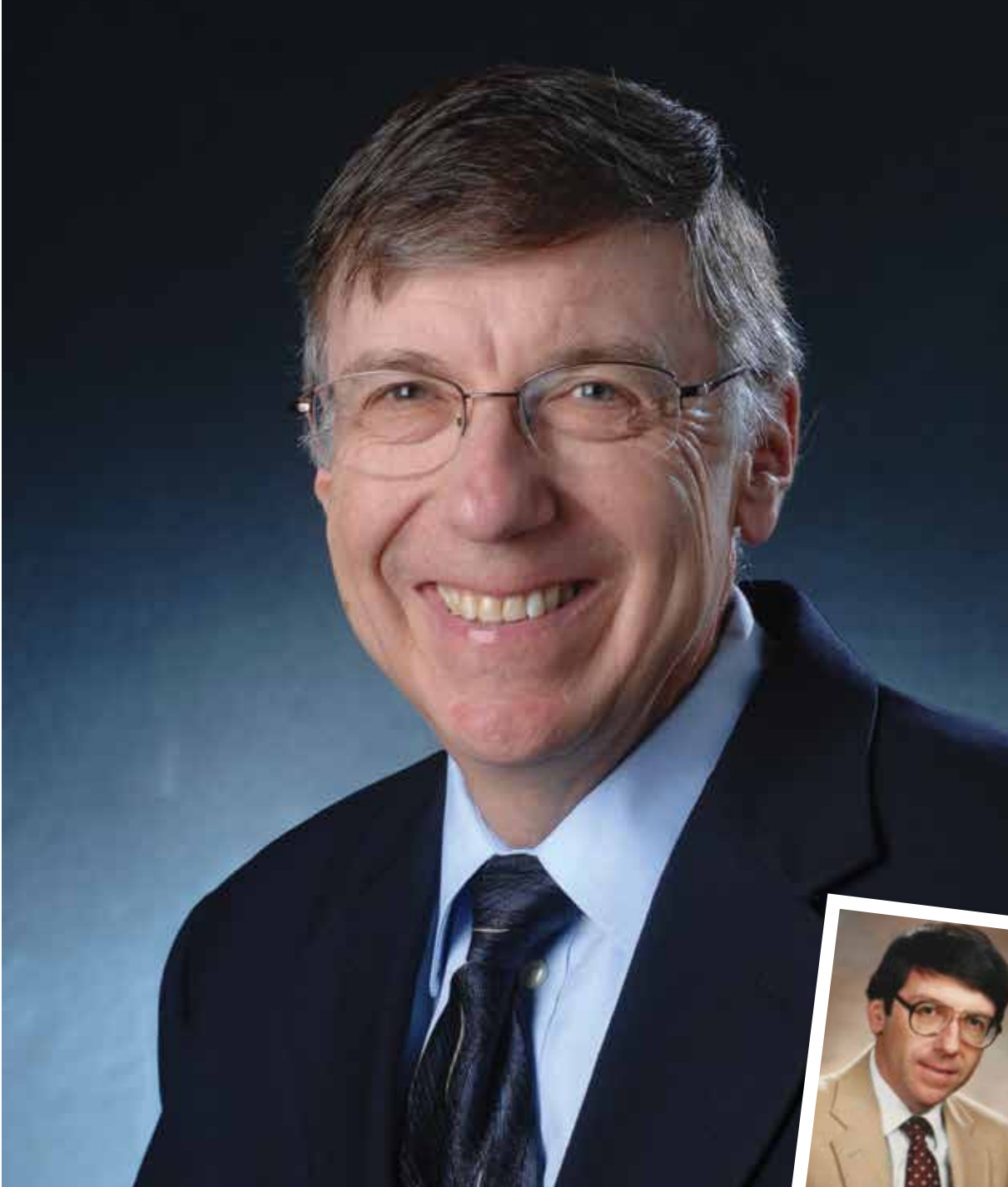
a change in partnership and corporate law that, in turn, resulted in significant changes in tax law and securities regulation. In addition, a number of new business entity forms (e.g., limited liability limited partnerships, decentralized autonomous organizations) are now available to entrepreneurs. I have been fortunate to be a member of the Colorado Bar Association business entity committee that drafted or re-drafted the Colorado statutes on these topics.

### **When you think back on your academic career, what memories come to mind?**

I have many fond memories: seeing my students graduate, launch successful careers, and retire before I do (!); watching the Wolf Law Building become a reality; teaching at Hokkaido University in Japan as a Fulbright lecturer; and meeting with several Supreme Court justices who visited the law school—Justices Breyer, Scalia, Ginsburg, Thomas, Stevens, Gorsuch, Sotomayor, and Kagan.

Another memory was one from the University of Michigan law school, where I was a visiting professor in the fall of 1999. I taught a course in business associations and had about 90





students in the class. One day I called on a student and she responded that I had already called on her. After a moment to collect my thoughts, I answered that I had already called on everyone in the class and she immediately responded that I had not. I then asked the rest of the students to raise a hand if I had not yet called on them. Naturally, no one did, and I told the student, "See, I have called on everyone. Now what is the answer to my question?" The story apparently got around Michigan quickly because one of my colleagues at Colorado Law had heard it from his son, who was then a student at Michigan.

#### **What does Colorado Law mean to you?**

I have always been impressed with the quality and decency of our students and the accomplishments of my faculty colleagues. I am proud to have been a member of this faculty and glad I never pursued the other opportunities that have come my way over the past 40-plus years.

#### **What are your plans for retirement?**

I'm not sure yet. I am a FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) arbitrator and may become an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association, so I plan to do some arbitrations. I will pursue some volunteer opportunities in the community. But mostly, my wife Linda and I plan to do some traveling, babysitting our grandkids, and enjoying the great outdoors here in Colorado.

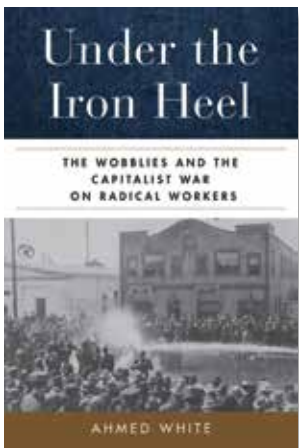
## Faculty Books

Looking for your next read? Check out the latest books by Colorado Law faculty.

### AHMED WHITE

*Under the Iron Heel: The Wobblies and the Capitalist War on Radical Workers* (University of California Press)

In 1917, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was rapidly gaining strength and members. Within a decade, this radical union, whose members were known as the “Wobblies,” was effectively destroyed, the victim of the most remarkable campaign of legal repression and vigilantism in American history. *Under the Iron Heel* is the first comprehensive account of this campaign.



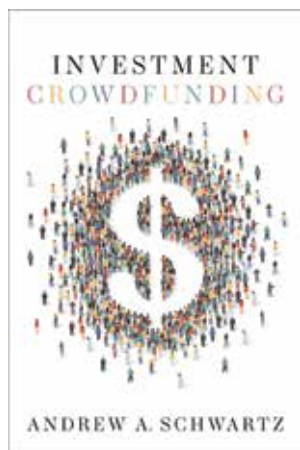
Founded in 1905, the IWW offered to the millions of workers aggrieved by industrial capitalism the promise of a better world. But its growth, coinciding with World War I and the Russian Revolution and driven by uncompromising militancy, was seen by powerful capitalists and government officials as an existential threat that had to be eliminated. White documents the torrent of legal persecution and extralegal, sometimes lethal violence that shattered the IWW. In so doing, he reveals the remarkable courage of those who faced this campaign, lays

bare the origins of the profoundly unequal and conflicted nation we know today, and uncovers disturbing truths about the law, political repression, and the limits of free speech and association in class society. The book was named the International Labor History Association’s Book of the Year Award for 2022 and received Princeton University’s Industrial Relations Section’s 2022 Richard A. Lester Book Award.

### ANDREW SCHWARTZ

*Investment Crowdfunding* (Oxford University Press)

Andrew Schwartz, a global expert in the field of investment crowdfunding and Fulbright scholar, presents a comprehensive guide to a new online marketplace for entrepreneurial capital. He marries theory with a decade of on-the-ground research to give lawyers, students, scholars, and policymakers a one-stop shop for everything they need to know about investment crowdfunding, its regulation, and how to improve it. Readers will find *Investment Crowdfunding* an accessible and engaging introduction into what is poised to become a household phrase.



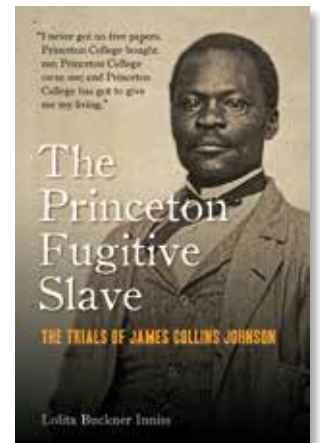
This book analyzes American law—in particular, the JOBS Act and Regulation Crowdfunding—and compares it to the legal regimes in the UK, Canada, the EU, Australia, and New Zealand. Schwartz’s prescription is liberal in the classical sense: policymakers should rely on private ordering and financial incentives, rather than law and regulation, to govern and police the market.

Constituting the definitive guide to the law and regulation of investment crowdfunding, the book provides a roadmap for policymakers to enact an effective regulatory framework for investment crowdfunding.

### LOLITA BUCKNER INNIS

*The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson* (Fordham University Press)

James Collins Johnson made his name by escaping slavery in Maryland and fleeing to Princeton, New Jersey, where he built a life in a bustling community of African Americans working at what is now Princeton University. After only four years, he was recognized by a student from Maryland, arrested, and subjected to a trial for extradition under the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act. On the eve of his rendition, after attempts to free Johnson by force had failed, a local aristocratic white woman purchased Johnson’s freedom, allowing him to avoid re-enslavement. *The Princeton Fugitive Slave* reconstructs Johnson’s life, from birth and enslaved life in Maryland to his daring escape, sensational trial for re-enslavement, and last-minute change of fortune, and through to the end of his life in Princeton, where he remained a figure of local fascination.



Lolita Buckner Innis builds a picture of Johnson on his own terms, piecing together the sparse evidence and disaggregating him from the other Black vendors with whom he was sometimes confused. By telling Johnson’s story and examining the relationship between antebellum Princeton’s Black residents and the economic engine that supported their community, the book questions the distinction between employment and servitude that shrinks and threatens to disappear when an individual’s freedom is circumscribed by immobility, lack of opportunity, and contingency on local interpretations of a hotly contested body of law.

*The Princeton Fugitive Slave* won the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Book Award, was reviewed in the New York Review of Books, and has been adopted for use in university classrooms around the country.

## JENNIFER HENDRICKS

*Essentially a Mother: A Feminist Approach to the Law of Pregnancy and Motherhood* (University of California Press)

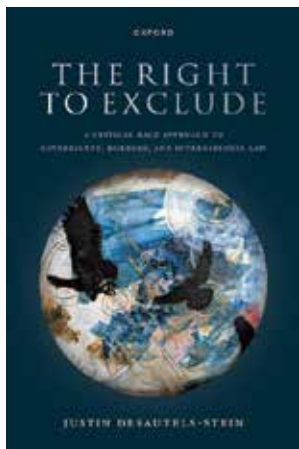


*Essentially a Mother* argues that the law of pregnancy and motherhood has been overrun by sexist ideology. Courts have held that a pregnant woman's nine months of gestation hardly count in her claim to parent the child she bears and that a man's brief moment of ejaculation matters more than a woman's labor. Armed with such dubious arguments, courts have stripped women of the right to abortion, treated surrogate mothers as mere vessels, and handed biological fathers—even those who became fathers through rape—automatic rights over women and their children. In this

incisive and groundbreaking book, Jennifer Hendricks argues that feminists must overthrow the skewed value system that subordinates women, devalues caregiving, and denies too many the right to parent.

## JUSTIN DESAUTELS-STEIN

*The Right to Exclude: A Critical Race Approach to Sovereignty, Borders, and International Law* (Oxford University Press)



In a world where racism and xenophobia are endemic, what is the role of international law? To the extent international rules are thought to have any relevance at all, the typical approach characterizes international law as on the side of racial justice. Human rights instruments like the United Nations' International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are paradigmatic, offering the world international agreements in which governments are directed to avoid racist behavior and promote antiracist action.

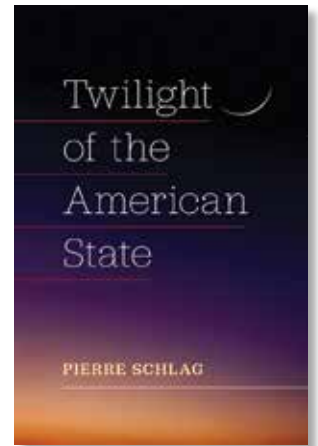
In *The Right to Exclude*, Justin Desautels-Stein goes against the grain and asks whether certain rules of international law might actually produce structures of racial hierarchy, rather than work to limit them. The intellectual fulcrum for this production, Desautels-Stein argues, lies in the ideological structures of sovereignty and property, the right to exclude that is shared in those twinned precincts, and the border regimes that result. Applying critical race theory to contemporary problems of migration, nationalism, multiculturalism, decolonization, and self-determination, Desautels-Stein expounds a theory of "postracial xenophobia," a structure of racial ideology that justifies and legitimates a pragmatic account of racialized foreignness, a racial xenos.

## PIERRE SCHLAG

*Twilight of the American State* (University of Michigan Press)

The sudden emergence of the Trump nation surprised nearly everyone, including journalists, pundits, political consultants, and academics. When Trump won in 2016, his ascendancy was widely viewed as a fluke. Yet time showed it was instead the rise of a movement—angry, militant, revanchist, and unabashedly authoritarian.

How did this happen? *Twilight of the American State* offers a sweeping exploration of how law and legal institutions helped prepare the grounds for this rebellious movement. The controversial argument is that, viewed as a legal matter, the American state is not just a liberal democracy, as most Americans believe. Rather, the American state is composed of an uneasy and unstable combination of different versions of the state—liberal democratic, administered, neoliberal, and dissociative. Each of these versions arose through its own law and legal institutions. Each emerged at different times historically. Each was prompted by deficits in the prior versions. Each has survived displacement by succeeding versions. All remain active in the contemporary moment—creating the political-legal dysfunction America confronts today.

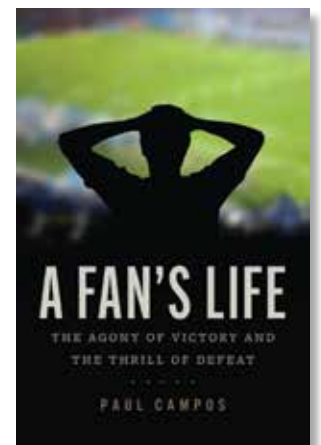


Pierre Schlag maps out a big-picture view of the tribulations of the American state. The book abjures conventional academic frameworks, sets aside prescriptions for quick fixes, dispenses with lamentations about polarization, and bypasses historical celebrations of the American spirit.

## PAUL CAMPOS

*A Fan's Life* (University of Chicago Press)

*A Fan's Life* dives deep into the experience of being an ardent fan in a world defined more and more by the rhetoric of "winners" and "losers." In a series of tightly argued chapters that suture together memoir and social critique, Paul Campos chronicles his lifelong passion for University of Michigan football while meditating on fandom in the wake of the unprecedented year of 2020—when, for a time, a global pandemic took away professional and collegiate sports entirely. Fandom isn't just leisure, he shows; it's part of who we are, and part of even our politics, which in the age of Donald Trump have become increasingly tribal and bloody. Campos points toward where we might be heading, as our various partisan affiliations—fandoms with a grimly national significance—become even more intense and bitterly self-defining. As he shows, we're all fans of something, and making sense of fandom itself might offer a way to wrap our heads around our increasingly divided reality, on and off the field.





# Lifting Up the Next Generation: The Impact of Scholarships

**B**etween flattened state funding, rising tuition, and record inflation, scholarships have never been more vital when it comes to attracting the best and most promising applicants and ensuring that deserving students can pursue a Colorado Law education. As tuition costs have risen considerably, it is more important than ever that we provide financial support to our students and make legal education as affordable as possible.

Following nine consecutive years of flat costs, Colorado Law's tuition increased by 3% each year in 2021-22 and 2022-23, and by 4% in 2023-24.

"Notwithstanding the very real fact that Colorado Law has one of the best tuition rates in the country for this amount of excellence, it is still the case that a number of our students simply would not be able to participate in this experience if they did not have the scholarships that were provided by our donors," said Dean **Lolita Buckner Inniss**.

Meet a few Colorado Law students and alumni who benefited from scholarships—and see the very real impact that scholarships have.



Pictured above: Scholarship recipients and donors meet at the annual scholarship reception.

## SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIVERSE LAWYERS

Colorado Law alumna **Ciera Gonzalez '20** is building a future as a leader in Colorado's legal community—and she credits scholarship funding with helping her get there. Gonzalez received the prestigious Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) Fellowship, a comprehensive three-year program that educates and cultivates leadership potential in students through scholarships covering law school tuition and fees, mentorship, and community engagement.

Growing up in Florida, Gonzalez always knew she wanted to be a lawyer. A love of reading fueled her desire, and she became the first in her family to attend college. When she visited Colorado Law, she knew immediately it was the place for her to spread her wings.

"I wanted the opportunity to see somewhere new and be on my own to grow independently. I was the first in my family to leave Florida," she said.

Gonzalez was part of the inaugural cohort of LILAC Fellows. Established in 2017, the program addresses diversity in the broadest sense by recruiting and developing students from backgrounds underrepresented in law schools and in the legal profession. LILAC Fellows are from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, have diverse cultural identities, or are individuals who have overcome significant obstacles. With their experiences, backgrounds, and accomplishments, LILAC Fellows have the potential to use their law degrees to be transformational leaders in law and community. To date, there have been 36 LILAC Fellows.

Gonzalez and her classmates had access to mentors, networking, and community that they might not have had otherwise. The experience instilled a sense that they could succeed—and thrive—in law school, despite not having an existing network of lawyers or extensive prior knowledge of the industry, she said.

"I came in with no legal background and no lawyers in my family to help, so it was helpful to have constant support and attention," said Gonzalez, who identifies as Hispanic and LGBTQ.

Twice each semester, local attorneys came to the law school to speak with LILAC Fellows

one on one. Gonzalez connected with Judge Alfred Harrell, who retired from the Denver County Court bench in 2016, and who's been a mentor to her ever since.

"Those meetings gave us a built-in network early on and helped create those social ties, which got us off on really strong footing," she said.

The legal profession, which remains predominantly white and male, continues to face calls to better reflect the demographics of the populations it serves. According to the American Bar Association, 85% of active U.S. attorneys were white in 2019. In Colorado, where people of color comprise 34% of the state's population, they make up just 10% of practicing lawyers.

This begins in law schools. But, in 2019, 62% of law students nationwide were white; 12.7% were Hispanic, 7.8% were Black, 6.3% were Asian, and 4% identified as biracial or multiracial (American Bar Foundation).



## “Alumni can take a lot of pride in contributing to LILAC and helping the next generation of diverse students find their way to the law.”

*Ciera Gonzalez '20*

“Being a LILAC Fellow taught me about the importance of diversity and committing to it. A lot of law firms preach about it, and all candidates ask about it in interviews, and the experience taught me how important it is to take action and have a voice in crafting DEI efforts at Snell & Wilmer,” said Gonzalez, who served on the firm’s hiring committee. “I’m passionate about spreading that in the community and supporting diverse candidates.”

LILAC also gave her the financial flexibility and freedom to explore her passion for the judiciary.

After graduation, Gonzalez went into Big Law, practicing general commercial litigation at Snell & Wilmer. A few years later, she wanted to explore a different area and so took a pay cut to transition to government work. She started as a clerk for Judge **Regina Rodriguez '88** in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado in fall 2023.

“Loans would have kept me in private practice for a lot longer, less able to explore other career options,” Gonzalez

said. “If I hadn’t received LILAC, I would have tried to make it work, but it would have dramatically changed the course of my career.”

Outside of work, Gonzalez gives back to the community as a volunteer with Law School ... Yes We Can!, where she mentors undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds who want to become lawyers.

“The enormous cost of higher education is a huge barrier for the sort of people we talk about wanting more of in the legal community. If you want more diverse viewpoints, but maybe don’t know the right path to get there, donating to LILAC is a great opportunity to create that diverse legal community in Colorado,” she said. “Alumni can take a lot of pride in contributing to LILAC and helping the next generation of diverse students find their way to the law.”

To learn more and donate to LILAC, visit [giving.cu.edu/LILAC](https://giving.cu.edu/LILAC).



### THE FINANCIAL REALITY OF LAW SCHOOL

\$100k

AVERAGE INDEBTEDNESS OF COLORADO LAW GRADUATES WHO TAKE OUT LOANS

140%

INCREASE IN LAW SCHOOL TUITION AND FEES FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS SINCE 2000

49th

COLORADO'S RANKING NATIONALLY (DOWN FROM 45TH) IN SPENDING PER STUDENT

FOLLOWING NINE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF FLAT COSTS, LAW SCHOOL TUITION INCREASED BY **3%** EACH YEAR IN 2021-22 AND 2022-23, AND BY **4%** IN 2023-24.



“While there are many hurdles to overcome throughout the law school experience, scholarships decrease the size of hurdles for us in at least one aspect.”

*Ricardo Zorce '24*

## ALLEVIATING THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF LAW SCHOOL

**L**ike many law students, **Ricardo Zorce '24** and **Mel Roeder '23** paid their way through law school primarily through loans. With the average indebtedness of Colorado Law graduates who borrow clocking in at a whopping \$100,000, choosing to take out loans is no small decision.

For Zorce, a first-generation law student who did not receive financial support from family members throughout law school, the thought of relying on loans to finance his education gave him pause—but he knew it would ultimately be worth it to pursue his dream of working in government.

“I wanted to go to law school for as long as I can remember. However, my decision to attend law school was set in stone when I was able to intern in a Georgia state court during my undergrad summers. The experience helped me really understand what it meant to practice law and showed me that the practice of law is a lifelong career of learning,” he said.

Between rising rent, tuition, and living expenses, he watched the numbers add up his 1L year. Then, as a 2L, he received a welcome reprieve in the form of a Law Alumni Scholarship, which allowed him to turn his attention

to his studies—extracurriculars like law review and serving as treasurer for the Latinx Law Students Association—and his passion for mock trial instead of taking on a job to help with expenses.

The Law Alumni Scholarship is composed of proceeds from the annual Alumni Awards Banquet, which has raised more than \$1 million to support Colorado Law since 2005 and supported over 70 scholarship awards.

A member of Colorado Law's national mock trial team and Barrister's Council executive board for mock trial division, Zorce recalls his most meaningful law school experience as competing in the American Association of Justice's National Student Trial Advocacy Competition in New Orleans. He also helped a team of 1Ls prepare for their first mock trial competition.

“I would not have been a part of it without the help of the scholarship,” he said.

The financial support showed him that he is not facing this burden alone, and that he has a community of alumni committed to supporting his journey through law school. While he grappled with the decision to go to law school and bear the costs of living on loans, the scholarship made him feel better about his decision.

"While there are many hurdles to overcome throughout the law school experience, scholarships decrease the size of hurdles for us in at least one aspect. Law school is a full-time job, and for students to have the best possibility of success, no student should have to work overtime at a second job just to pay for school and living expenses," he said.

For Mel Roeder '23, being selected for a Law Alumni Scholarship meant that their third year of law school was significantly more affordable, allowing them to turn their attention to public service.

"I went to law school because I am a helper by nature, and seeing the state of the world made me want to help make change, whether that be on an individual or large scale," said Roeder, a first-generation college graduate pursuing a career in civil rights and other plaintiff-focused areas of law.

With the reduced financial burden, Roeder was able to focus on their studies and participate in unpaid experiential learning

opportunities like the American Indian Law Clinic and Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic.

Experiences like presenting to the Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission, which works to examine the true history of Colorado and what led to the genocide of Indigenous peoples in Colorado, as a student attorney in the American Indian Law Clinic allowed Roeder the chance to interact with and learn from members of the Indigenous community—a highlight of their law school career.

"I believe scholarships are so important because they help foster opportunities like clinics," Roeder said. "Not receiving this scholarship would have meant years added to my repayment, and I am eternally grateful to the donors who made it and the other scholarships I have received possible."

For the majority of Colorado Law students, the need to take out loans is necessary to ensure they are able to obtain a JD. "Our goal is to recruit and support highly



Ricardo Zorce and his classmates at the American Association of Justice's National Student Trial Advocacy Competition in New Orleans.



qualified students with more financial support in the form of scholarship aid," explained **Kristine Jackson**, senior assistant dean of enrollment management.

"Law school is an extremely expensive endeavor to undertake, now more than ever, and scholarships help level the playing field and allow for students of all backgrounds to have amazing experiences like mine," Roeder said. "Any way to alleviate the financial burden of the next generation of our state and country's leaders will help promote the advancement and equity of all."





“Any way to alleviate the financial burden of the next generation of our state and country's leaders will help promote the advancement and equity of all.”

*Mel Roeder '23*



Colorado Law has more than 140 donor-funded scholarships. Find one that speaks to you and invest in a brighter legal landscape for the next generation of talented individuals:  
[giving.cu.edu/lawscholarships](https://giving.cu.edu/lawscholarships)

Mel Roeder presents to the Truth, Restoration, and Education Commission as part of the American Indian Law Clinic.



# Historic Hiring

**T**his fall, Colorado Law welcomed a record eight new faculty members whose wide-ranging expertise spans constitutional and immigration law, technology law and policy, environmental law, civil rights, gender and the law, and more.

“Each of these individuals brings with them remarkable intellect, teaching prowess, and commitment to our students,” said **Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss**. “We are fortunate to have attracted such talented scholars and teachers, and I have no doubt that they will make significant contributions to our community.”

## SHAMIKA DALTON

**Shamika Dalton** brings her expertise in teaching, leadership, and scholarship to Colorado Law, joining the faculty as associate professor and director of the William A. Wise Law Library.

Dalton most recently served as associate professor and associate director of the Katz Law Library at the University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Law, where she oversaw the daily operation of the Katz Law Library and taught legal research classes.

Dalton began her career as a reference librarian at the University of Florida Levin College of Law Legal Information Center in 2012 and rose through the ranks to become the associate director for public



**Above, left to right:** Blake Reid, Sarah Matsumoto, Vivek Krishnamurthy, Daria Roithmayr, Maryam Jamshidi, and Pratheepan Gulasekaram. Not pictured: Shamika Dalton and Wadie Said.

services and professor of legal research. She has dedicated her research and professional service to celebrating the contributions of law librarians of color, educating the profession about the importance of racial diversity, and advocating for cultural competency in legal research instruction.

In July 2019, Dalton received the Joseph L. Andrews Award for her book, *Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries* (2nd ed.). She holds a bachelor's degree in social work, Master of Library Studies, and JD from North Carolina Central University.



## PRATHEEPAN GULASEKARAM

Highly esteemed constitutional and immigration law scholar **Pratheepan (Deep) Gulasekaram** joins the Colorado Law faculty as professor of law. Gulasekaram's research focuses on the constitutional rights of noncitizens and federalism concerns in immigration law. He co-authored the leading immigration casebook used in law schools, *Immigration & Citizenship: Process and Policy* (West Academic, 9th ed., 2021). His book *The New Immigration Federalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) provides an in-depth empirical and theoretical analysis of the resurgence of state and local immigration lawmaking. He has also extensively explored the relationship between the Second Amendment and immigrants as a way of understanding constitutional protections for noncitizens.

Before joining Colorado Law, Gulasekaram taught at Santa Clara University School of Law. He has also taught as a visiting professor at Stanford Law School, Berkeley Law School, and University of California Berkeley, and as acting assistant professor of lawyering at New York University School of Law. Prior to academia, he was a litigation associate with O'Melveny & Myers LLP and Susman Godfrey LLP and served as judicial

clerk to Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. He dedicates his spare time to improving healthcare access for children in under-resourced communities through World Children's Initiative, a nonprofit organization he co-founded.

Gulasekaram earned a BA from Brown University and a JD from Stanford Law School.



## MARYAM JAMSHIDI

**Maryam Jamshidi** joins Colorado Law as associate professor of law.

Previously a member of the faculty at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, she teaches and writes in the areas of national security, public international law, the law of foreign relations, and tort law. Her scholarship focuses on the relationship between the private sphere and national security law as well as the law of foreign relations. In exploring these dynamics, Jamshidi's work draws on political and critical theory, as well as sociology.

Prior to joining the Levin College of Law, Jamshidi served as an assistant professor of lawyering at the NYU Law School. She also worked as an associate in several leading Washington, D.C., law firms, including White & Case, where she worked primarily on issues relating to national security and foreign relations law. Jamshidi clerked for the Hon. Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Jamshidi received a bachelor's in political science from Brown University, a Master of Science in political theory with merit at the London School of Economics, and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



## VIVEK KRISHNAMURTHY

**Vivek Krishnamurthy** joins Colorado Law as director of the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic (TLPC). He previously was the Samuelson-Glushko Professor of Law at the University of Ottawa and director of CIPPIC — the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic.

Krishnamurthy's teaching, scholarship, and clinical legal practice focus on the complex regulatory and human-rights-related challenges that arise in cyberspace. He advises governments, activists, and companies on the human rights impacts of new technologies and is a frequent public commentator on emerging technology and public policy issues.

Krishnamurthy was previously the assistant director of Harvard Law School's Cyberlaw Clinic and counsel in the global business and human rights practice at Foley Hoag LLP. He is a Rhodes Scholar and clerked for the Hon. Morris J. Fish of the Supreme Court of Canada upon his graduation from Yale Law School. He is a faculty associate of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, senior associate of the Human Rights Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and an alternate member of the Global Network Initiative's Board of Directors.



## SARAH MATSUMOTO

**Sarah Matsumoto** joins Colorado Law as a clinical associate professor of law, where she will lead the Getches-Green Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Clinic. She previously taught at the Willamette University College of Law, where she served as an assistant professor of clinical education.

Matsumoto was for three years a clinical fellow at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she taught in the Environmental Law Clinic. In that role, she supervised student teams working on oil- and gas-oriented permit challenges, water management, and concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) issues, and oversaw other advocacy efforts aimed at improving water and air quality in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Matsumoto also co-taught the clinic seminar and was a member of DU's Rocky Mountain Collective on Race, Place, and Law.

Before joining the DU clinic, Matsumoto represented plaintiffs in environmental citizen suits at a firm in Eugene, Oregon, where she was part of the legal team that brought the first successful Resource Conservation and Recovery Act citizen suit against a CAFO for polluting groundwater through its improper management of waste. Prior to attending law school, Matsumoto worked in research and development for an international coffee company.

Matsumoto is a graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law.

**“Each of these individuals brings with them remarkable intellect, teaching prowess, and commitment to our students.”**

*Dean Lolita Buckner Inniss*



## BLAKE E. REID '10

Already a valued and highly respected member of the Colorado Law community, Professor **Blake E. Reid '10** transitioned from his role as clinical professor and director of the Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic to associate professor of law on the research faculty. Reid will continue to serve as a faculty director of the Telecom and Platforms Initiative at Silicon Flatirons.

Reid studies, teaches, and practices in the intersection of law, policy, and technology. In his new role, he will continue to teach Telecom Law and Policy, Introduction to Intellectual Property, and other courses in Colorado Law's technology and intellectual property curriculum.

Prior to joining Colorado Law, Reid was a staff attorney and graduate fellow in First Amendment and media law at the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown Law. He also served as a law clerk for Justice Nancy E. Rice on the Colorado Supreme Court.

Reid holds a BS in computer science from the University of Colorado Boulder, a JD from Colorado Law, and a Master of Laws from Georgetown University.

## WADIE SAID

A widely respected voice in criminal law, human rights, and national security law, **Wadie Said** joins the Colorado Law faculty as a professor of law.

Previously a faculty member at the University of South Carolina School of Law, Said's scholarship analyzes the challenges and human rights implications of criminal prosecution and immigration enforcement. His book *Crimes of Terror: The Legal and Political Implications of Federal Terrorism Prosecutions*, the first comprehensive legal analysis of the criminal terrorist prosecution in the U.S., was published by Oxford University Press in 2015. He teaches courses in criminal law, criminal procedure, immigration law, and seminars on international human rights law and counterterrorism.

Said served as law clerk to Chief Judge Charles P. Sifton of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and as a litigation associate in the New York office of Debevoise and Plimpton. There, he helped coordinate the firm's pro bono political asylum program. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and serves on the board of editors of *Amerasia Journal*.

Said is a graduate of Princeton University and the Columbia University School of Law, where he served as an articles editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*.



## DARÍA ROITHMAYR

**Daría Roithmayr** joins the Colorado Law faculty as a professor of law. She teaches and writes about persistent structural racism and racial exploitation. Her 2014 book, *Reproducing Racism: How Everyday Choices Lock in White Advantage* (NYU Press), explores the self-reinforcing dynamics of persistent racial inequality. She is working on a new book, *Racism Pays*, which explores the way that recent innovations in the digital economy have relied on racial exploitation to get off the ground.

Before joining Colorado Law, Roithmayr taught for 17 years at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and nine years at the University of Illinois College of Law. She has also been a visiting researcher at Harvard University and a visiting law professor at the University of Michigan, Georgetown, and Yale.

Roithmayr received her BS from UCLA, and her JD, *magna cum laude*, from the Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a member of Order of the Coif and served as an editor of the *Georgetown Law Journal*. She clerked for the Hon. Marvin J. Garbis, judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.





## Korey Wise Innocence Project

# CLIENT WINS HIS FREEDOM

case in 2019 and embarked on a three-year-long journey to uncover additional evidence of Hogan's innocence.

"Immediately, Jason's case looked like a wrongful conviction based on eyewitness misidentification," Moyes said. "Although the victim positively identified Jason as the robber, she initially told police she did not get a good look at the robber's face. Plus, she reported that the robber had a sun tattoo on his left hand, and Jason had no tattoos on his hands."

Beyond the victim's problematic identification, the state had little evidence to convict Hogan.

KWIP learned that an identical robbery/kidnapping took place at the Cherry Creek Shopping Center five days after the crime for which Hogan was convicted. Because the two crimes and suspect descriptions were strikingly similar, the police concluded that the same man committed both crimes. However, police quickly developed compelling evidence that Hogan did not commit the second robbery, including:

The victim in the second case failed to pick Hogan's picture from a photo lineup and said that the man who robbed her was not in the lineup.

A fingerprint lifted from where the robber touched the second victim's car did not match Hogan's.

The second victim described another distinctive feature of her attacker—a heavily pockmarked complexion. This description did not fit Hogan.

"Eyewitness misidentification is one of the most common factors in cases of wrongful conviction," Moyes explained. "Nationally, 28% of all exonerations involve mistaken eyewitness identification. Human memory is highly imperfect and fragile. And, when people experience a stressful event like a violent crime, they are much less able to make an accurate identification."

Though due process required the police to share the exculpatory evidence about the second robbery with Hogan's lawyers, they failed to do so. Consequently, the jury that convicted Hogan never learned about the second identical crime and all of the evidence showing that Hogan was not the robber.

In 2022, KWIP shared this new evidence with the Conviction Review Unit (CRU) at the Denver District Attorney's Office. KWIP was prepared to file a motion for post-conviction relief based on the new evidence, but such motions can take years to litigate in the courts.

In a historic victory, Korey Wise Innocence Project client Jason Hogan was released from prison after receiving a 77-year sentence for a crime he did not commit.

Despite safeguards in our criminal legal system, innocent people are convicted of crimes and sentenced to years in prison. The Korey Wise Innocence Project (KWIP) at Colorado Law works to exonerate the wrongfully convicted in Colorado and advocate for reforms to prevent future injustices. The project strives to reform the criminal legal system with two goals at its forefront: to prevent wrongful convictions at the front end and to make it easier to correct mistakes when they do happen.

An integral part of the Colorado Law and CU Boulder communities, KWIP provides mentorship, training, and inspiration to law and undergraduate students through both hands-on legal work and passionate advocacy.

Reflecting on KWIP's impact on students, executive director **Anne-Marie Moyes** said, "Law students gain important insights through their work with KWIP. They see the long arc of a criminal case—from trial through every step of the appeals process." She continued, "They obtain a deeper understanding of why it's so important to have a competent defense lawyer and a fair prosecutor at each of these stages. After graduation, most KWIP students enter careers as public defenders or prosecutors, and they carry these important lessons into that work."

KWIP celebrated a monumental success last spring with the release of client Jason Hogan on May 9, 2023. Convicted of a robbery/kidnapping at the Cherry Creek Shopping Center in Denver, he was nine years into serving a 77-year sentence when the yearslong efforts of KWIP bore fruit.

Because Hogan's case appeared to be a wrongful conviction based on mistaken eyewitness identification, KWIP took on the



Jason Hogan (third from left) with Korey Wise Innocence Project staff and volunteers.

“We are really fortunate to be part of the Colorado Law community,” Moyes said. “Law students bring incredible passion to this work, and we’re able to take on more cases with their help.”

The CRU then offered to let Hogan enter an Alford plea to a lesser charge and be resentenced to time-served. By accepting the CRU's offer, Hogan was able to avoid a long court battle and return home to his family immediately.

Hogan's case is just one of a number of cases taken on by KWIP this past year and is the result of yearslong dedication from Colorado Law faculty, students, and volunteers. While there is still more demand for their services than they can satisfy, KWIP now has the bandwidth to take on complex cases and seek justice for more innocent clients. This capacity to take on more work was one of Moyes' goals since her tenure began as executive director in 2019. Over the past few years, KWIP has grown from a staff of two lawyers to six.

Moyes also made it a priority for KWIP to take on more policy work, hiring **Jeanne Segil** as the project's first policy director in 2022. In her first year on the job, Segil drafted KWIP's first piece of legislation—a bill to ease access to post-conviction DNA testing in Colorado—and got that bill signed into law.

Law students play an integral role in continuing this work. This past year, KWIP's Faculty Director **Ann England**

focused her Criminal Defense Clinic on innocence work. Eleven clinic students—all 2Ls and 3Ls—together took on five new KWIP cases. The students carefully reviewed trial transcripts and discovery, put together investigation plans, interviewed witnesses, and drafted motions. Some of their cases look very promising, and KWIP is hopeful about freeing their innocent clients.

“We are really fortunate to be part of the Colorado Law community,” Moyes said. “Law students bring incredible passion to this work, and we’re able to take on more cases with their help.”



In 2022, Gov. Jared Polis signed into law a bill written by the Korey Wise Innocence Project to ease access to post-conviction DNA testing in Colorado.



**Support our fight to end wrongful convictions in Colorado**

**Korey Wise Innocence Project Carnival Gala**  
Thursday, October 12, 6-10 p.m.

**McNichols Civic Center Building**  
144 W. Colfax Ave., Denver

**Guest speaker: KWIP client Jason Hogan**

SCAN TO  
PURCHASE  
TICKETS



# Celebrating the Best of Colorado Law

**M**ore than 350 alumni, students, faculty, and friends attended the 42nd annual Alumni Awards Banquet on March 16, 2023, a momentous occasion that celebrated the remarkable achievements and contributions of six distinguished alumni who have significantly impacted the legal profession and their communities.

New this year was a special expo highlighting various departments, organizations, and programs at the law school including the legal clinics, Korey Wise Innocence Project, Council for Racial Justice and Equity, Career Development Office, American Indian Law Program, and the Byron White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law.

With your support, the event raised \$136,045 for student scholarships, programs, and initiatives. Thank you!



Taking a brief pause from the presentation of awards, attendees were treated to a fireside chat with two Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) Fellows, Larrisa Alire '23 and Jemil Kassahun '24, who spoke with Caitlin McHugh '12 about their experience at Colorado Law, their goals for after graduation, and the impact of the LILAC Fellowship program.







**The 2023 Colorado Law Alumni Award honorees and Law Alumni Board members (from left):**

Caitlin McHugh '12, Law Alumni Board; Hon. Donald S. Quick '86, Distinguished Achievement—Judiciary; Bill Callison '82, Brooke Wunnicke Outstanding Mentor Award; Betty Nordwind '71, Distinguished Achievement—Public Service; Jennifer Evans '98, Distinguished Achievement—Private Practice; Beth Crane '79, William Lee Knous Award; and Michael Carrigan '94, Law Alumni Board.

Not pictured: U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse '09, Distinguished Achievement — Special Recognition.



## Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors

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## Dan Vigil '82 Gives Back

Throughout his many roles at Colorado Law—student, staff member, alumnus, and instructor—**Dan Vigil '82** witnessed the impact of the Dean's Fund for Excellence. That's why he decided to make a generous estate gift benefiting this important fund, which provides discretionary funding for the dean to support a range of initiatives.

"I know from experience that the Dean's Fund for Excellence is important; it allows the dean flexibility and the ability to spend money when and where needed," he said.



The Dean's Fund has supported students in crisis, such as those dealing with an unexpected death in the family or a serious illness, helped host prestigious speakers at the law school, and assisted with necessary travel for faculty to attend a conference.

"The fund is vital to the institution and to the dean," explained Vigil.

Vigil began his legal career clerking for a Denver District Court judge before entering private practice.

In 1984 he began teaching at Colorado Law, where he later became associate dean for student affairs. Vigil has taught Criminal Law, Legal Method, Legal Writing, Appellate Advocacy, and Professional Responsibility at Colorado Law and Water Law

and Legal Profession at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. In 2003 Vigil began teaching at DU Law, where he currently holds the title of assistant dean emeritus. In 2021 he received the Knous Award, Colorado Law's highest alumni honor.

"Teaching law at CU was a great challenge and a great honor. Being associate dean for student affairs allowed me to help students succeed and hopefully thrive. The experience was very rewarding and fulfilling," he said.

"I am remembering Colorado Law in my estate plan because the law school welcomed me as a student, a teacher, and as an associate dean. Graduating from Colorado Law greatly enhanced my life and career. For that I am grateful."

*To learn more about leaving Colorado Law in your estate plan, please contact Robert Garelick at [robert.garelick@colorado.edu](mailto:robert.garelick@colorado.edu).*

## Robert Garelick

### Named Assistant Dean for Advancement

**R**obert Garelick joined Colorado Law as its assistant dean for advancement on July 24. He most recently served as managing senior director of development in the University of Colorado Boulder College of Arts and Sciences.

"I am thrilled to be joining the law school, where I will be surrounded by a smart and driven faculty, staff, and alumni base who work to nurture and prepare students to be lawyers and caring individuals who will go on to serve society by protecting justice and human rights," Garelick said. "My goal as we grow the fundraising effort at the law school is that when people think of CU Boulder, the law school and our quest to better society are at the top of their minds."

A CU Boulder graduate himself, Garelick has been proud to call Boulder home for more than 20 years. Passionate about great causes and



## Sonny Cave '85: Doing What Is Right for People and the Planet

After an esteemed career as an ethics and compliance professional, including serving as founding general counsel and chief compliance and ethics officer at ON Semiconductor, **Sonny Cave '85** is giving back to the next generation of lawyers and business leaders at Colorado Law.

In 2016 Cave established an ethics and compliance endowment fund at Colorado Law to support programs, scholarships, and faculty to provide more avenues for students to get a head start in this growing profession. His recent gift to the Dean's Fund and the Sonny Cave Ethics and Compliance Fund Endowment will create even more opportunities for students to pursue meaningful and rewarding careers in both law and ethics.

"The concept of doing what is right for human health and the environment, even when that path requires going above and beyond legal rules and regulations, applies just as well to business practices and strategy," said Cave, who connected his background in planetary ethics with business while working in-house as Motorola's first environmental, health, and safety legal expert.

As a law student, he was inspired by Professor **Charles Wilkinson** and credits Wilkinson's guidance with teaching him how to dream big about ways to improve society.

"I wasn't able to take one of his classes, but I was determined to get to know him and experience his wisdom in my special fields of legal interest. So, I introduced myself and would regularly stop by his office, often unannounced, just to test

some of my far-fetched legal theories and ideas," Cave said.

One idea caught Wilkinson's ear—a novel way to interpret the definition of "navigable waters" to expand state ownership of the land beneath Colorado's streams and rivers.

"Professor Wilkinson listened with interest, and then with his patented smirk proceeded to say that while that was certainly some creative thinking, it wouldn't actually work," Cave recalled. "But rather than leave it there, he spent a lot of extra time with me then and throughout the rest of my studies to provide encouragement to me to keep brainstorming no matter how crazy it might seem at first, because that type of thinking would not only carry me far in life but also would bring currently unforeseeable benefits to society. Those words rang true for me way back then, and still do to this day."

Like Wilkinson, Cave is committed to inspiring and teaching the next generation of lawyers and business leaders. He hopes his gift will inspire others to give back.

"I sincerely hope that this gift will go beyond its original intentions in a way that will unleash a spark of inspiration and kindle a new sense of altruism and philanthropy in others to be kind and generous in supporting worthy causes," he said.



philanthropy, he joined the CU Boulder Advancement team in 2017 after working for several years as an executive director in the healthcare space.

Previously, he held leadership roles in the corporate sector, creating a 17-country network in metal manufacturing and developing regional sales teams in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

In addition to his considerable professional responsibilities, Garelick serves on the executive committee and as chair of the development committee for the Children's Diabetes Foundation.

### Colorado Law's Advancement Team

#### SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DONOR RELATIONS

Georgette Vigil

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Emily Nist

#### PROGRAM MANAGER FOR STEWARDSHIP AND DONOR RELATIONS

Lisa Parks

#### DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Marissa Zamudio



## LETTER FROM THE

# Law Alumni Board Chair Caitlin McHugh '12

Colorado Law alumni,

As I begin my new role as chair of the Law Alumni Board, I find myself reflecting on my time at Colorado Law and my experiences as an alumna. My experience with Colorado Law is defined by the relationships I built with classmates, faculty, and staff and the opportunities that Colorado Law afforded me.

Without a doubt, the best part of law school for me was the friendships and relationships I built in my three years in Boulder. Since graduating, I have been welcomed and supported by the larger alumni community. I feel genuinely lucky to have attended Colorado Law because of the people I have met as a result.

The opportunities Colorado Law provided me while in school and since graduating have been life changing. As part of the state's flagship university, Colorado Law is engrained in communities and organizations across the state. Like many students, I was fortunate to receive scholarship assistance. The financial support of the law school allowed me and many of my peers to seek out volunteer opportunities that taught us more than a classroom alone ever could.

I am heartened to see that Colorado Law's commitment to ensuring that all students have access to opportunities continues to expand. Those who attended the Law Alumni Banquet heard from two law students, **Jemil Kassahun '24** and **Larrisa Alire '23**, recipients of the Leaders in Law and Community (LILAC) Fellowship. Jemil and Larrisa wowed us with their dedication to making the law school better, their commitment to service in their communities, and their passion for their legal educations. They also acknowledged that without LILAC and the scholarship it provides, they would not have been able to attend Colorado Law. Our community is better and stronger because of students like Jemil and Larrisa and programs like the LILAC Fellowship.

Meeting students and observing the remarkable work being done across the law school underscores the importance of Colorado Law's unwavering commitment to building and supporting a talented, diverse, and engaged student body, faculty, and staff, and creating an environment where all members of the law school community can thrive. The Law Alumni Board continues to support the law school in these efforts and to expand opportunities for alumni to engage with the law school and law students.

As we begin the new school year, I invite you to begin, continue, or expand your support of Colorado Law. Donations to LILAC, the Dean's Fund, scholarships, and/or clinics; engaging with the law school through mentoring, mock interviews, extracurricular competitions; and promoting the law school in our communities and networks all help to ensure that the next generation of students have access to the same (or better) opportunities that made our law school experiences so impactful. The members of the Law Alumni Board and I hope to engage with our alumni community throughout the coming year. Mark your calendars for Homecoming (Nov. 2-4, 2023) and the Alumni Awards Banquet (March 14, 2024) for opportunities to gather and celebrate Colorado Law and our community.

Sincerely,

### Law Alumni Board

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

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

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

**Kristin Bronson '97**, Colorado Lawyers Committee

**William "Bill" R. Buck '83**, Exxon Mobil Corporation Upstream - Retired

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

**Sonny Cave '85**, retired

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

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

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

**Amy Devan '01**, Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP

**Alinka Flaminia '90**, Cadence Design Systems

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

**Tim Galluzzi '14 (Chair-Elect)**, Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC

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

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

**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

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

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

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

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

**Kathleen B. Nalty '85**, Kathleen Nalty Consulting

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

**David W. Stark '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



# CLASS ACTIONS



Norm Brownstein '68

## 1968

**Norm Brownstein '68**, founder and chair of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, was awarded the National Law Journalism Lifetime Achievement Award on Oct. 2, 2022.



Betty Arkell '75

## 1970

**Hon. Gary Jackson '70** was appointed by Gov. Polis to the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission. Housed within History Colorado, the commission is charged with developing programs and a plan for the official observance in 2026 of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. and the 150th anniversary of Colorado statehood.

## 1973

**Larry Farin '73** is happily retired in Lake Oswego, Oregon.



Anne Castle '81

## 1975

**Betty Arkell '75** was selected by Gov. Polis to sit on the state's Venture Capital Authority Board, where she will help Colorado entrepreneurs and startups access venture capital funding. Arkell, a shareholder at Robinson Waters & O'Dorisio, P.C., has a corporate and private securities practice serving a wide range of clients with venture capital, private equity investments, debt financings, M&As, corporate restructurings, and corporate governance matters.

## 1981

President Biden appointed **Anne Castle '81** as the U.S. Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission. Castle serves as a senior fellow at Colorado Law's Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment, focusing on Western water issues, including Colorado River policy and management.



Patrice Kunesh '89

## 1989

**Anne Kelly '89** was promoted to chief deputy at the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Kelly has worked for the New Mexico Attorney General's Office for 28 years and appreciates the opportunity to serve the citizens of New Mexico.



Kristin Bronson '97

**Patrice Kunesh '89** was sworn in as the commissioner of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans (ANA). The ANA was established to promote self-sufficiency and cultural preservation for Native Americans through training, technical assistance, and grant funding for economic development, cultural revitalization, and environmental protection.

## 1992

**Ann Edelman '92** was promoted to chief legal officer and vice president of compliance for Colorado Access and its subsidiaries and the Colorado Access Foundation. Colorado Access is a nonprofit health maintenance organization that partners with communities and empowers people through access to quality, equitable, and affordable care. Edelman also serves on the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors and on the Colorado Bar Association's Leadership Selection Committee. She is a participating member of the United States Equestrian Federation, the United States Dressage Federation, and the Rocky Mountain Dressage Society and competes her horses in the sport of dressage.

## 1997

**Kristin Bronson '97** started a new job as executive director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee on May 1, 2023. Bronson will oversee all aspects of the Lawyers Committee, a



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Visit our new digital Class Actions library at [colorado.edu/law/classnotes](https://colorado.edu/law/classnotes) to see what your classmates are up to and submit your updates any time of the year.

Please send your submissions via the link above or to [lawalumni@colorado.edu](mailto:lawalumni@colorado.edu) by June 30, 2024, for possible inclusion in the next issue of *Amicus*. If your contact information or communication preferences have changed, update them at: [colorado.edu/law/reconnect](https://colorado.edu/law/reconnect).



Dru Nielsen '97

nonpartisan consortium of 70 Colorado law firms dedicated to creating and increasing opportunities for children, the poor, and other disadvantaged communities through pro bono legal advocacy, negotiation, and litigation.

**Dru Nielsen '97** became a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America. The induction ceremony took place before approximately 525 people during the College's spring meeting. Nielsen is a partner in the firm of Haddon, Morgan and Foreman, P.C. in Denver and has been practicing for 26 years. She is proud to join her current partners and retired members Laura Menninger, Jeff Pagliuca, Hal Haddon, Saskia Jordan, Pamela Mackey, Lee Foreman, and **Bryan Morgan '66** in this fellowship.



Christine (Barr) Mastin '98

## 1998

**Christine (Barr) Mastin '98** joyfully announced her indefinite sabbatical from the practice of law last year and has become owner and operator of the Buna Coffee Company and farm in Holualoa, Hawaii. Though she and her family live on the farm full-time, she maintains an online management presence at Mastin Bergstrom LLC, which she founded in 2003. In addition, she volunteers at her youngest daughter's school and can also be found surfing in Kahalu'u.



Amy Parsons '99

## 1999

**Keri Arnold '99** joined Wilkinson Stekloff LLP as a partner. Arnold has over 20 years' experience defending companies in product liability, environmental, and complex commercial litigation.

**Amy Parsons '99** was named the 16th president of Colorado State University. Parsons served in executive roles at CSU in Fort Collins as legal counsel (2004-2009), vice president for university operations (2009-2015), and executive vice chancellor (2015-2020).



Craig Clark '03

Gov. Polis appointed **Sarah Wallace '99**, a litigation partner in Ballard Spahr's Denver office, to the 2nd Judicial District bench. At Ballard Spahr, Wallace handled litigation and arbitrations of all kinds, including trade secret litigation, breach of contracts, employment litigation, and asset purchase disputes.



Claire Havelda '05

## 2001

**Jon Ploetz '01** joined Applied Industrial Technologies as vice president—general counsel and secretary. In this role, Ploetz will lead the company's global legal affairs, governance and compliance activities, ESG efforts, and corporate secretary duties.

## 2003

**Craig Clark '03** was named staff judge advocate (equivalent to general counsel) for the 4th Marine Division. Clark is a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

**Brittany Kauffman '03** was named chief executive officer of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver. Kauffman has been with IAALS since 2012 and was appointed interim CEO in 2022.

## 2005

**Claire Havelda '05** joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP's, Real Estate Department as counsel in its Denver office. Havelda's experience in municipal planning and development in Northern Colorado gives her direct insight into the interpretation and application of land use codes, planning and zoning approvals, housing and transportation development, and historic preservation concerns.

After spending over a decade in-house, **Lydia Holzman '05** has joined the Boulder law firm of Hutchinson Black & Cook, LLC, as counsel. Her practice focuses on estate planning and business transactions, and she joins many other Colorado Law alumni at the firm.

**Ethan McQuinn '05** formed a law firm, Kane Dulin McQuinn Young, with fellow Colorado Law graduate **Travis Young '03**.

## 2006

**Nicki Cerasoli '06** was selected for the 2023 Colorado General Counsel Mentor Program, a two-year program designed to develop more networking and professional development.

Gov. Polis appointed **Keith M. Goman '06** to the Jefferson County Court in the 1st Judicial District. Previously, Goman was a member at Hall & Evans, LLC, where his practice consisted of civil litigation.

**Josi McCauley '06** received the Covino Advocate of the Year Award from the Colorado Office of the Child's Representative. McCauley, who practices in Colorado's 8th Judicial District, has devoted her career to advocating for the most vulnerable members of society.

**Karl Schock '06** was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. David J. Richman. Schock has served as an appellate assistant United States attorney for the district of Colorado since 2015; before that, he was a litigation shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP.

## 2007

**Kevin Bell '07** was elevated to counsel at Kilpatrick Townsend effective Jan. 1, 2023. Bell works from the firm's Denver office on the patent and trademark team, focusing on intellectual property litigation, including patent, trademark, and copyright matters.

**Affie Ellis '07**, a shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, was named managing partner of the firm's Cheyenne, Wyoming, office. A member of the Navajo Nation, Ellis counsels clients on public lands and natural resources regulatory and administrative matters. She is a former assistant attorney general for the state of Wyoming, where she litigated cases involving the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Forest Management Act, and Federal Land Policy Management Act.

**Darlene Kondo '07** joined Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as counsel. Kondo focuses her practice on intellectual property law.

**Alaina Stedillie '07** was named partner at Crowley Fleck PLLP in the firm's Casper, Wyoming, office. She is a member of the Tort Litigation and Commercial and Natural Resources Litigation Practice Groups. Stedillie also serves on the firm's diversity and inclusion, review and oversight, continuing legal education, and permanent civil rules advisory committees for the Wyoming State Bar Association.

## 2008

**Jim Manley '08** started a new role as state legal policy deputy director at Pacific Legal Foundation, where he has been litigating in defense of free speech, economic opportunity, and property rights since 2018. In his new role, he will work to enact PLF's innovative legislative solutions in state houses across the nation.

**Ryan Thomas '08** joined Landye Bennett and Blumstein in Anchorage, Alaska, as an associate attorney. Previously he practiced law in the Lower 48 and then worked for the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources before returning to private law practice. At LBB, Thomas will focus on real estate transactions, business law, working with Alaska Native corporations, and other transactional work.

**Doug Vilsack '08** was appointed as the new Colorado state director of the Bureau of Land Management.

## 2009

**Lindsay Brown '09** opened her own law firm with partner Kelly Meilstrup. Her practice focuses on Title IX investigations, school discipline, and other education and juvenile law matters. Brown recently

hired fellow Colorado Law alumna **Britta Kruse '09**, who spent the past 10+ years working in the appellate division of the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. Kruse joined the team as senior appellate counsel.

**La Kisha Cook '09** completed her term clerkship with Magistrate Judge S. Kato Crews. She is excited for her next opportunity and ready to put into practice her newly acquired skills as a trial attorney with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**Britta Kruse '09** joined 2nd-Chair after nearly 12 years sharpening her research, writing, and oral advocacy skills in the Appellate Division of the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. 2nd-Chair provides litigation support to attorneys.

## 2010

**Per Larsen '10** was elevated to equity partner at Holland & Hart LLP. Larsen's practice focuses on patent counseling and domestic and foreign patent prosecution for the electronic and computer arts.

In June 2023, **Kimberly Pryor '10** was awarded the prestigious Legends in Law Award as part of this year's Burton Awards. Held in association with the Library of Congress, the Legends in the Law Award is given to general counsel who have an outstanding reputation in the legal profession and a demonstrated track record of addressing complex matters of national or global significance in a specialized area. Pryor serves as general counsel at JBS Foods USA, located in Greeley, Colorado.

## 2011

On Feb. 1, 2023, **Taylor Bechel '11** joined the Boulder office of Berg Hill Greenleaf Ruscitti LLP as a non-equity partner in the Private Client Services Group. Her practice focuses on advising individuals and families on estate planning, probate, estate administration, and trust administration. Prior to joining Berg Hill, Bechel spent 10 years practicing high-net-worth trust and estate law at two AmLaw 100 national law firms.

**Stacey Shea '11** was promoted to equity member of Otis & Bedingfield, LLC. Shea's practice focuses on real estate and business transactions, including title review, purchase, and sale of real property and business-entity formation and acquisition.

## 2012

**Mark Gibson '12** joined Holland & Hart LLP as counsel in its commercial litigation practice. Gibson has a wide range of litigation experience including disputes involving renewable energy projects, insurance, real estate and development, and civil rights complaints.



Kevin Bell '07



Alaina Stedillie '07



Jim Manley '08



La Kisha Cook '09



Kimberly Pryor '10



**Kevin Giles '12** was elected partner at Holland & Hart LLP. A member of the firm's real estate team, Giles works out of the firm's Aspen, Colorado, office.

**Chester Fernández '12** started a tenure-track assistant professor of law position at Quinnipiac University School of Law in fall 2023.

## 2013

**Kevin M. Brown '13**, an associate in the San Diego office of Snell & Wilmer, has joined the Board of Palomar Health Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that supports the programs, services, projects, and growing needs of the healthcare district in San Diego. His primary area of practice is employment law. Brown was selected for inclusion in San Diego Metro's 2022 Men of Accomplishment, which recognizes men who have made significant contributions to the San Diego community.

**Sam Cannon '13**, a founding partner at Cannon Law, was elected vice president of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association.

**Adam Gianola '13** was promoted to counsel at Kilpatrick Townsend effective Jan. 1, 2023. Gianola works from the firm's Denver office on the electronics and software team, focusing on patent prosecution and counseling in materials, optics, software, and electronics.

**David Hsu '13** was promoted to counsel at Kilpatrick Townsend effective Jan. 1, 2023. Hsu works from the firm's Denver office on the electronics and software team. He focuses his practice on patent preparation, prosecution, and related counseling with technical expertise in biotechnology, clean technology, and semiconductors.

**Kelly Page '13** was promoted to shareholder at Recht Kornfeld PC. Her practice emphasizes complex cases with a focus on antitrust, white-collar defense, and other high-stakes criminal matters.

**Kelsey Shofner '13** joined the Dallas office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as a senior attorney in the corporate and securities practice group. Shofner assists business clients with corporate transactions, including entity formation and corporate governance, contract negotiation, mergers and acquisitions, and intellectual property protection.

## 2014

**Nathan Goergen '14** was promoted to partner at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. Goergen specializes in mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures in a variety of industries.

**Leah Gould '14** was named assistant dean for public service at the University of Virginia School of Law, where she leads the Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center. Gould has devoted her career to public service, first as an officer in the U.S. Navy and then as a federal prosecutor and assistant U.S. attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice following a clerkship after law school. Gould also co-founded The Brigid Alliance, an abortion access nonprofit that has raised millions of dollars and has helped thousands of people travel to receive abortion care.

**Amanda Hoberg '14** was elected partner at Woods | Aitken LLP. Working in the firm's Denver office, she focuses her practice on construction law and commercial litigation.

**Michael LaVigne '14** joined the boutique probate firm Glatstein & O'Brien LLP in Denver. He specializes in probate litigation.

**David Meschke '14**, a shareholder in the Denver office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, was appointed to the board of directors of the New Legacy Charter School in Aurora.

## 2015

**Michael Fox '15** was promoted to partner at Kalamaya | Goscha. Fox, a personal injury attorney, joined the firm in 2017 and has tried more than 30 personal injury and criminal defense cases with a judge or jury.

**Johnathon Intolubbe-Chmil '15** was elected shareholder at Lyons Gaddis Kahn Hall Jeffers Dworak & Grant, PC.

**Zach Siegel '15** was promoted to shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP. Siegel is a member of the firm's real estate department.

**Emily Thayer '15** joined McKinley Law Group, LLC in April 2022, handling criminal and domestic law matters for the firm's mostly immigrant and migrant clientele. She joined Colorado Law alumni **Tiago Guevara '16**, **Sabrina Yip '19**, and founding attorney **Ian McKinley '13** to round out this mostly bilingual legal team. Thayer previously worked at the Colorado Public Defender's Office (Mesa County) and Colorado Legal Services (Grand Junction).

## 2016

**Mike Simpson '16** was named senior counsel at Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP. Simpson works out of the firm's Denver office, where he handles complex civil litigation matters and assists its national insurance coverage practice.

Kevin Brown '13



Adam Gianola '13



David Hsu '13



Kelsey Shofner '13



Amanda Hoberg '14



## 2017

**Ayshah Ibrahim '17** joined the Public Finance & Infrastructure Practice in Greenberg Traurig's Denver office. Ibrahim focuses on public finance matters with emphasis on tax-exempt bond financing and serves as counsel in various roles on an assortment of tax-exempt and taxable financing transactions throughout the state of Colorado.

## 2018

**Riley Cutner-Orrantia '18** joined Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP in San Diego. As a real estate associate, Cutner-Orrantia represents developers and investors in all phases of the commercial real estate cycle.

**Shannon O'Keefe '18** became an equity partner at Johnson Law Group.

## 2019

**Ryan Mahoney '19** joined Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as an associate. He focuses his practice on corporate transaction law, including mergers and acquisitions and securities law.

**Andrew Neiman '19** joined the Denver office of Buchalter. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation and labor and employment.

**John Stenger '19** was appointed as Rio Grande County Court Judge on June 1, 2022.

## 2020

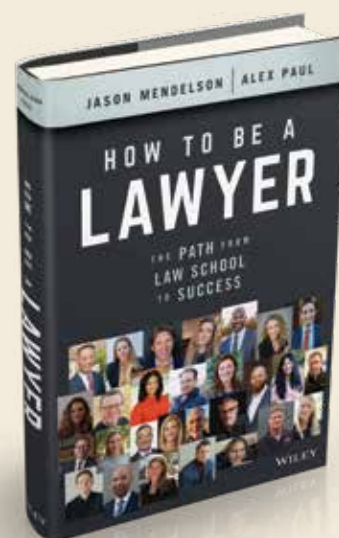
After a few years as a staff attorney in the trial division at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, **Stone MacBeth '20** recently moved and started a new job as a staff attorney in the Criminal Practice Division at The Bronx Defenders.

On May 12, 2023, **Adrian Untermeyer '20** moderated a panel discussion inside Manhattan's monumental Appellate Division, First Department courthouse considering the past, present, and future of our nation's judicial architecture against the backdrop of today's rapid social and technological change. The event was co-sponsored by the Historical Society of the New York Courts, and a recording will be made available on its website.

## Multi-Year Cohort of Colorado Law Alumni Contribute to New Book

A slew of Colorado Law alumni and faculty contributed to a new book, *How to Be a Lawyer: The Path from Law School to Success*, co-authored by longtime Colorado Law adjunct faculty member **Jason Mendelson**.

Contributors to the book include **Brad Bernthal '01, Stacy Carter '07, Tyrone Glover '09, Nicole Day '10, Ryan Day '10, Josh Fitch '17, Nicholas Troxel '17**, and former dean and current Colorado Attorney General **Phil Weiser**. With candid advice and mentorship about how to bridge the gaps between law school and the actual practice of law, the book has been hailed as a "must-read" for law students and new lawyers.



## Colorado Law Alumni Lead

The 2022 Colorado Bar Association's Leadership Training (COBALT) class included six Colorado Law alumni: **Hon. Vicente Vigil '08, La Kischa Cook '09, Hon. Lindsay VanGilder '09, Elaina Shively '10, Kevin Cheney '13, and Angela Vichick '13**. COBALT is a leadership training program designed for lawyers with demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to the legal community.

As part of its service project, COBALT 22 raised over \$18,000 for Mujeres de Colores, a nonprofit organization in Ft. Collins whose mission is to elevate women and children through education and leadership. The money raised benefited its backpack program which provides school supplies to kids in the Tres Colonias neighborhood.





**In Memoriam:**  
**Hon. Kristy Martinez**

Judge Kristy Martinez, who served as the first full-time director of Colorado Law’s Korey Wise Innocence Project, died on Feb. 21, 2023, from cancer.

Martinez joined Colorado Law in 2015 as director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project and taught Post-Conviction Criminal Procedure and Wrongful Conviction. She was instrumental in growing the program, building and leading a team of student volunteers to screen requests and correspond with incarcerated persons seeking exoneration and their families. In 2019 she was appointed by then-Gov. John Hickenlooper to the Boulder County Court, where she presided over cases with a deep sense of compassion and respect for all who appeared before her. She fought tirelessly for the rights of the wrongfully convicted and was an extraordinary teacher and mentor to the many students she impacted. In 2019 Martinez received the honorary Order of the Coif from Colorado Law for her outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

**In Memoriam**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Richard Anderson '49         | John McGuire '72                           |
| Edward Yaklich '49           | Linda Niven '72                            |
| Fred Mattson '53             | William Wickwire '72                       |
| Thomas Bruton '54            | Paul Brattfish '73                         |
| Donald Meloche '56           | Manuel Lopez '74                           |
| Rockwell Groves '58          | Steven Koeckeritz '75                      |
| Joseph Blake '61             | Ann Meredyth '78                           |
| John Overholser '62          | William Nagel '80                          |
| Charles Dolginer '63         | Robert Wheeler '82                         |
| Thomas Levine '63            | Frederick Swenson '83                      |
| Robert Backus '64            | Teresa Buffington '85                      |
| Lawrence Landwehr '64        | Joseph Bennett '86                         |
| Robert Lucas '64             | Jeanne Labuda '89                          |
| Robert Cutter '65            | Marc Milavitz '90                          |
| James Morrato '65            | Bonnie Jackson '93                         |
| David Dominick '66           | Patricia Dow '94                           |
| Richard Holme '66            | Garrett Spear-Smith '98                    |
| George Fewson '68            | Eve Canfield '02                           |
| William Redak '68            | Phil Hanceford '07                         |
| Gary Agron '69               | Shae Steven '07                            |
| William Fritzel '69          | Ashley Boothby '13                         |
| Philip Coolidge Heinicke '69 | Anna O'Brien '14                           |
| Dorothy Whitehouse '71       | Nate Moore '22                             |
| Frederick Charleston '72     | Mildred Danielson<br>(former staff member) |

*Deaths reported July 1, 2022 – July 1, 2023*



A young man with glasses and a plaid shirt is standing in a library aisle, holding a red book. He is looking directly at the camera. The aisle is lined with tall bookshelves filled with blue books. The lighting is warm and focused on the man.

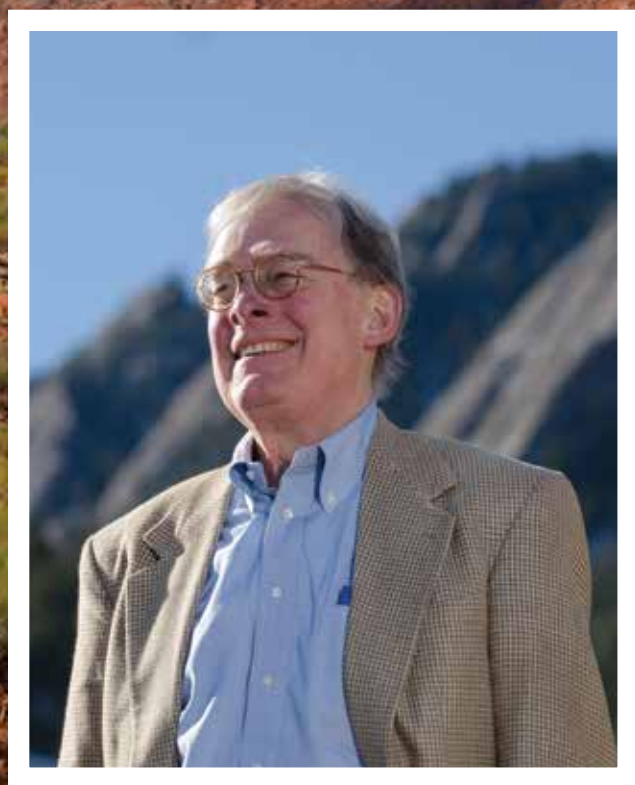
# REMOVING OBSTACLES SO WE CAN RISE TOGETHER

“Financial inequity has always been a barrier to the legal community. Scholarships and paid experiential learning opportunities open the door for students from diverse backgrounds—many of us wouldn’t be able to afford our educations otherwise.”

**Adora Bertero '25**  
Secretary, Student Bar Association  
President, OUTlaw  
Executive Board, Colorado Law Democrats  
Policy and Legislation Chair, Korey Wise Innocence Project  
1L Class of 2025 President

Give now and help create a brighter future for the next generation of lawyers:  
[giving.cu.edu/lawscholarships](https://giving.cu.edu/lawscholarships)

IN MEMORIAM



In Memoriam: **Charles Wilkinson**

# **A Trailblazer for Justice, the Earth, and American Indian Law**



**C**harles Wilkinson, Moses Lasky Professor of Law Emeritus and Distinguished Professor, died on June 6, 2023.

After graduating from Stanford Law School and practicing with prestigious firms in Phoenix and San Francisco, Wilkinson embarked on a remarkable career that encompassed teaching, writing, and advocating for the rights of Indigenous peoples and the environment. In 1971 he joined the newly formed Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in Boulder as a staff attorney, helping to shape the organization's pathbreaking advocacy for tribes. Together with the late Dean **David Getches**, Professor **Richard Collins**, and current NARF Executive Director **John Echohawk**, Wilkinson helped to secure landmark victories in tribal treaty rights litigation and establish a relationship between Colorado Law and NARF that endures to this day.

Wilkinson was a passionate and inventive teacher and mentor, educating and inspiring thousands of students and scores of colleagues at law schools throughout the country. As his colleagues and students would attest, Wilkinson left an indelible mark, not just on legal education and scholarship but on those attributes that are the very essence of the American West.

Most of Wilkinson's teaching career was spent at the Oregon and Colorado law schools, where his influence and impact were deeply felt. In 1997 the regents of the University of Colorado recognized Wilkinson as a Distinguished Professor, one of only 25 at the university. His gift for teaching and deep commitment to research were repeatedly acknowledged through numerous teaching and research awards throughout his illustrious career. Wilkinson was famous for hiring law students as research assistants and sending them out into the world to learn about legal problems. These opportunities were often life-changing, with dozens of his students going on to practice Indian law and public land law over the decades.



A prolific writer, Wilkinson authored 14 books, which stand as seminal works that shaped the fields of Indian law and federal public land law. These include highly regarded casebooks and general audience books, including *Crossing the Next Meridian*, which tackled pressing issues related to land, water,

“Charles Wilkinson was fully present in everything he did. His passion for advocacy was admired widely and revered by those whose voices he elevated. He was a creative and enthusiastic educator whose style infected his students with a fervor for the American West. He was a prolific and creative scholar and author who put difficult and novel ideas into words that enabled others to grasp concepts that had not been previously enunciated. Farewell, Charles. Thank you for sharing your zeal for life. Thank you for the difference you have made in so many lives. May those of us touched by him carry on his legacy of curiosity, warmth, and excellence.”

Don Brown '89

## IN MEMORIAM

the West, Indigenous rights, and the complex histories that shape our nation. His writings, marked by their clarity and profound insights, resonated with scholars, practitioners, and the public, making him an influential voice in legal and environmental discourse. He was an early thought leader in the field of environmental justice, seeing early on that the rights of Native Americans had to be considered at the heart of public lands and conservation policy.

Beyond the classroom, the written word, his work with tribes, and support for students, Wilkinson devoted himself to numerous special assignments for the U.S. Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Justice. His expertise was sought after, and he played instrumental roles in critical negotiations and policy development. From facilitating agreements between the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and the National Park Service to serving as a special advisor for the creation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument, Wilkinson's successes extended far beyond the confines of academia.

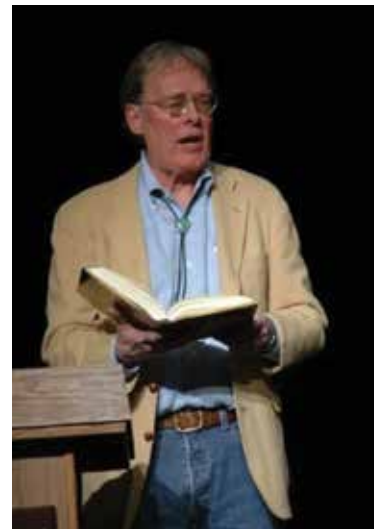
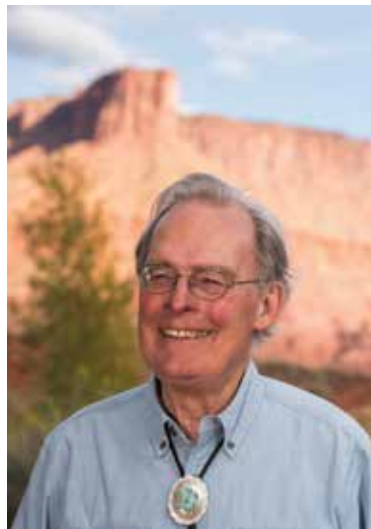
Wilkinson's exceptional achievements were recognized through a multitude of prestigious awards and honors. These accolades include the National Wildlife Federation's National Conservation Award, which acknowledged his unwavering commitment to the

preservation of our natural heritage. The Earle A. Chiles Award from the Oregon High Desert Museum celebrated his career-long dedication to the High Desert region, while the Twanat Award from the Warm Springs Museum recognized his tireless work in support of Indian people.

Wilkinson's visionary leadership and dedication to the Colorado Plateau were honored with the John Wesley Powell Award from the Grand Canyon Trust. Additionally, the Federal Bar Association bestowed upon him the Lawrence R. Baca Award for Lifetime Achievement in Indian Law, recognizing his profound contributions to the field. In 2021 the Colorado Center for the Book and Colorado Humanities honored Wilkinson with the Colorado Book Awards Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the literary, history, and legal communities in Colorado and nationwide.

Wilkinson's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come, as those who knew him directly and those who were touched through his work strive to emulate his vision, passion, and commitment to creating a more just and sustainable world.

To make a gift in memory of Charles to the law school, please visit [giving.cu.edu/WilkinsonMemorial](https://giving.cu.edu/WilkinsonMemorial).



**Top Left:** Wilkinson (left) and David Getches, former dean of Colorado Law, the namesakes of the Getches-Wilkinson Center at Colorado Law. **Top Right:** Wilkinson reading from his book *The People Are Dancing Again*. **Bottom Left:** Wilkinson (second from right), former dean Jim Anaya, Lakshman Guruswamy, and Kristen Carpenter. **Bottom Right:** Wilkinson (far right) with his Natural Resources Seminar class in spring 2013, which focused on the Klamath River basin of southern Oregon and northern California.

# Last Word

## Kevin Cheney '14



**Hometown:** Casper, Wyoming

**Professional title:** Managing Partner, Cheney Galluzzi & Howard, LLC

**Community involvement:** Colorado Bar Association Budget Committee, Colorado Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee and CLE Subcommittee Chair, Colorado Trial Lawyers Association Executive Committee, Board of Governors, and Legislative Committee

**Lives in:** Denver, Colorado

### What is your favorite part about your job at Cheney Galluzzi & Howard?

There are many awesome parts of my job. I would say the two best parts are who I get to represent and who I get to represent them with. Our firm does exclusively plaintiff-side personal injury law. I get to represent real humans who have been injured through no fault of their own against giant corporations and insurance companies. It's David versus Goliath, and I wouldn't have it any other way. My other favorite part of my job is getting to work every day with my best friend, **Tim Galluzzi '14**, and the awesome team of staff and lawyers we have built together. I am literally living my dream, and I am so grateful for that.

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

The importance of networking and relationships. To me, learning how to network and beginning to build professional relationships is every bit as important as the grades you get in law school. For everyone, besides those going into big law, networking may be even more important. I networked some while in law school, but if I had to do it again, I would be much more intentional about it. Whether you own your own firm, are trying to get a job, or are trying to make partner one day, who you know and how those people view you is incredibly important. Law students should focus on networking and building relationships until it becomes second nature.

### If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be?

Working as a public defender. I went to law school wanting to do public defense and got a small taste of that work, both through the Criminal Defense Clinic and through working as a public defender at the City of Boulder Municipal Court for two summers after law school. I am so proud of all of the people who do that work day in and day out. To me, that is the law at its very best!

### Who was the biggest influence on your career?

There are numerous people who have influenced my career, but I have a special place in my memory for my professors at Colorado Law. **Gabby Stafford** taught me how to write. **Ann England** taught me how to try a case in the courtroom. **Andrew Schwartz** taught me you could have fun while learning about the law. **Scott Moss** believed in us when my partner and I wanted to start our own firm right after law school and almost nobody else did. But the two biggest influences were probably **Ahmed White** and **Helen Norton**. Ahmed White taught me that the idea that lawyers are neutral mercenary-style warriors fighting for their clients is a lie. We have a moral responsibility not just to fight for what the law is, but what it should be. Who we choose to represent matters. Helen Norton probably taught me the most important lesson of all, which is that I am not nearly as smart as I thought I was, and intellectual honesty takes hard work and reflection.

### When I am not working, you can find me . . .

If I am not working, you can usually find me dancing to electronic music at Red Rocks or one of the many other awesome music venues in Colorado. Music is my passion, and I am so lucky that Colorado has so much of it! If I am not there, I am likely hanging out with my wife, Reena, and my giant Newfoundland, Pancake.

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

My partner is on the Colorado Law Alumni Board, so I stay pretty up to date with the happenings at the law school. But I would say my favorite way to stay engaged with Colorado Law is through judging mock trial competitions. Mock trial and moot court were such a major part of my law school experience, and it is wonderful to get to give back and help the next generation of trial lawyers sharpen their skills.



Would you like to be featured as the Last Word?  
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## Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

November 2-4, 2023

Classes whose graduation year ends in "3" or "8" will be celebrating reunions.

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



## 43rd Annual Alumni Awards Banquet

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Seawell Ballroom, Denver Center for the Performing Arts

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