

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief's Commission on the Legal Profession
From: Working Group D
Date: November 25, 2011
Subject: Projects for Improving Access to Justice

Working Group D has focused its efforts on access to justice, **with the aim of improving both *pro bono* services and *pro se* resources**. These projects, explained more fully below, are:

1. Seeking opportunities to promote CBA's *Make History Colorado* campaign
2. Contributing to the access to justice efforts of Colorado Legal Services, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, the CBA's Access to Justice Local Support Committee, and others

Promoting CBA's *Make History Colorado* Campaign

Working Group D received a presentation about the *Make History Colorado* campaign, which was launched in October by the Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. The program's goal is to highlight *pro bono* opportunities throughout the state and to link lawyers to those opportunities. The program also seeks to educate lawyers about historically significant cases that were done *pro bono*, and to encourage lawyers to take a *pro bono* case and make history themselves. A short video about the campaign can be found at www.makehistorycolorado.org, and will be shown at the Commission meeting.

Working Group D believes the *Make History Colorado* campaign is worthwhile for several reasons:

- It appeals to lawyers' ideals about *pro bono* services and furthers the Commission's goals of encouraging lawyers to do more *pro bono* and enhancing the public's perception of lawyers and the legal system;
- It offers resources to help lawyers integrate *pro bono* services into their practice, such as links to Colo. R. Prof. Conduct Rule 6.1, to sample *pro bono* policies for law firms, to the Colorado Supreme Court *pro bono* initiative, and to the application for CLE credit for *pro bono* work;
- It provides a single online location for information about *pro bono* opportunities throughout the state; and
- It has the organizational support of the Colorado Bar Association, and the institutional support of the Colorado Access to Justice Commission.

For these reasons, Working Group D would like to pursue opportunities to promote the *Make History Colorado* campaign, such as sharing information about the campaign with the Commission and with the other Working Groups. In this regard, David Stark would like to meet with members of the Colorado Access to Justice Commission and would like to designate a member of Working Group D to directly assist the *Make History Colorado* campaign in its efforts.

Contributing to the Access to Justice Efforts of Well-Established Organizations

Working Group D has gathered information from Colorado Legal Services and the CBA's Access to Justice Local Support Committee about their efforts in the area of access to justice. As part of these efforts, Mimi Tsankov met with Jonathan Asher, Executive Director of Colorado Legal Services. Judge Tsankov then prepared and provided Working Group D with a memorandum detailing her research and findings. That memorandum is attached here. Much of this information concerns *pro bono* opportunities available to lawyers, and thus overlaps with the information gathered on the *Make History Colorado* website.

Judge Tsankov also participated in a telephone conference with the CBA's Access to Justice Local Support Committee. That telephone conference concerned the online resources available on the CBA's website. Through Judge Tsankov's investigation, Working Group D has learned that local access to justice committees are concerned with the availability of not only *pro bono* legal services but also developing those resources for *pro se* parties. Working Group D is particularly interested in efforts such as the development of self-help resource centers in the courthouses and efforts to train public library staff about the self-help forms available on the Colorado Supreme Court website.

Next Steps to Improving Both *Pro Bono* Services and *Pro Se* Resources

Working Group D is just beginning its involvement with *Making History Colorado* and these access to justice organizations, and its next steps include meeting with members of the Colorado Access to Justice Committee and several local access to justice committees to improve both *pro bono* services and *pro se* resources.

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Stark, Chair, Working Group D
Commission on the Legal Profession

FROM: Mimi E. Tsankov, Member Working Group D
Federal Bar Association Liaison Member
Commission on the Legal Profession

DATE: October 25, 2011

RE: Working Group D Background Research – Access to Justice

This memorandum will serve three purposes. First, it will provide context for the Working Group's decision to schedule a meeting with Jonathan D. Asher, Executive Director, Colorado Legal Services ("CLS"), and present notes of that meeting. The stated purpose of the meeting was to gain further clarification about the nature of the Access to Justice ("ATJ") programs currently in place, and to receive suggestions about formulating recommendations about how to improve ATJ programs. Second, it will forward background materials submitted by CLS, to the Working Group. Third, it will provide some general background information about ATJ programs in the State of Colorado, which was assembled in preparation for the meeting with Mr. Asher, and is being submitted here to provide context within which to understand his comments and suggestions.

I. Colorado Legal Services Meeting Notes

The State of Colorado, under the auspices of the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, has been actively studying the issue of ATJ. The Colorado Access to Justice Commission is an independent entity formed in 2003 with the support of the Colorado Supreme Court, the Colorado Bar Association and the Statewide Legal Services Group. It is comprised of twenty members. Staff assistance for the Access to Justice Commission is provided by the Colorado Bar Association. The group's mission is to develop, coordinate and implement policy initiatives to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters for persons who encounter barriers in gaining access to Colorado's civil justice system.¹

In January 2008, it released a comprehensive report entitled, "The Justice Crisis in Colorado: A Report on the Civil Legal Needs of the Indigent in Colorado."² That study reflects the following:

¹Colorado Bar Association, available at <http://www.cobar.org/page.cfm/ID/20129>.

²Colorado Access to Justice Commission, "The Justice Crisis in Colorado: A Report on the Civil Legal Needs of the Indigent in Colorado," January 2008, available at http://www.cobar.org/repository/Access%20to%20Justice/08ATJ_FULLReport.pdf, and attached hereto (without Exhibits), as Attachment A.

Colorado faces a serious crisis in civil legal representation of the indigent. Many Coloradans who need legal assistance to secure and maintain health care, housing, custody or other necessities do not receive help because there are too few lawyers at Colorado Legal Services (“CLS”), Colorado’s statewide legal aid program.³

CLS provides civil legal services for the indigent. The report explains that CLS’ annual funding levels are determined by the Colorado General Assembly. Recent funding levels reflect decreasing financial support being provided to Colorado Legal Services.

The report reflects that state funding levels are well below the national average, and have not reflected increases since 2002. The report documents a state-wide growing and, as of yet, unmet need for civil legal assistance. It documents an ever-shrinking pool of assistance capacity, financial support, amid a growing population. Moreover, it reflects a “widening gap between the need for legal services and the resources available to meet that need.”

On October 13, 2011, Jonathan D. Asher, Executive Director, Colorado Legal Services, and I met to discuss CLS and Colorado ATJ programs, in general. Following is a summary of our discussion.

- A. CLS’ mission “is to provide meaningful access to high quality, civil legal services in the pursuit of justice for as many low-income persons and members of vulnerable populations throughout Colorado as possible.” He stated that funding for the program is through the Family Violence Victim Fund. Funding levels in 2009 were about \$900,000. In 2011, funding levels were reduced to about \$600,000. He explained that public funds provided for Pro Bono Services are somewhat limited when compared to those allocated in other states. For example, in the State of New Mexico, funding levels for similar services are at about \$2,000,000.
- B. He stated that one approach to evaluating programs would be to discern the impact that the programs have in terms of meeting the unmet needs of the Colorado indigent population. For example, he recommended contacting the following individuals and organizations with special interest in certain needy populations:
 - 1. Ilene Blume, Esq., President of the Denver Bar Association – This organization focuses on working with needy children.
 - 2. Stephanie Villafuerte, Esq., Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center – This program focuses on guardian ad litem work.
 - 3. Diane Van Voorhees, Esq., Executive Director, Metro Volunteer Lawyers – This organization focuses on the regular needs of the poor, such as eviction, uninsured motorist claims, wage claims,

³ Id. at 5.

and housing court. This program addresses about 1000 – 1200 cases per year.

4. Connie Talmage, Esq., Executive Director, Colorado Lawyers Committee - The focus of this organization is on high-profile matters handled by large law firms.
 5. Kathleen M. Schoen, Director, Local Bar Relations & Access to Justice, Colorado Bar Association - The department supports the CBA's Availability of Legal Services Committee as well as local efforts. Ms. Schoen is responsible for coordinating programs throughout the state.
 6. The Honorable Daniel Taubman, Chair, Access to Justice Commission. There are local Access to Justice Commissions in every judicial district.
- C. He recommended joining the conference calls of these organizations to get an idea about the issues with which they are grappling.
- D. He suggested that we review some of the scholarly works of Professor Deborah L. Rhode Director, Stanford Center on the Legal Profession. Professor Rhode is a leading scholar in the fields of legal ethics and public policy. He states that she has written some thoughtful books about ATJ efforts nationally.
- E. He suggested that an effective program could be one that incorporates national, state, and local efforts. I asked his view about the American Bar Association's ("ABA") national programs. I mentioned that recently, the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono has partnered with Kids In Need of Defense ("KIND") to serve the unmet immigration legal needs of migrant children nationally. This is a well-funded national service program that provides mentorship opportunities to attorneys that wish to undertake a pro bono immigration case. He suggested that the Working Group consider the size of the population that this group serves in determining whether further consideration is warranted.
- F. He noted the difference between mentoring of young attorneys and the concept of legal work supervision. He suggested that the best mentoring programs aren't those that are formed artificially, but rather are those that form naturally when mentors are invested in an individual's success.

II. Colorado Legal Services Documents Submitted

Mr. Asher presented to the Working Group four documents to assist in our research.

- A. Two-Page Spreadsheet reflecting Coordinators for various Pro Bono programs throughout Colorado, attached hereto as Attachment B;
- B. Colorado Legal Services, Private Attorney, Involvement Plan 2010, attached hereto as Attachment C;
- C. Denver Bar Association, Law Related Volunteer Opportunities Pamphlet; attached hereto as Attachment D; and
- D. Colorado Legal Services Brochure describing terms of assistance, attached hereto as Attachment E.

III. Colorado Access to Justice Programs

In preparation for the meeting with Mr. Asher, I assembled the following list of organizations and programs that reflects a cursory review of various ATJ programs currently in place in Colorado.

The central repository of information related to ATJ programs in the state resides with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. Following is a cursory review of these programs.

- A. Denver Metro Area Access to Justice Programs⁴
 - 1. Bar Association Clinics
 - a. Legal Night at Mi Casa - Attorneys provide information, and make referrals to appropriate agencies, in areas of immigration, credit, housing, landlord/tenant issues, employment and family law.
 - b. El Centro de San Juan Diego - Volunteer attorneys provide information and advice in credit, housing, landlord tenant, employment and family law. Attorneys provide referrals to appropriate agencies.
 - c. Bankruptcy Clinic, Bankruptcy Court - Attorneys review bankruptcy process and forms, including how bankruptcy can eliminate debts, difference between Chapter 7 and Chapter 13, effect on credit ratings, and forms required for filing; also address issues relating to creditor harassment and contacts by collection agents.
 - d. Small Claims Clinic, Denver County Court, Civil Division - Informational clinics on filing small claims cases and collecting on judgments are offered at various County courts.
 - e. Doing Your Own Divorce Clinics - County Informational clinics providing overview of divorce process, including procedures and forms, child custody, child support, maintenance and property division.

⁴ This list is maintained by the Colorado Access to Justice Commission and is available at <http://www.cobar.org/repository/Access%20to%20Justice/ProBonoOpps2009v.2.pdf>.

2. Pro Bono Opportunities for Lawyers

- a. Lawline 9 - KUSA-TV Channel 9 provides a community call-in program. Over 200 attorneys volunteer to staff this event every Wednesday evening, and on special occasions, additional early morning.
- b. El Centro Humanitario - Denver's first day laborer organization that protects the rights of vulnerable day laborer populations through an employment program, a legal program, and other educational programs.
- c. Family Tree Women in Crisis – This organization serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- d. First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program - This program provides free and low-cost legal information, advice, and representation to senior citizen residing in Jefferson and Gilpin counties.
- e. Longmont Ending Domestic Violence Initiative (LEVI) - This is a coalition of 23 agencies in the Longmont and Boulder area that deals with domestic violence issues.
- f. Metro Volunteer Lawyers - This organization uses attorneys to assist low income residents of the seven county metropolitan Denver area including Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert counties and the First Judicial District. MVL accepts only civil cases that are not fee-generating. Cases include domestic relations, divorce, parental rights, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant. MVL also conducts family law and pro-se divorce workshops.
- g. Project Safeguard - Family law attorneys provide assistant to domestic violence victims seeking permanent civil protection orders and dissolution of marriage or allocation of parental responsibilities.
- h. Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center - RMCLC provides legal representation for children, primarily abused and neglected children, in dependency and neglect cases in juvenile court. The Center operates in partnership with the Denver Department of Human Services. The Law Center trains and supports attorneys who provide legal representation for cutting edge programs that serve and support children and families at risk. RMCLC offers a domestic violence program, foster parent program, and legal clinic for homeless youth.
- i. Rocky Mountain Survivors' Center - RMSC is a non-profit organization that works with survivors of torture and war trauma.

B. Colorado Access to Justice Programs serving specific communities

- a. Alpine Legal Services, Inc. - This organization provides information and referral, pro bono attorneys, legal information rights, do-it-yourself divorce class, landlord-tenant, elder law, and emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence. ALS serves Garfield, Pitkin and Eagle counties.
- b. Alternative Horizons - Serving the Durango community, this organization provides legal representation to people experiencing domestic violence in divorce, child custody, and post decree cases.
- c. Catholic Charities - This organization represents indigent clients on immigration matters in Eagle, Vail, Garfield and Pitkin counties.
- d. Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Program - This organization assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys.
- e. El Paso County Pro Bono Project - This program assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys.
- f. Heart of the Rockies Bar Association Pro Bono Program - This program assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys.
- g. Larimer County Bar Association Pro Bono Program - This program assists low income individuals who are financially over-qualified for Colorado Legal Aid, but who are still within the federal poverty guidelines and unable to afford legal representation.
- h. Mesa County Pro Bono Project - This program assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys.
- i. Northeast Colorado Legal Services, Inc. (NECLS) Pro Bono Program - This organization assists applicants with preparation of court documents to foster understanding of the legal process. It serves Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties.
- j. Northwest Colorado Legal Services – NWCLS has state offices as follows, and provides legal services within their areas of responsibility:
 - i. Frisco, Colorado, counties served, Clear Creek, Pitkin, Summit
 - ii. Gunnison, Colorado, county served, Gunnison, contact Candace Sparks
 - iii. Hayden, Colorado, counties served, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt
 - iv. Leadville, Colorado, counties served, Eagle, Lake,
- k. Pueblo County Bar Pro Bono Project – This program involves participation in Lawyer Night, Ask-A-Lawyer, Clinics, and Radio-

TV presentations on legal issues. Actual cases are referred to Colorado Legal Services.

- l. San Luis Valley Pro Bono Project - This program assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys, and serves Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties.
- m. Southwest Bar Volunteer Legal Aid, Inc. - SWBVLA provides advisory and direct client services in the areas of family, employment, consumer, housing, elder, public benefits and probate law. SWBVLA serves La Plata, San Juan, and Archuleta counties as well as Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain.
- n. Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid - UVLA refers civil pro bono cases in Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, as well as referring pro bono for senior citizens in Delta, Gunnison and Hinsdale counties.
- o. Weld County Legal Services- This program represents qualified residents in civil cases at no charge.

C. State-wide Access to Justice Programs

- a. Asian Pacific Development Center - This organization provides a variety of human services to the Asian/Pacific population in Colorado.
- b. Colorado Lawyers Committee - This is a consortium of 50 Denver-area law firms that do high impact pro bono work, and serves children, indigent, and other disadvantaged communities.
- c. Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion - This organization focuses on providing health care services to members of Colorado's Asian community. The group provides volunteer attorneys who may be able to assist clients in securing benefits.
- d. Colorado Legal Services - This organization provides legal advice and representation to low income eligible persons and seniors in civil matters throughout the state. There are 15 offices throughout Colorado.
- e. Colorado Organization for Victims' Assistance - This program offers *pro bono* assistance to enforce victims' rights.
- f. Holocaust Survivors' Reparations Program - Volunteer attorneys identify survivors and help people get their share of the available German government compensation.
- g. The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People - This program opens up the legal system to those who would otherwise be unable to voice their needs because of the complexity of the service bureaucracy, their disability or because they are unable to act on their own behalf.

- h. Local Access to Justice Committees - Judicial Districts have formed Local Access to Justice Committees to provide targeted legal assistance to its residents.
- i. Nonprofit Legal Assistance Planning Committee - This organization provides a mechanism for transactional lawyers to provide pro bono assistance to Colorado nonprofits which require pro bono legal assistance.
- j. Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network - This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal information and representation to non-citizens detained by the Department of Homeland Security and lacking access to legal counsel.
- k. Seniors Inc. - This group serves as volunteer expert in an area of interest to seniors, such as reverse mortgages, financial planning, estate planning, long-term care.

IV. American Bar Association, Center for Pro Bono

The American Bar Association, Center for Pro Bono, provides technical assistance on promoting and developing pro bono to the legal profession, including individual attorneys, law firms, law schools, bar associations, and nonprofit organizations providing pro bono legal services. An example of the type of partnership that they pursue is their recent selection of Kids in Need of Defense (“KIND”) for their primary national focus for the next couple of years. KIND was founded by the Microsoft Corporation and actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie to create a pro bono movement of law firms, corporate law departments, NGOs and volunteers committed to providing fair, competent and compassionate legal counsel to unaccompanied immigrant children in the U.S.

Attachment A

Colorado Access to Justice Commission

The Justice Crisis in Colorado

**A Report on the
Civil Legal Needs of the
Indigent in Colorado**

January 2008

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Acknowledgements

This report and the statewide hearings described in this report were the result of amazing work by a number of dedicated individuals. A most sincere thank you to all members of the Colorado Access to Justice Commission and its subcommittees who spent many hours planning and attending the hearings and drafting and editing this report. The local Access to Justice Committees were essential to the planning of the hearings and to reviewing drafts of the reports on the hearings in their districts. A special thanks to everyone who attended the hearings and to those who testified and shared their experiences and knowledge with us. We are particularly grateful to the clients and those who unsuccessfully applied to be clients of the legal services and pro bono programs and to all those who have worked and continue to work to ensure access to civil legal services for those who can not afford it.



Manual Ramos, Director of Advocacy, Colorado Legal Services testifies to Boulder hearing panel: Justice Michael Bender, ATJ Commission Chair Constance Talmage, 20th Judicial District Court Chief Judge Roxanne Bailin.

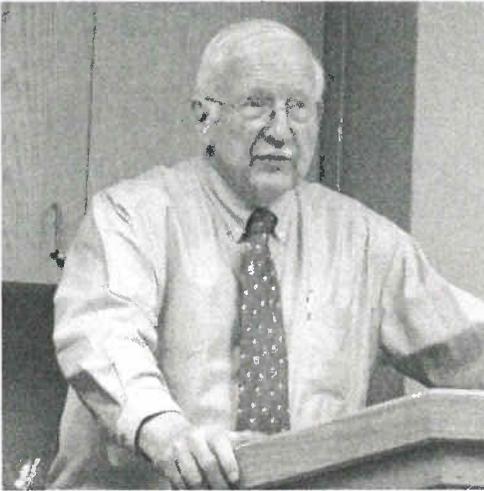
We were ably assisted at all stages of this effort by four University of Denver Sturm College of Law students: Adam Barnhurst, Christopher Kelly and Greg LeBouton attended all the hearings and prepared the first draft of the reports on the hearings; Amber Schrandt helped with editing the final report.

Finally, neither the hearings nor the report would have been possible without the tremendous support of the Colorado Bar Association, particularly the tireless and most talented assistance of Kathleen Schoen and Michael Valdez.

Thank you all.



Frederick Baumann, Access to Justice Commission Vice Chair, opens the Colorado Springs hearing, with panelist Senator John Morse, Richard Skorman, U.S. Senator Ken Salazar's Office, Representative Bob Gardner.



David Butler, ATJ Commissioner, testifies in Durango.



Diane Postell, SafeHouse Denver, testifies at Denver hearing.



Kathleen Bolte, Grand Junction Managing Attorney, Colorado Legal Services, testifies at Grand Junction hearing.



Connie Talmage, Chair of Access to Justice Commission, welcomes panelist and witnesses to Denver hearing.



Sequya Stevens testifies at Colorado Springs hearing.

Executive Summary

Colorado faces a serious crisis in civil legal representation of the indigent. Many Coloradans who need legal assistance to secure and maintain health care, housing, custody or other necessities do not receive help because there are too few lawyers at Colorado Legal Services, Colorado's statewide legal aid program. The Colorado General Assembly's annual funding for civil legal services for the poor is limited to a \$500,000 appropriation to provide legal services to victims of family violence. Not only is this level of state funding well below the national average, it has not increased since 2002.

During 2007, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission held ten hearings throughout the state to assess the civil legal needs of the indigent in Colorado. Hearings were held in Delta, Durango, Grand Junction, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins, Greeley, Breckenridge, Boulder, and Denver. Invited panelist who participated in the hearings included members of the Legislature, representatives of other elected officials, Colorado Supreme Court justices, Colorado Court of Appeals judges, District and County Court judges, Bar Association leaders, and members of the statewide Access to Justice Commission and local Access to Justice committees. Testimony was provided by legal services clients, low income individuals with legal needs who did not receive legal assistance, attorneys who provide civil legal services to the poor, judges, and employees of organizations that serve the indigent.

The most significant findings from the hearings include:

- **Lack of access to legal services.** Low income individuals do not automatically have access to free legal assistance in civil matters, as they do in virtually all serious criminal matters in Colorado.
- **Lack of Legal Aid attorneys.** Most civil legal assistance for the indigent is provided by Colorado Legal Services (CLS). Over the last 20+ years, the number of CLS lawyers has been cut in half, while the number of low income people has increased by almost 75%. In 1980, there was one legal service attorney for every 4,839 eligible clients. Today there is one CLS attorney for every 16,890 eligible individuals. As a result, most low income individuals in Colorado are unable to obtain civil legal assistance when they need it. It is estimated that only one indigent person in five who needs civil legal help will receive some legal assistance.
- **Colorado funding is inadequate to meet the need.** Colorado's only state funding for civil legal services is a \$500,000 appropriation to provide civil legal services to victims of family violence. The amount of this funding has not increased since July 1, 2002. Colorado ranks 40th in state funding for civil legal services for the indigent, and would need to provide another \$1.82 million in state funding to reach the national average.
- **Burdens on the court.** Individuals who do not have lawyers present a special challenge for judges and make it difficult for them to administer justice. Judges cannot represent parties, and often do not get all the information from unrepresented parties that they need to make a correct and just decision. The situation is exacerbated when one of the parties is represented by an attorney and the other is not.
- **Volunteer attorneys cannot meet the need.** The Colorado Supreme Court has made great efforts to encourage participation by private attorneys in meeting the legal needs of the poor and has implemented programs designed to assist parties who do not have lawyers. The private bar also plays a significant role in providing legal services for low income individuals. However, assistance by volunteer lawyers is no substitute for an adequately funded system necessary to provide civil legal services to the indigent.

- **Attorney representation is crucial for many domestic violence victims and their children.** The impact of not having a lawyer can be devastating. For example, it has been documented that the availability of a lawyer is one of the most important factors in determining whether a victim of domestic violence and her children will return to an abusive relationship. Access to legal services can prevent more severe and costly legal and societal problems, saving lives and money in the long run.

This report includes a summary of each of the ten hearings (see Appendices C through L) and provides detailed information on the civil legal needs of the indigent in Colorado. The Colorado Access to Justice Commission urges the Colorado Legislature, the Governor, and the Colorado Supreme Court to take immediate action to address the justice crisis outlined in this report.

Recommendations

1. **Establish a plan to provide civil legal services for the indigent.** First and foremost, the State of Colorado should establish a four-year plan to substantially increase funding for Colorado Legal Services. The goal should be, at a minimum, to place Colorado at the average level of state funding for civil legal services programs for the poor. Beyond that, however, the goal should be to provide sufficient funding so that the civil legal needs of Colorado's indigent throughout the state can be met. Colorado must provide assistance to address legal issues involving the basic human needs of housing, health care, safety, sustenance, and child custody, through a network of CLS attorneys and pro bono programs.

2. **Increase salaries and benefits of Legal Services Attorneys to make them comparable to other public sector lawyers.** The increased funding should bring salaries and benefits for CLS employees to the same level as other public sector law offices (Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Offices, or the Colorado Attorney General's Office). This funding will enable CLS to attract and retain lawyers who can provide high quality legal services in civil cases involving Colorado's low income citizens.

3. **Promote participation by the private bar in pro bono legal services.** The Colorado Access to Justice Commission should continue to work with the Colorado Supreme Court, the Colorado Bar Association, local bar associations, and other entities to promote and encourage increased pro bono service by private attorneys throughout the state. Such additional pro bono services will supplement the legal assistance provided to low income Coloradans through CLS.

4. **Improve services for pro se litigants.** The Colorado Supreme Court, along with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, should continue to improve services for unrepresented litigants, including increasing the number of family facilitators and pro se offices, which are necessary to ensure effective access to the legal system.

5. **Improve access to the legal system.** The Colorado Supreme Court, along with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, should continue to improve access to the courts for all litigants and assure that the provision of legal services is more user friendly, particularly for people with disabilities, people who are not fluent in English, and people unfamiliar with computers and other forms of modern technology.

The Justice Crisis in Colorado

A Report on the Civil Legal Needs of the Indigent in Colorado

January 2008

Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the façade of the Supreme Court building. It is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society . . . it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, Jr.

Introduction

“Without the civil legal assistance program, there would be virtually no access to civil justice for low income persons in the United States, and the goal of equal justice for all would be only a distant dream.”¹ Colorado Legal Services (CLS) provides free high quality civil legal advice and representation to low-income persons throughout the state of Colorado. Approximately 692,000 (15%) Coloradans are financially eligible for free legal services from CLS.² Low-income households may experience three or more legal problems per year,³ and most of their legal issues involve basic human needs: **housing, health care, safety, sustenance, and child custody.**⁴ Due to a lack of available resources and limited awareness of the legal nature of problems, only one in five legal issues experienced by poor people is addressed with the assistance of a legal services lawyer or a pro bono private lawyer.⁵ In many cases, lawyers can identify and resolve legal issues without going to court or can resolve court cases more efficiently and fairly than persons representing themselves. The provision of legal services helps stabilize families, saves taxpayers money, reduces the number of cases clogging the courts, and helps people move toward self-sufficiency and full participation in society.

While the number of poor people is increasing, the capacity of civil legal assistance programs to assist those in need is shrinking. “(T)here is only one legal aid lawyer per 6,861 poor people in the United States compared to one lawyer providing civil legal services for every 525 people in the general population.”⁶ The statistics in Colorado are even more discouraging. In 1978 there were 82 lawyers employed in the Colorado legal aid system.⁷ Today, CLS employs 41 lawyers, a total of one lawyer for every 16,890 individuals who qualify.⁸ During that period, Colorado’s eligible population (persons who earn less than 125% of poverty level) has skyrocketed from 396,775 in 1980 to 692,505 in 2005, a 74.5% increase.⁹ There is a widening gap between the need for legal services and the resources available to meet that need.

*Compared to
1 lawyer for
every 525 in
general
population,
there is only 1
legal aid
lawyer for
every 16,890
qualified
Coloradans.*

To assess the extent of the met and unmet legal needs of the poor in Colorado, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission¹⁰ (ATJ Commission), in cooperation with the Local Access to Justice Committees¹¹ (Local ATJ committees), conducted hearings throughout the state. In October and November 2007, ten hearings were held.¹² Hearing panelists included State Legislators, Colorado Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges, District and County Court Judges, Bar Association leaders, and members of the ATJ Commission. Testimony was provided by judges, clients, individuals who could not obtain legal services, lawyers and representatives of nonprofits that serve the indigent. In addition to providing information about the met and unmet legal needs of low income people in Colorado, testimony addressed the specific needs of individual communities and areas of the state.

Among the themes that emerged from the testimony presented at the ten Access to Justice hearings throughout the state was the tremendous unmet need for legal services for poor people. Even in those areas in which CLS has an office, one of every two prospective clients is turned away because of lack of resources. At safehouses to assist victims of domestic violence, many women are unable to obtain legal representation, and sometimes return to abusive relationships. While private attorneys performing pro bono service have helped to fill the gap, they are increasingly unable to do so.

Access to legal services is a major factor in the ability of a domestic violence victim to leave an abusive relationship.

“Explaining the Recent Decline in Domestic Violence”
(see endnote 13)

Delta attorney Aaron Clay testified that, “While the number of attorneys in the Seventh Judicial District has remained fairly constant, the number of poor people needing legal assistance has increased significantly.”

Another theme that became apparent during the hearings is that efforts to use technology to expand the scope of limited resources have had only partial success. Many poor people are less educated, unfamiliar with the legal system and legal jargon, do not own a computer, and do not know how to use one. Thus, witnesses throughout the state emphasized the need for having an attorney or a neutral person, similar to a family court facilitator, who could help poor people navigate the barriers they encounter in the legal system. Additionally, many witnesses testified about the close relationship between civil and criminal legal problems, and that solving civil problems could save the state and other entities hundreds of thousands of dollars. For example, one witness testified that when a husband is incarcerated on charges of domestic violence, his wife, as a result of lost family income, may face eviction. The effect can be homelessness, and a dependency and neglect proceeding that could result in the termination of the wife’s parental rights. Legal representation in this situation may assist the wife in obtaining an alternative to returning to an abusive relationship, as well as help to stabilize the family.

The hearings also emphasized the impact on the judicial system of inadequate legal representation in civil cases. County and District Court judges testified of the difficulties in presiding over cases when one or both parties are pro se litigants. In such circumstances, the judges must be impartial, but do not always believe that they are presented with all relevant information on which to decide cases before them.

This report documents the findings from the ATJ hearings. We hope it will help Colorado's policy makers understand the extent of the justice crisis in Colorado and develop initiatives to better meet the need for civil legal services for Colorado's poor and vulnerable populations.

Legal Needs of Low Income People

The civil legal issues and needs of low income people most often involve basic human needs: assistance with safety from abusive relationships, access to health care, habitable and safe housing, and income maintenance [child support, food stamps, Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)]. These basic human needs are the foundation for becoming a fully participating member of society. For instance, "(b)ecause legal services help (victims of domestic violence) with practical matters such as protective orders, custody, and child support they . . . actually present women with real, long-term alternatives to their (abusive) relationship."¹³ This was echoed by domestic violence victims and service providers in every hearing. Judge Jonathan Walker, an El Paso County Court Judge, noted that as a public defender he saw hundreds of domestic violence cases. For every domestic violence conviction there is a victim, and often children, who need civil legal assistance with safety and survival issues (housing and income maintenance).

Ft. Collins: Annie wants out of a domestic violence relationship. She was initially turned down CLS because she does not meet the poverty guidelines. Her husband drained their joint bank account and her options are limited. 27 years in an abusive relationship is enough. She could file as a pro se litigant . . . but she fears for her safety. She will try to file on her own, but knows that without representation, she is leaving herself in a potentially very dangerous and violent situation. If additional funding is approved, perhaps more women like her will be helped.

When the legal need of a low-income person is not addressed, a host of other legal problems often result. For example, inability to obtain proper health care can result in loss of employment, loss of housing, or the loss of custody of children. Critical issues in Colorado affecting the provision of legal services include rapid population growth, a high rate of foreclosures, inadequate and unaffordable low-income housing, high minority drop-out rates in high schools, a limited Medicaid program and lack of available health care in some rural areas.¹⁴ These issues are even more grave for many of Colorado's vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, those with mental illnesses, AIDS victims, and the elderly. According to Victoria Lutz, executive director of the Crossroads Safehouse of Fort Collins, "With legal representation, more women could cost the state less down the line. For example, they would go off welfare and food stamps. There is also a huge medical cost associated with domestic violence, and legal



Judge Martha Minot, County Court, La Plata County, testifies at Durango hearing.

For pro se litigants, court can be overwhelming and intimidating, and they are often too scared to ask any questions. Because the pace of the county court is very fast, it is an environment where pro se litigants tend to lose.

Judge Martha Minot, La Plata County Judge, at Durango hearing.

“What does justice mean? There is a limit on what judges can do. Often, indigent litigants depend on what their neighbors or friends advise rather than rules of evidence.”

Judge Robert Lowenbach, District Court Judge, 19th Judicial District, at Greeley hearing.

help will cut down that cost as well.”¹⁵ The price children pay who are involved in these situations is too high as well. They have poor health, untapped potential, and the cycle repeats if there is no legal help.

There is a large gap between the number of low income people needing civil legal services and the availability of that service. Alice Willis, a homeless shelter case manager in Pueblo, testified that only one in ten people she refers to CLS actually will receive help from CLS. At the Breckenridge hearing, Pat Craig from the Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project testified that more than 90% of those who apply for assistance are unable to be helped by the program because of insufficient resources. Similarly, Art Jacobs, CLS Managing Attorney in Durango, testified that his office now has two attorneys but would need ten to meet the civil legal needs of low income people in the Sixth Judicial District.¹⁶ This inability to keep up with the demand was echoed by local bar association leaders. Mike Hockersmith, Board Chair of Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Services (Seventh Judicial District Bar Association sponsored pro bono program), stated that the program can no longer keep up with the number of low income people needing assistance. He testified that local private lawyers are struggling to provide pro bono assistance necessary to meet the needs of low income clients, while trying to maintain their private practices.

Many other factors serve to deny poor people access to justice. Every low income person who testified at the hearings discussed the complexity of the law and the court system, legal paperwork, and legal procedures that made it difficult or impossible for them to resolve their legal problems. Judges testified that working with unrepresented litigants demands more judicial time. Even more importantly, judges noted that unrepresented litigants often do not present the court with adequate and proper evidence for the court to rule in the best interests of the parties.¹⁷ For example, Judge Roxanne Bailin, Chief District Court Judge, Twentieth Judicial District (Boulder), testified that, at the end of an apparently amicable dissolution of marriage hearing the wife raised her hand and asked, “Does it matter that he beats the children?” Without the wife having asked that question, the judge’s ruling would have put the children in danger. Judges are conflicted by the need to remain impartial and not help either party, while also serving the ends of justice.

Denver: Ms. Rozhon is a CLS client, who received notice of a lien on her home. Years before that she had been financially struggling when a credit card company obtained a judgment against her. With the resulting interest and penalties, she owed \$20,000. The credit card company was demanding that she make payments that exceeded her income. She asked the credit card company to postpone her payments until she finished school and completed her accounting degree. The credit card company refused. Colorado Legal Services helped her file Chapter 13 bankruptcy. She has now completed her Chapter 13 debt payment plan and is back on track. She believes she could not have accomplished this without the help of Colorado Legal Services.

Provision of Legal Services

Over the last forty years, efforts have been made to create an integrated and comprehensive civil legal services system. Nationally, the federally funded Legal Services Corporation is the largest funder of civil legal services to the poor. In Colorado, the Legal Services Corporation-funded program is Colorado Legal Services (CLS) and its efforts are supplemented by a multitude of court and private programs.

Eligibility for Legal Services

To be eligible for assistance from CLS and most other similar programs, a person's income, with few exceptions, must be less than 125% of the federal poverty level and the legal problem must fall within the type of legal issues handled by CLS.¹⁸ Under current federal standards, an individual's gross annual income must be less than \$12,763 per year (or less than \$7/hour for 7 hours per day/5 days per week). The gross annual income for a family of four must be less than \$25,813.¹⁹ This compares to self-sufficiency incomes²⁰ of \$48,065 needed by two adults with two children (one in preschool and one in school) to live in Denver without public or private assistance; or the \$35,463 needed in Alamosa; or the \$44,762 needed in Eagle County.

CLS Eligibility

CLS applicants must be income-eligible:

- Gross family income within 125% of federal poverty guidelines (200% with exceptions).
- For an individual, \$12,763 annually.
- For a family of four, gross annual income cannot exceed \$25,813 on an annual basis.

Example

- Person works 7 hours/day at \$7 per hour = eligible for services.
- Person earns more than \$49/day = not eligible (above government-set income eligibility guidelines).

*As of 2005,
692,505
citizens are
eligible for
legal services
in Colorado.*

Due to lack of funding and limitations imposed by Congress, CLS may represent clients in only certain types of cases. CLS limits the cases it accepts to: allocation of parental responsibilities and dissolution of marriage cases where there is domestic violence (not involving post-decree matters²¹), consumer law, income maintenance, public housing and foreclosure matters, access to health care, and some other limited types of cases. However, CLS is still not able to handle all the cases involving these issues and turns away at least one person for every case it accepts.²² Even though the need is great, CLS is unable to provide representation to low income Coloradans in the following types of cases: most private evictions, divorces or custody actions not involving violence, child support and adoptions/guardianships, and consumer cases (identity theft, sales fraud, and defective goods).

Congress has added additional prohibitions on federally funded legal services, including CLS. CLS is prohibited from providing representation in fee-generating cases, class-action suits, cases on behalf of undocumented people (except where the person is a victim of a crime and is seeking protection), and most legislative and administrative advocacy.²³ Even with local pro bono programs trying to handle some of the cases that CLS can not, many low income people are not able to obtain legal assistance.

Colorado Legal Services

To provide meaningful access to high quality civil legal services in the pursuit of justice for as many low income persons and members of vulnerable populations throughout Colorado as possible.

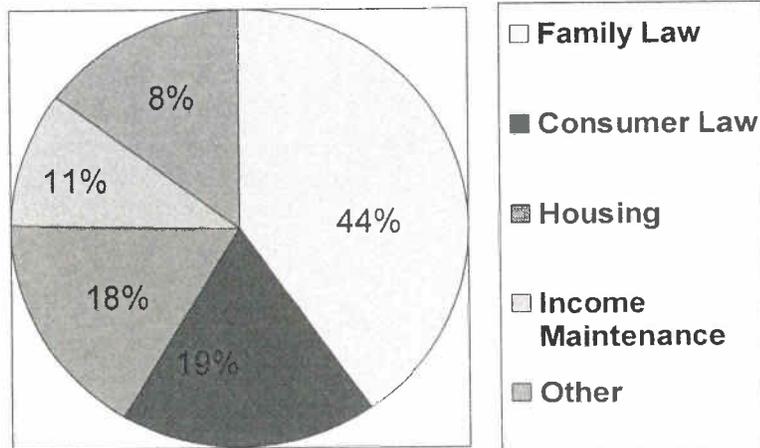
Mission statement for Colorado Legal Services

CLS was formed in 1999 with the merger of Colorado's then existing legal aid programs: the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver, Colorado Rural Legal Services, and Pikes Peak-Arkansas River Legal Aid. Forty-four percent of legal services provided by CLS involve family law issues (dissolution of marriage, child support, and parenting issues). Consumer law and housing represent 19% and 18% of CLS cases. Another 11% involve income maintenance (food stamps, Social Security, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). In 2006, CLS provided legal assistance to 6,632 eligible clients. Of those 5,011 were provided legal advice and brief services. CLS supplied full legal representation in extended actions to 1,621 poor and vulnerable Coloradans.²⁴

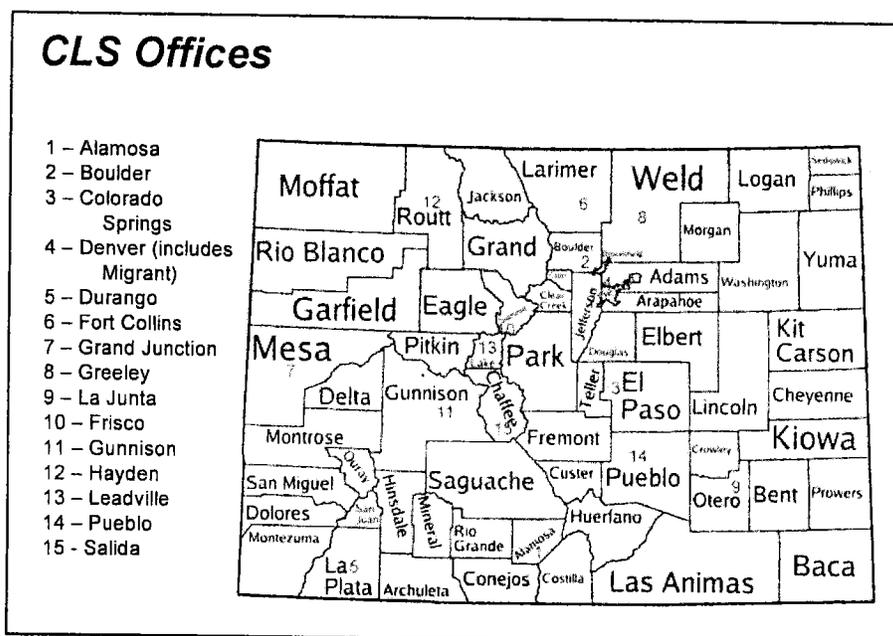
Persons served by CLS are disadvantaged not only financially, but in terms of negotiating the legal system. . . . These are the persons most at risk of losing basic needs.

Kim Shropshire,
Colorado Legal
Services

Case Types Handled



Several current and former legal service lawyers testified that in the late 1970s and the early 1980s there were twice as many lawyers serving Colorado's poor population, compared to the number of legal services lawyers helping the poor today. For instance, in 1972, there were 11 lawyers in the Colorado Springs office. That office now has only three lawyers. Due to budget cuts, eight CLS offices in the state (Trinidad, Montrose, Fort Morgan, Jefferson County, Arapahoe County, Adams County and two in Denver) have been closed and the number of lawyers has been reduced in the remaining offices, often resulting in one or two lawyers covering several counties.²⁵



"In 1980's we had 5 legal aid lawyers in Trinidad. Today the office is closed."

Roxanne Bailin,
 Chief Judge, 20th
 Judicial District

Not only are there fewer legal services lawyers, but those lawyers' salaries are far below other public interest legal positions. A beginning CLS lawyer's salary is \$33,180, compared to \$47,436, the starting salary of the Colorado Public Defender's Office (43% difference) or \$52,394, the starting salary of the Colorado Attorney General's Office (58% difference). Further, CLS lawyers (and other employees) do not have a pension from the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) as do employees of the Public Defender's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Nor do they have any other type of employer paid pension. Consequently, the salary gap is even more severe. Because of these low salaries, many new lawyers, with college and law school debt approaching or exceeding \$100,000, cannot afford to accept a CLS position.

Other Legal Service Programs and Efforts

In Colorado, other legal service programs and efforts fill some of the gaps but cannot avert the justice crisis. The Colorado Supreme Court has made great efforts to encourage participation by private attorneys in meeting the legal needs of the poor. The Court has authorized continuing legal education credit for attorneys²⁶ who perform pro bono work and has adopted rules "unbundling" legal serv-

Without the help of a lawyer, homeowners do not know defenses or alternatives to losing their home in foreclosure.

Roberto Silva,
Colorado Legal
Services, Pueblo,
Colorado

ices (permitting limited legal representation).²⁷ More recently, the Court adopted a rule making it easier for inactive and retired attorneys to represent the indigent (Second Season of Service)²⁸ and adopted a Model Pro Bono Policy for law firms and individuals²⁹ and actively recognized their contributions (the Supreme Court Pro Bono Initiative).³⁰ The Court has also implemented, but only on a limited basis, several programs, including pro se offices and family court facilitators,³¹ designed to assist parties who do not have lawyers.

The private bar plays a significant role in providing legal services for low income individuals. Colorado lawyers are among the most generous in the country and contribute more than \$1.6 million annually to civil legal services.³² In addition, lawyers donate thousands of hours to assist indigent clients with essential legal needs. By one estimate, the annual value of these contributed hours exceeds \$10 million.³³ In addition, local bar associations and access to justice committees provide legal assistance to as many people as they can,³⁴ the law schools offer legal clinics,³⁵ and there are a number of self-help programs³⁶ as well as private legal service programs that serve specific populations, such as children in the foster care system,³⁷ people with disabilities and the elderly.³⁸

While these programs serve an important role, assistance provided by volunteer lawyers is no substitute for an adequately funded system necessary to provide civil legal services to the indigent. As numerous witnesses testified during the hearings, volunteer programs simply do not meet the civil legal needs of the poor.³⁹

Many of the problems that plague our society, such as abusive relationships and landlord-tenant issues, could be lessened if we could provide civil legal representation to larger numbers of people who otherwise do not have access to it, in the same manner as criminal defense. The best pro bono program in the world is unable to fill the legal justice gap that exists, and additional funding is the only way to fill that gap.

Ed Nugent, Private Attorney, Grand Junction

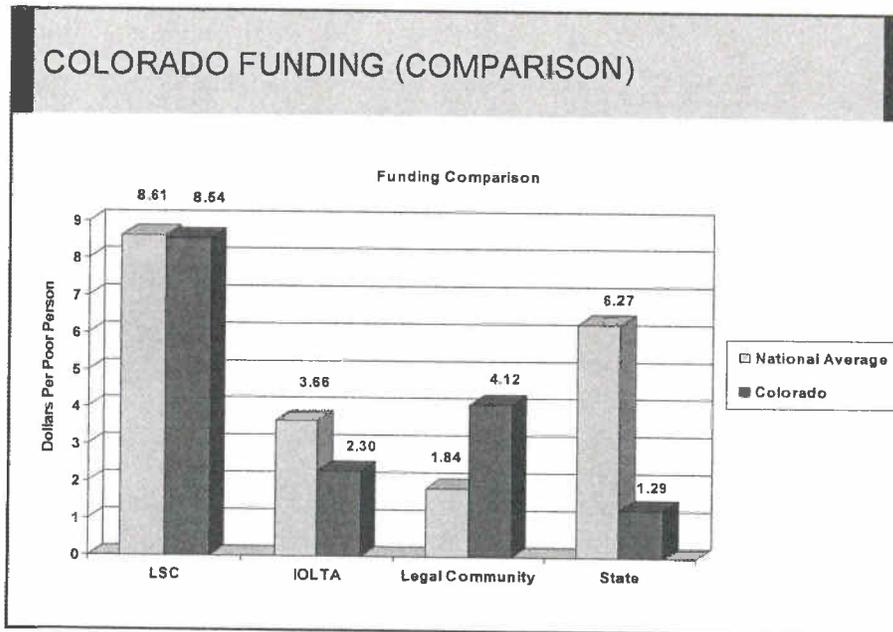
Use of Technology

In an attempt to provide as much help to as many low income people as possible, CLS, the courts, and local bar associations have employed technology to provide legal information,⁴⁰ self-help kiosks,⁴¹ and video-conferencing to some rural Colorado locations.⁴² CLS has been working with public libraries across the state to inform librarians about the legal information that can be accessed on the Internet.⁴³ However, testimony at the hearings revealed that technology has limited use since many low income persons are not familiar with computers, and are therefore, reluctant or unable to access information in this format.

Financial Resources⁴⁴

The total funding in Colorado for civil legal services for the indigent is approximately \$9.5 million, which amounts to \$24.32 per poor person. In terms of dollars per poor person, Colorado ranks 28th in the nation in overall funding.⁴⁵

Only a very small percentage of Colorado's funding for civil legal services for the indigent is provided through state funds. Since July 1, 1999, the State of Colorado has provided a general fund appropriation through the Family Violence Justice Fund for civil legal services to victims of family violence. The initial state appropriation was increased to \$500,000 on July 1, 2002 and has not increased since.⁴⁶ As a result Colorado now ranks 40th in the nation in the amount of state funding for legal services, measured in terms of dollars per poor person. In contrast, Colorado is the eighth highest state in the country in per capita income.⁴⁷ For Colorado to become average in state funding, the state would need to increase its funding by \$1.82 million.



Colorado appropriates \$1.29 per poor person for civil legal services, ranking 40th in the United States. The average state appropriation is \$6.27.

Conclusion

The justice crisis in Colorado is evident. There is one Colorado Legal Services lawyer for every 16,890 eligible low-income individuals. Colorado has half as many legal services attorneys as it did in 1980. The State of Colorado currently spends only \$1.29 per poor person on civil legal services. The salaries of legal services lawyers are well below those of Colorado Public Defenders and attorneys employed by the Colorado Attorney General, and the courts have had the resources to implement only limited programs to provide assistance to litigants who cannot afford a lawyer.

If someone is turned away because there are no resources to help them, there are many ramifications such as homelessness, children being taken away, foster homes, and housing issues. There is a ripple effect socially.

Molly Ryan,
Colorado Legal
Services

Ignoring the civil legal needs of the indigent in Colorado will not make them go away. Indeed, unmet legal needs increasingly burden our courts, result in greater homelessness, add to foreclosure rates, interrupt children's education, and exacerbate medical problems.

Addressing these legal needs will save significant costs for society. Legal services will stabilize families, reduce the number of cases clogging our courts, and help people move toward self-sufficiency and full participation in society.

Colorado needs a long-term plan to address this justice crisis. The elements of such a long term plan are contained in the following recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Establish a plan to provide civil legal services for the indigent. First and foremost, the State of Colorado should establish a four-year plan to substantially increase funding for Colorado Legal Services. The goal should be, at a minimum, to place Colorado at the average level of state funding for civil legal services programs for the poor. Beyond that, however, the goal should be to provide sufficient funding so that the civil legal needs of Colorado's indigent throughout the state can be met. Colorado must provide assistance to address legal issues involving the basic human needs of housing, health care, safety, sustenance, and child custody, through a network of CLS attorneys and pro bono programs.

2. Increase salaries and benefits of Legal Services Attorneys to make them comparable to other public sector lawyers. The increased funding should bring salaries and benefits for CLS employees to the same level as other public sector law offices (Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Offices, or the Colorado Attorney General's Office). This funding will enable CLS to attract and retain lawyers who can provide high quality legal services in civil cases involving Colorado's low income citizens.

3. Promote participation by the private bar in pro bono legal services. The Colorado Access to Justice Commission should continue to work with the Colorado Supreme Court, the Colorado Bar Association, local bar associations, and other entities to promote and encourage increased pro bono service by private attorneys throughout the state. Such additional pro bono services will supplement the legal assistance provided to low income Coloradans through CLS.

4. Improve services for pro se litigants. The Colorado Supreme Court, along with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, should continue to improve services for unrepresented litigants, including increasing the number of family facilitators and pro se offices, which are necessary to ensure effective access to the legal system.

5. **Improve access to the legal system.** The Colorado Supreme Court, along with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, should continue to improve access to the courts for all litigants and assure that the provision of legal services is more user friendly, particularly for people with disabilities, people who are not fluent in English, and people unfamiliar with computers and other forms of modern technology.

Endnotes

1. Houseman and Perle, "Securing Equal Justice for All: A Brief History of Civil Legal Assistance in the United States." Center of Law Social Policy, Washington, D.C., 2007, at p. 1.
2. These figures are based on 2005 estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau. See Appendix A for presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. Eligibility for services by CLS is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines which are determined by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the guidance of the Office of Management and Budget. The guidelines were established in 1963 and updated by a cost living index each year. The guidelines are based on the cost of food for a low-income family in 1955, with the assumption that families spend one-third of their income on food. The food budget is multiplied by three to come up with the level of poverty. Houseman, "Civil Legal Aid in the United States: An Update for 2007," Center for Law and Social Policy, August 2007, footnote 17, found at http://www.clasp.org/publications/civil_legal_aid_2007.pdf.
3. Documenting the Justice Gap, Legal Services Corporation, Washington, DC, September 2005, p.9.
4. In 2006, the American Bar Association unanimously approved a resolution urging state and federal governments to provide "legal counsel as a matter of right at public expense" to low-income persons in adversarial proceedings in five areas "where basic human needs are at stake." American Bar Association (ABA), "Report to the House of Delegates No. 112A" (2006), available at <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/sclaid/downloads/06A112A.pdf>, (ABA Report) at 9.
5. Documenting the Justice Gap, Legal Services Corporation, Washington, DC, September 2005, p. 4.
6. Documenting the Justice Gap, Legal Services Corporation, Washington, DC, September 2005, p. 15.
7. Legal Service Corporation, "Narrative Program Directory," Washington, DC, July 1978.
8. Statement of Jonathan Asher, Executive Director, Colorado Legal Services.
9. Presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. See Appendix A.
10. Formed in 2003, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission is composed of appointees from the Colorado Supreme Court, Colorado Bar Association, Colorado Governor, the President of the Colorado Senate, the Colorado Speaker of the House, the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation, the Colorado Legal Aid Foundation, and Colorado Legal Services. The mission of the Commission is to develop, coordinate and implement policy initiatives to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters for persons who encounter barriers in gaining access to Colorado's civil justice system. See Appendix M for additional information.
11. Judicial districts statewide have formed local access to justice committees to address the legal needs of the low income people in their district. There are currently 11 active committees (some encompassing several judicial districts) and 3 that are in the formation stage.
12. Hearings were held in Boulder (20th JD), Breckenridge (9th JD), Colorado Springs (4th JD), Delta (7th JD), Denver (2nd JD), Durango (6th JD), Fort Collins (8th JD), Greeley (19th JD), Grand Junction (21st JD), and Pueblo (10th JD).
13. Farmer and Tiefenthaler, "Explaining the Recent Decline in Domestic Violence," *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 21: 2, April 2003, pp. 158-172.
14. Presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. See Appendix A.
15. Testimony of Victoria Lutz at Ft. Collins hearing. See Appendix I.
16. See Appendices for witness testimony.
17. As several judges testified, they must be neutral and cannot advocate for either party. They are bound to rule according to the evidence presented by the litigants.
18. See note 2.
19. Presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. See Appendix A.
20. "Self-sufficiency . . . measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition in a given place to adequately meet their basic needs without public or private assistance. (emphasis deleted)" Pierce, Diana, "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2004: A Family Needs Budget," Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, April 2004, p. 1, 9-13.

21. Post decree cases are those involving the parties after the divorce decree has been issued by the court. These often involve the failure of one party to comply with the divorce decree with regard to paying child support, parenting time, or relocation of one parent.

22. Testimony of Jonathan Asher, Executive Director, Colorado Legal Services.

23. Presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. See Appendix A.

24. Presentation by Colorado Legal Services at hearings. See Appendix A.

25. Testimony of Jonathan Asher, Executive Director, Colorado Legal Services. For instance, there are 1.75 lawyers in Durango, whose service area includes both Indian Reservations and the counties of La Plata, San Miguel, Archuleta, Dolores, and Montezuma.

26. Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 260.8.

27. Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.2(c).

28. Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 223.

29. Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 6.1.

30. 36 *The Colorado Lawyer* 98 (Sept. 2007), Colorado Supreme Court Pro Bono Legal Services Recognition Program.

31. Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 16.2(c)(2)(C).

32. The legal community donates money for the provision of legal services to Colorado's low income population through direct contributions to the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, other legal services providers, and local bar association pro bono projects. For instance, each member of the Delta Bar Association contributes \$275 to the Association's pro bono project. Metro Volunteer Lawyers, the \$250,000 Denver metropolitan area pro bono project, is funded through the dues and fund raising efforts of the Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, First Judicial (Jefferson/Gilpin counties) and Douglas/Elbert Bar Associations. The funds contributed by lawyers for pro bono projects pay for the coordination and logistics of providing pro bono services. In addition, lawyers contributed \$1 million in 2005-2006 to the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado, the funds going exclusively to CLS.

33. For instance, the Colorado Supreme Court sponsors a pro bono initiative whereby law firms and solo practitioners pledge 50 hours of pro bono work per attorney per year. It was estimated that \$10 million of pro bono legal service was provided by the 35 law firms who reported they had met their pledge in 2006. This represents a small percentage of the pro bono work provided by Colorado lawyers.

34. See Appendices C through L for a description of the current programs of the local access to justice committees. CLS and local bar associations fund pro bono programs to coordinate private attorneys handling cases for low income persons. For instance the Denver Bar Association funds Metro Volunteer Lawyers with a full-time director and 3 staff to provide pro bono referral and clinics. In addition, the Denver Access to Justice Committee coordinates clinics and "ask a lawyer" programs, including LawLine9, Legal Night at El Centro de San Juan Diego, Legal Night at Mi Casa, a Bankruptcy Clinic, a Child Support Enforcement Clinic, a Collections Clinic, and a Do Your Own Divorce Clinic. Other bar associations with similar programs include Delta Bar Association, Pueblo Bar Association, Mesa County Bar Association, Weld County Bar Association, and El Paso County Bar Association.

35. University of Denver Sturm School of Law and University of Colorado Law School offer clinics to assist low income people.

36. Colorado courts, local bar associations, and Colorado Legal Services offer legal information and forms on their websites, clinics, and ask-a-lawyer programs.

37. Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center is one such organization.

38. The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and the Elderly is one such organization.

39. Testimony: Patricia Craig (Breckenridge Hearing) and Aaron Clay (Delta Hearing).

40. Colorado Legal Services provides a website (www.coloradolegalservices.org) with information for self represented litigants. The Colorado Judicial Branch provides self-help information on its webpage. (www.courts.state.co.us). Several local bar associations include information on their websites for self represented litigants (Denver – www.denbar.org).

41. Colorado Legal Services piloted a program in four counties where self service kiosks were installed in the courthouse. These kiosks were designed to help self-represented litigants prepare their own court forms. The kiosks have had mixed success because litigants have had difficulty understanding the law and are therefore unable to properly fill out the forms. In addition, many self-represented litigants are unfamiliar with the use of technology, such as computers.

42. Colorado Legal Services is piloting a project in the northeast part of Colorado that allows a lawyer to use video conferencing to interview clients who live miles from the closest CLS office. This allows a legal service lawyer to spend more time in the office working on cases than in the car traveling long distances to interview clients.

43. Testimony of Aaron Clay, Delta Hearing.

44. The information about the amount of funding and comparisons to other states was calculated by the American Bar Association's Access to Justice Support Committee and is based primarily on year 2005 funding, the last year where a comparison can be made for all states. www.abanet.org/legalservices/sclaid/atjresourcecenter/home.html.

45. For a complete description of all funding in Colorado for civil legal services for the indigent, see Appendix B .

46. No funds were appropriated in FY2005 (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005).

47. See www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/08s0659.xls#Data!A1. IN 1979, Colorado ranked 14th in per capita income. In 2006, Colorado ranked 8th.

Attachment B

Colorado Legal Services

- CLS won't talk about you or your case to anyone who doesn't work for us, unless you give us permission to do so. If you threaten to commit a crime, including hurting yourself or another person, we will have to report that.
- You will not have to pay for the help that you get from CLS if you meet certain limits of income. CLS looks at your wages and your assets (including bank accounts, etc.) in order to see if you qualify to be accepted for help by our program. We also look at the type of legal problem you are having and whether or not we have the resources available to help you.
- CLS helps seniors who are 60 and over regardless of income, but only if the individual problem falls within CLS Priorities, and if the office has the resources to provide this assistance at the times needed.
- When you contact us, we will ask you questions to help us figure out if we can help you. The questions will be about your income, your assets and your legal problem.
- What kinds of cases can we help with?
 - Family law: domestic violence, divorce, custody, guardianship and others;
 - Consumer/debt problems, including bankruptcy, garnishment, collection, repossession and others;
 - Housing law, including foreclosures, evictions, landlord/tenant issues and others;.
 - Issues for seniors, including living wills, medical durable powers of attorney, and more;
 - Problems with programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and other government benefits;
 - Other civil (not criminal or traffic) problems; and
 - Immigration: We can help citizens and those who are (1) present in the U.S. and (2) have an acceptable "category" of immigration. These categories are complicated and assessed on a case by case basis, but include Lawful Permanent Residents and Asylees, among other categories.
- What can we do to help you?
 - We may offer you advice from an attorney about your problem;
 - We may help you file your own case in court;
 - We may refer you to a legal aid clinic, or to another program or agency that can help you
 - A paralegal in one of our offices may help you;
 - A staff attorney in one of our offices may help you; and/or
 - An attorney who takes cases from us and works for free may help you.
- What if we can't help you?
 - If your problem involves a criminal charge or traffic ticket, contact the Public Defender's office

- o Check out the other resources on our website
- o If you want to know how to find an attorney

Getting Help from the Courts

The Colorado Judicial Branch (Colorado courts) website has a self-help center online, with legal forms and instructions available to download and print out. Go to their website for more information.

Help from Other Organizations

This website has a list of organizations that can help you with other types of issues. Go to the client information of this website, choose the type of problem you are having in general, choose a more specific problem, enter in your location then click on 'Where to Get Other Help'.

Attachment C

Pro Bono Coordinator or Local ATJ	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Judicial District	Street Address	City
PBC	William	Alexander	Pueblo Municipal Courts	10th	200 S Main St	Pueblo
PBC	Jeanna	Baitlon	Colorado Legal Services	11th	1604 H St Ste 201	Salida
PBC	Patty	Bennett	Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid	7th	300 N Cascade Ave Ste U2	Montrose
ATJ	Ilene	Bloom	Ilene Lin Bloom PC	2nd	2427 Williams St	Denver
ATJ	Loren	Brown	Donelson Ciancio & Goodwin PC	17th	8001 Arista Pl Ste 400	Broomfield
ATJ	Leslie	Castro	Leslie J Castro PC	21st	101 S 3rd St Ste 300	Grand Junction
ATJ	Natalie	Chase		18th	23204 Bay Oaks Ave	Parker
ATJ	Catherine	Cheroutes	The Cheroutes Law Firm PC	5th	130 Ski Hill Rd Ste 235	Breckenridge
ATJ	Aaron	Clay	Clay & Dodson PC	7th	415 Palmer St	Delta
PBC	Mary Ann	Corey	El Paso Cty Pro Bono Project	4th	617 S Nevada Ave	Colorado Springs
PBC	Patricia	Craig	Northwest Colorado Legal Services	14th and 5th	PO Box 2694	Frisco
PBC	Alison	Daniels	Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Old	5th	455 Sherman St Ste 130	Denver
PBC	Larry	Daves	La Junta CLS	16th	PO Box 1026	La Junta
PBC	Karen	Detmers	Pro Bono Project of Mesa County	21st	200 N 6th St Ste 203	Grand Junction
PBC	Sherry	Ferree	NWCLS-Hayden Office	14th	PO Box 1555	Hayden
ATJ	Stephen	Flynn	Colorado Legal Services	4th	617 S Nevada	Colorado Springs
ATJ	Charles	Garcia		2nd	911 Monroe St	Denver
ATJ	Tammy	Greene		1st	100 Jefferson County Pkwy	Golden
PBC	Cindi	Hendrix	Larimer Cty Bar Pro Bono Program	8th	PO Box 781	Fort Collins
PBC	Manuela	Heredia	San Luis Valley Pro Bono Project	12th	PO Box 22	Alamosa
ATJ	Barbara	Hughes	4th Judicial District	4th	PO Box 2980	Colorado Springs
ATJ	Christine	Hylbert	Boulder County Bar Association	20th	1942 Broadway Ste 205	Boulder
PBC	Andrea	Koppenhofer		19th	6809 Pumpkin Ridge Dr	Windsor
ATJ	Jennifer	Levin	The Legal Center	2nd	455 Sherman St Ste 130	Denver
ATJ	John	Livingston	1st Judicial District	1st	100 Jefferson County Pkwy	Golden
ATJ	Vicki	Lutz	Crossroads Safehouse	8th	1644 Forbrook Way	Fort Collins
PBC	Kara	Martin	Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center	2nd	1325 S Colorado Blvd Ste 701	Denver
ATJ	Anthony	Martinez	Law Ofc Anthony L Martinez Pc	11th	P O Box 767	Salida
PBC	Erika	Martinez	Boulder County Legal Services	20th	315 W S Boulder Rd Ste 295	Louisville
PBC	Lea Ann	Martinez	NWCLS-Leadville Office	20th	P. O. Box 1904	Leadville
ATJ	H	Mendenhall	Mendenhall & Malouff	16th	805 Chestnut Ave	Rocky Ford
ATJ	Sandra	Miller	Delta County Court	7th	501 Palmer St Rm 338	Delta
PBC	Sara	Nab	NE Co Legal Svcs	13th	P. O. Box 334/106 W. Larimer St.	Fleming
PBC	Kyla	Norcross	SW Bar Volunteer Legal Aid Inc	6th	1474 Main Ave Ste 200	Durango
ATJ	James	Peters		18th	6834 S University Blvd Unit 128	Centennial
ATJ	Erin	Pickering	Colorado Legal Services	16th	PO Box 1026	La Junta
	Diana	Poole	Legal Aid Foundation	2nd	1900 Grant St Ste 1112	Denver
ATJ	Daniel	Powell		12th	609 Main St Ste 109	Alamosa

ATJ	Jennifer	Rice	Rice Law Office PC	8th	19 Old Town Square Ste 238	Fort Collins
PBC	Gail	Rodosevich	Pueblo CO Pro Bono Project	10th	1000 W 6th St Ste I	Pueblo
ATJ	Michael	Schiferl	District Judge	16th	13 W 3rd St Rm 207	La Junta
ATJ&PBC	Jonathan	Shamis	Alpine Legal Services	9th	PO Box 1890	Glenwood Springs
ATJ	Lynne	Sholler	Law Office of Lynne Sholler PC	6th	1099 Main Ave Ste 409	Durango
ATJ	Kay	Snider	Kay Snider PC	21st	446 Main St	Grand Junction
ATJ	Claire	Sollars	Solo-Practitioner	14th	PO Box 881302	Steamboat Springs
ATJ	Elizabeth	Strobel	19th Judicial District	19th	915 10th St	Greeley
ATJ	Constance	Talimage	Colorado Lawyers Committee	2nd	1801 California St Ste 4900	Denver
ATJ	Daniel	Taubman	Colorado Court of Appeals	2nd	101 W Colfax Ave Ste 800	Denver
ATJ&PBC	Dianne	Van Voorhees	Metro Volunteer Lawyers	2nd, 1st, 17th, 18th	1905 Sherman St Ste 400	Denver
ATJ	JoAnn	Vogt	Colorado Court of Appeals	1st	3854 S Valley Dr	Evergreen
ATJ	Mark	Young	The Law Offices of Mark Young	3rd	122 W 1st St	Trinidad

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CO 80205	(303)886-9783	ilenebloom@hotmail.com
CO 80021	(303)450-1665	lorenbrowncolo-law.com
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CO 80138		natalietchase@yahoo.com
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CO 80203	(303)722-0300	adaniels@thelegalcenter.org
CO 81050	(719) 384-5438	ldaves@pcisys.net
CO 81501	(970) 243-7940	probono@colegalserv.org
CO 81639	(970) 276-2161	sferree@colegalserv.org
CO 80903	(719) 471-0380	sflynn@pcisys.net
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Attachment D

COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES
PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT PLAN
2010

COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES
PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT PLAN
2010

Introduction

The mission of Colorado Legal Services (CLS) is to provide meaningful access to high quality, civil legal services in the pursuit of justice for as many low-income persons and members of vulnerable populations throughout Colorado as possible.

To that end, CLS relies upon staff and private attorneys to serve Colorado's poverty population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado was home to 388,952 poor persons at the time of the 2000 Census. According to the 2005-2007 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado had at that time a poverty population of approximately 552,436 persons. Approximately 736,344 Colorado residents had incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level, and approximately 1,305,563 persons had incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

CLS supports its work on behalf of poor people through a mix of federal, state and local funding. The Legal Services Corporation, the State of Colorado, the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation, the Legal Aid Foundation, various United Ways, foundations, county and local governments, bar associations, grants and private donations all contribute to CLS in furtherance of its goals and programs. Several of these grants specifically target Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) activities.

CLS offers legal assistance to low-income persons in a variety of non-fee generating civil matters. The program's main office is located in Denver, with specialty units focusing on Family and Children, Health and Elder Law, and Housing Rights and Homelessness Prevention Issues. Other offices are located in Alamosa, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Durango, Fort Collins, Frisco, Grand Junction, Greeley, Gunnison, Hayden, La Junta, Leadville, Pueblo, and Salida. The Migrant Farmworker Division is headquartered in the Denver office. The Durango office serves Native Americans living on the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute tribal lands.

All offices support a Private Attorney Involvement component, which is either an internal component of the office, a separate pro bono program housed in a CLS office, or a partnership with an independent pro bono program. An additional internal program has been initiated in the Pueblo office in the past twelve months.

Private Attorney Involvement Models

CLS is committed to the effective involvement of private attorneys in providing high quality legal representation to the program's low-income clients. The models developed in each office reflect the resources, needs, and socioeconomic characteristics of the varying areas of the state—which range from the eastern plains with scattered communities and limited attorney resources, to metropolitan areas with highly concentrated poverty populations and higher attorney ratios, to alpine regions connected by mountain passes with attorney resources concentrated in regional centers. CLS is continually re-evaluating its pro bono models to respond to changing client needs and available local resources. This evaluation process now includes an analysis of program resources and activities in light of LSC Program Letter 07-2, as discussed below.

PAI as an Internal Component of a CLS Office

This model incorporates PAI functions into the operation of the CLS office. Office staff include personnel dedicated either full-time or part-time to PAI activities. Client intake is performed by CLS staff who then direct cases to either CLS staff attorneys or to PAI attorneys on a panel maintained by office staff. Case disposition is determined by the needs of the client, taking into consideration the skills and resources of staff and volunteer attorneys. PAI staff recruit volunteer attorneys, assign cases to the PAI panel, track panel cases, recognize and reward participating attorneys, raise funds for PAI activities, and coordinate clinics and other PAI functions. Staff attorneys are available to mentor and assist volunteer attorneys as needed.

PAI expenses are allocated based upon contemporaneous time records of PAI personnel. Fees are paid to a limited number of private attorneys for services provided on behalf of individual clients with legal emergencies or complex cases, or in counties with limited resources. The reimbursement rates for contract services are less than 50% of the attorney's normal hourly rate and are paid by the program on the basis of a pre-approved billing statement from the attorney. Average attorney hourly rates are determined by a survey of attorneys in the service area. The hourly rate paid to contract attorneys is based upon the rate paid by the State of Colorado to Court appointed counsel.

Non-personnel costs, including telephone, supplies, equipment, etc., of the Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project (NCLSP), which is entirely a PAI program, are attributed to PAI expenses. In other offices, the cost per square foot for space actually used in conducting PAI activities is allocated to the program's PAI expenses. Personnel, travel and training costs in other offices are also computed using actual expenditures. Other costs are computed on a percentage basis in offices other than NCLSP.

Offices employing the internal PAI model are:

1. Boulder
2. Durango
3. La Junta
4. Pueblo
5. The four offices of the Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project

PAI as a Separate Pro Bono Program Housed in a CLS Office

This model maintains separate legal structures, but supports the local Pro Bono Program by providing office space, mentoring and other support. This enhances communication and coordination of efforts between the two programs. Intake is generally consolidated. Clients access all available civil legal options at one location; coordination with other human service agencies is also enhanced by this consolidation of resources. Program personnel work together to determine case disposition, taking into account client needs and the strengths and resources of each program. The Pro Bono Program handles attorney recruitment and retention activities, client referral and follow-up, and fundraising for PAI activities. CLS staff are available to mentor and assist PAI attorneys as needed.

Non-personnel costs allocated to the PAI program include space, telephone, supplies, equipment, etc. The cost per square foot for space actually used in conducting PAI activities is allocated to the program's PAI expenses. Personnel, travel and training costs are also computed using actual expenditures. Other costs are computed on a percentage basis.

Offices housing a separate Pro Bono Program are:

1. Colorado Springs, which houses the El Paso County Bar Pro Bono Program
2. Denver, which houses Metro Volunteer Lawyers
3. Grand Junction, which houses the Mesa County Bar Pro Bono Project

PAI as a Partnership with an Independent Pro Bono Program

This model maintains separate legal structures and locations. Programs may coordinate intake. Cases are referred between programs based upon each program's strengths and resources. CLS staff provide mentoring, training and other support for pro bono staff and volunteers. Pro Bono program staff assign cases to volunteer attorneys and monitor case outcomes. CLS Supervising Attorneys generally take the lead in coordinating the work of their office with the independent pro bono program in the area.

Personnel, travel and training costs are computed using actual expenditures. Other costs allocated to the PAI program are computed on a percentage basis.

Offices working in partnership with an independent pro bono program are:

1. Alamosa, partnering with the San Luis Valley Bar Pro Bono Project
2. Fort Collins, partnering with the Larimer County Bar Association Legal Aid Program and the Loveland Pro Bono Program
3. Grand Junction, partnering with Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid, the Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Program, and Alpine Legal Services
4. Greeley, partnering with Weld County Legal Services
5. Salida, partnering with the Heart of the Rockies Bar Association

Program Activities in Support of Pro Bono

CLS maintains close relationships with the Colorado Bar Association, local Bar Associations, and specialty Bar Associations such as the Colorado Women's Bar Association, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Sam Cary Bar Association, the Colorado Indian Bar Association, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado. CLS offices have established relationships with the 27 local Bar Associations, and several CLS staff members have served as officers of local Bar Associations. These relationships enhance the participation of Bar members in pro bono efforts and also provide a venue to offer training and support to pro bono participants.

Volunteer attorneys have access to all CLS training events, as well as materials and mentoring. The CLS website, www.coloradolegalservices.org, offers volunteer attorneys and staff of pro bono programs the opportunity to join its online advocates forum. The forum provides free access to materials and resources for advocates who provide civil legal aid to low-income persons. A link to local pro bono programs is provided to guide attorneys to local volunteer opportunities. A "Job Opportunities" link allows independent pro bono programs to post openings in their programs for statewide dissemination. A "Volunteer" link provides potential volunteer attorneys with information on program needs and contact information for all pro bono programs. A "New Cases" posting allows attorneys to view case summaries, choose the type of case they have the expertise to handle, and offer volunteer assistance through the website. "Webcasts" on family law, healthcare, identity theft, unemployment hearings, and other topics are available. A "Calendar" provides information on upcoming trainings and events. Attorneys who join the advocates website are automatically emailed information about events and trainings to support them in their efforts to assist low-income clients. The "News" section contains links to up-to-date articles regarding poverty law and other social issues. The "Library" section provides links to available resources online and to actual sample documents such as pleadings, briefs, reports and other legal materials. A listserv fosters discussion of legal issues and strategies among CLS staff attorneys, paralegals, pro bono attorneys and volunteers. Access to additional listservs focusing on specific topics such as domestic violence, disability, and predatory lending is available through the site.

CLS has sponsored a number of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars for pro bono attorneys, often in cooperation with local Bar Associations. Topics are selected by the local Bar or pro bono program, and are chosen to enhance recruitment by offering a free CLE in exchange for acceptance of a case, and to increase attorney expertise in legal topics where help is needed. CLS provides speakers and secures accreditation for these seminars.

CLS has developed a Private Attorney Involvement "Best Practices Manual" for use by staff in all CLS offices. This manual provides direction on PAI procedures, contract attorney systems, time keeping requirements, and case closing and record-keeping components. LSC regulations regarding private attorney involvement and the CLS PAI Plan are incorporated as reference materials. The manual also contains sample forms and materials related to client referrals, attorney recruitment and volunteer recognition. The PAI Manual will support CLS efforts to expand and standardize PAI activities throughout the program.

In September 2007, CLS conducted a staff training on "Basic Requirements of PAI Programs". Supervising attorneys and other PAI personnel attended this half day training in the Denver CLS office. Speakers included Alberto Lopez-Silvero (Program Analyst, LSC Office of Compliance and Enforcement). Topics covered were PAI documentation and timekeeping, quality control, contract attorney programs, litigation expenses, and other LSC rules and regulations regarding PAI activities.

The Administrator of the Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project serves as Chair of pro bono teleconferences sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association. These bi-monthly meetings are open to CLS and independent pro bono program staff. In addition to the networking and problem sharing opportunities provided by the teleconferences, pro bono personnel are also offered trainings on program management and legal topics. The NCLSP Administrator prepares the agenda, arranges speakers and moderates the teleconferences.

Summary of 2007-2008 Pro Bono Services Provided

CLS reports pro bono case information for cases closed by offices with internal PAI components. For 2007 and 2008, 941 clients received help through the program's internal PAI model. Of these clients, 62% received brief services, and 38% received extended services including representation in negotiations, administrative hearings, or court proceedings. Most cases involved family law matters (69%), housing issues (10%), or consumer or debt/bankruptcy law (8.5%). Other legal problems involved income maintenance (4%), health issues (.2%), employment (.6%) individual rights (.5%), and miscellaneous legal issues (7%). These figures do not include cases closed by independent pro bono programs with which CLS partners.

Removing Barriers to Advocacy

Since Colorado is home to a diverse and growing population of minority individuals, CLS devotes considerable effort to removing linguistic and cultural barriers to effective client advocacy. Improvements in client intake procedures, designed to increase access for minority clients, are reflected in PAI client numbers. In 2007 and 2008, 25.7% of PAI clients were of Hispanic origin. Census estimates from the 2002-2007 American Community Survey indicate that Colorado's Hispanic population reached 19.6% of its total population in those years. Native Americans totaled 1.7% of PAI clients in 2007 and 2008, versus a state population (according to Census estimates) of .9%. Black or African American clients totaled 2% of PAI clients in 2007 and 2008; Census estimates a statewide population of 3.8%. And clients of Asian descent totaled 1.7% of PAI clients in 2007 and 2008; Census estimates a statewide population of 2.7%. CLS continues to expand its efforts to serve minority clients in all its offices and programs, including its PAI elements.

Market Value

In 2007 and 2008, CLS expenditures and support for private attorney involvement in the delivery of legal services to eligible clients totaled \$1,082,921.00. Pro bono attorney donations of time, in offices with internal PAI components, were valued at \$3,247,790.00. Thus for every dollar allocated to PAI activities, almost \$3.00 in attorney time was donated. This does not include the value of pro bono services provided to clients by the independent pro bono programs who do not report case information to CLS.

Economic Pressures on Pro Bono Programs

No discussion of current trends for pro bono programs can ignore the recession currently gripping the national and global economies. The repercussions of the economic downturn reach into every state, with consequences for businesses and nonprofits alike. Pro bono programs have seen client requests for assistance increase dramatically, while the private attorney volunteers upon whom these programs rely have experienced economic pressures which have frequently resulted in a diminished capacity for pro bono and/or financial contributions. Other funding sources have cut their distributions in response to the economic pressures they have encountered. These circumstances require pro bono programs to refocus their efforts in order to maximize client services in a radically different economic reality.

One positive outcome for pro bono programs may be a shift in case priorities away from an area traditionally more prevalent yet at the same time more problematic in terms of attorney resources: family law. Legal matters involving divorce and custody, and other related family law issues, have been readily identified by clients as matters requiring attorney assistance and therefore were more often presented to legal services programs by clients. Unfortunately, family law cases have always overwhelmed the limited number of family law attorneys volunteering to assist with them. And the focus on meeting this need often preoccupied pro bono programs to the disadvantage of other pressing legal matters experienced by low-income clients. In the present economic climate, while family law cases remain high in number, other types of cases are now presenting themselves in greater frequency: foreclosures, evictions, bankruptcy, unemployment compensation cases, debt collection cases, etc. This presents pro bono programs with the opportunity to recruit attorney volunteers in a variety of legal fields, expanding the pool of participating attorneys while also expanding the pro bono program's reputation in the client community as a source of assistance for much more than a divorce case. If programs work to actively inform their low-income clients of their availability to assist with other types of legal matters, the long term results for pro bono programs could be an expanded and energized volunteer attorney pool along with a more informed client population aware of legal alternatives for many different legal situations.

However, the economic pressures on volunteer attorneys must also be addressed. Programs must work creatively to maximize program efficiency in the referral process. Unbundling of legal services can serve to make pro bono work more attractive to economically stressed attorneys and firms. Limited representation, pro se clinics, advice clinics, forms clinics, and other mechanisms for maximizing services with limited attorney resources can help programs to address increasing client needs. Attorneys who feel that their contributions are helping to meet significant client needs may be more motivated to continue their volunteer work in tough times. Programs which work to package client cases to minimize attorney demands may improve case acceptance. (For instance, completing basic court documents prior to referral may enable attorneys to focus on case resolution and reduce demands on attorneys' staffs.) In addition, it will be more important to support attorney contributions by offering Continuing Legal Education courses for the types of cases and areas of law recently added or expanded in the pro bono programs' priorities. Attorneys may also appreciate even more when they are offered CLE credit for their direct pro bono work with clients—a benefit available in Colorado.

Response to LSC Program Letter 07-2: Guidance to LSC Programs for the Development of Enhanced Private Attorney Involvement

CLS has engaged in a thoughtful and thorough consideration of the recommendations contained in LSC Program Letter 07-2. Each recommendation presents both potential benefits and challenges in its implementation. Each is discussed below in terms of activities which CLS has already undertaken, and future directions that CLS can address in its planning process. CLS is working to include these recommendations as appropriate in each service area.

A. Using Large Law Firms, Corporate, and Government Attorneys

Large law firms exist in the Denver Metropolitan Area, and to a lesser extent in other large cities in Colorado (Colorado Springs and Fort Collins along the Front Range, and Grand Junction in western Colorado). Similarly, corporate attorneys are also generally concentrated in these large metropolitan areas.

Colorado's rural and mountain communities lack large pools of corporate and government attorneys, who may be retained on a part-time basis in smaller communities (and may already volunteer with PAI programs in their part-time private practices). Law firms in rural and mountain areas tend to consist of at most four or five attorneys (partners and associates).

1. Develop Sustained Relationships

CLS works closely with the Legal Aid Foundation, a charitable foundation dedicated to supporting civil legal services for low-income people in Colorado. The CLS Executive Director serves on the Board of the Legal Aid Foundation. The Foundation raises funds primarily through its annual Campaign for Justice. For the last few years, this annual Campaign has raised over \$1 million for legal aid. Crucial to the Foundation's success each year is strong law firm giving, with many firms, large and small, giving at the Foundation's target-giving level, which for the last five years has been \$300 per lawyer in the firm. Several large law firms have exceeded—some even doubling—this target donation. However, 2009 contributions have decreased as firms experience the impact of the national recession.

Independent of its work with the Legal Aid Foundation, CLS has also developed strong and sustained relationships with the major law firms in the Denver metropolitan area. Law firms have co-counseled individual cases with CLS attorneys, have undertaken client representation in cases involving significant issues for indigent clients—such as state identification requirements for public benefits programs—and have dedicated associate attorney time to *pro bono* activities through the independent PAI program, Metro Volunteer Lawyers. Other independent PAI programs in major urban areas have also enlisted local law firms as participants in *pro bono* work.

CLS and Metro Volunteer Lawyers worked with Qwest Communications Corp. to establish an attorney panel to assist with the large volume of family law cases in the Denver metropolitan area. This pilot program has provided valuable experience which will be useful in the development of future projects of this nature.

The challenge for CLS will be to transfer the knowledge and experience which has been gained in the metropolitan areas, to the rural and mountain areas of the state. CLS offices in outlying areas have focused on individual recruitment efforts, and have not often viewed their PAI efforts in terms of developing sustained relationships with corporate or government legal departments.

2. Look Beyond Geographical Boundaries

CLS has worked with branch offices of national law firms, which are often located in the Denver Metropolitan Area. In addition, CLS has worked with the Colorado Bar Association to recruit attorneys from large urban areas to assist with rural projects. (For instance, Northeast Colorado Legal Services, an independent PAI program, for several years utilized volunteer attorneys from the Colorado Bar Association in "Flying Squads" to staff family law clinics on a regular basis.) As a statewide program, CLS can focus PAI attorney resources on regional efforts such as bankruptcy clinics located near federal bankruptcy court branch offices, and CLS is developing such efforts at present. CLS has recently worked with the Colorado Bar Association to initiate a *pro bono* Foreclosure Project, offering training to local volunteer attorneys who agree to accept cases.

3. Provide Training, Research and Technical Assistance

A major resource for PAI attorneys is the CLS advocates website, which PAI attorneys are encouraged to join. The website provides access to sample pleadings, information on available resources, and direction on basic issues such as court indigency rules. The website is described in more detail in the section, "Program Activities in Support of Pro Bono", above, which also details other technical and training assistance provided by CLS to PAI attorneys and programs.

Trainings provided to PAI attorneys and programs have been offered on an ad hoc, case-by-case basis through local CLS offices. CLS will include in its planning process the development of

program-wide goals and strategies for future PAI training and support projects, and will use the results of its current Legal Needs Survey in its development of such goals and strategies.

4. Develop Signature Projects

As described above, CLS partnered with Metro Volunteer Lawyers to develop a family law panel comprised of corporate attorneys. Other thematic projects have included a response to new state identification laws and procedures which impacted low-income clients seeking to obtain or retain public benefits, with PAI attorneys acting as counsel for clients challenging the new state policies. These projects, while concentrated in the Denver Metropolitan Area, have often been of benefit to low-income clients statewide. CLS will continue and expand its efforts to involve PAI attorneys in signature projects, encouraging local CLS offices to partner with law firms and corporate or government attorneys on such signature issues whenever appropriate. CLS recently worked with the Colorado Bar Association to initiate a Foreclosure Project statewide.

5. Pursue Transactional Legal Work

CLS lists as one of its Program Priorities: "Maintain and Enhance Economic Stability". CLS will review responses to its current Legal Needs Survey to evaluate the need for transactional work on behalf of its clients, and identify potential resources to respond to the identified need, including partners such as the Colorado Bar Association, the Access to Justice Commission, law schools, law firms, and corporate and government attorneys.

6. Collaborate and Co-Counsel

As stated above, CLS has co-counseled with PAI attorneys on individual client cases. CLS will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with individual attorneys, law firms or PAI programs as appropriate.

7. Involve Government Attorneys

CLS has in the past worked with attorneys from the office of the Colorado Attorney General. However, CLS has not invested significant resources in the development of volunteer opportunities for government attorneys. CLS will include government attorneys in its consideration of its response to the current Legal Needs Survey.

B. Using Small Firms, Solo Practitioners, and Judicare Attorneys

CLS makes extensive use of the PAI contributions of small firms and solo practitioners throughout Colorado. Numbers of attorneys may be limited in rural and mountain areas of the state, however. In particular, economically-depressed areas of the state, such as southeastern and northeastern Colorado, support few private attorneys. Low population numbers also result in smaller attorney panels in other rural and geographically isolated areas. Rural attorneys tend to be concentrated in county seats and other regional centers.

1. Provide Support for Practitioners

CLS provides secondary malpractice insurance coverage to attorneys participating in internal PAI programs. The CLS Executive Director can approve the extension of primary malpractice insurance coverage to retired or corporate attorneys on a case-by-case basis. Internal PAI programs often employ mentors for new or inexperienced volunteers; mentors may be other PAI attorneys or CLS staff attorneys. The CLS website is available to all practitioners regardless of firm size or location. CLS has provided numerous training opportunities for all PAI attorneys. Training may consist of a Continuing Legal Education seminar focused on an area of the law which is either a significant legal need for the local low-income client population,

or a legal topic of interest to local attorneys which is offered as a recruitment incentive. CLS will investigate the opportunities provided by new technology including video casting and web casting to provide training to attorneys in isolated rural communities on a cost-effective basis.

2. Provide Screening of Cases

CLS offices pre-screen all clients who are referred to internal PAI programs, and many offices working with independent PAI programs also perform screening activities for those programs. (In fact, some CLS offices conduct joint case review with staff of independent PAI programs, which facilitates case referral to those programs.) Referral packets prepared for PAI attorneys typically include client intake and eligibility information as well as case facts; retainer forms and information on CLS policies are also provided.

3. Encourage Recruitment Incentives

CLS has collaborated with the Colorado Access to Justice Commission to promote PAI recruitment. Successful collaborations resulted in the adoption by the Colorado Supreme Court of initiatives to offer Continuing Legal Education credits to attorneys handling *pro bono* cases, and the establishment of a Court program to recognize law firms and individual attorneys who fulfill the annual Pro Bono Legal Services Commitment (50 hours of *pro bono* legal service by each attorney). In addition, in 2007, Colorado Court Rules governing admission to the Bar were amended to allow retired or inactive attorneys to participate in representation of low-income clients through nonprofit PAI programs.

4. Use Retired and Inactive Attorneys

The 2007 amendment to Colorado Court Rules, allowing retired or inactive attorneys to participate in representation of low-income clients through nonprofit PAI programs, opened the door to increased participation by these attorneys. CLS will monitor the effectiveness of this rule change in encouraging increased participation by retired or inactive attorneys. CLS Volunteer Administrators are also monitoring the anticipated volunteer contributions by "baby boomers" who are now beginning to reach retirement age; it is anticipated that this population, which has affected social trends throughout its lifetime, will similarly impact volunteer efforts and volunteer programs at this stage.

C. Involving Law Schools and Law Students

Colorado has two law schools: The University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and the School of Law of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Both universities encourage public service work by their law students. Both have a history of participation in issues impacting the civil legal needs of low-income persons.

1. Involve Legal Clinics

Law students in Denver have participated in legal clinics for over 100 years. The Civil Litigation Clinic has engaged students in several projects developed in cooperation with Colorado Legal Services. For instance, the Welfare Litigation Task Force has addressed issues including lack of adequate notices to recipients of public benefits. Task Force members include students and *pro bono* attorneys from local law firms. Boulder law students participate in a civil clinic as part of the Legal Aid and Defender Program, which began in 1948.

2. Instill Support for the Future

CLS works collaboratively with Metro Volunteer Lawyers to encourage *pro bono* and public service commitments among law students. CLS staff often serve as presenters on topics related to poverty law and public service careers. CLS and Metro Volunteer Lawyers conduct a recruitment drive among recently admitted attorneys at swearing-in ceremonies conducted by the Colorado Supreme Court.

3. Develop Research and Training Resources

Law students have participated in research and representation as described above. Law students are currently offering research services to PAI attorneys in Colorado.

4. Collaborate and Partner

The two law schools have been included in the statewide partnership of legal services programs, Bar Associations, courts, law firms, and poverty law programs which work to improve access to justice for low-income Coloradans.

D. Involving the Judiciary, Bar Associations, Access to Justice Commissions, Community Organizations and Others

1. Obtain the Support of the Judiciary

As stated above, Colorado is fortunate to have a supportive judiciary. The Colorado Supreme Court has adopted several initiatives designed to encourage PAI participation by attorneys and law firms. Judges and magistrates from appellate and district courts serve on the statewide Access to Justice Commission as well as local Access to Justice Committees.

2. Encourage Bar Association Participation

The Colorado Bar Association and many local Bar Associations are active participants and collaborative partners with CLS in activities to support access to justice. The CBA's Local Bar Relations and Access to Justice division provides staff assistance to the statewide Access to Justice Commission, and staff assistance to local PAI programs. The CLS Executive Director served as 2007-2008 Chair of the CBA's Availability of Legal Services Committee. Many local Bar Associations provide financial support to their PAI programs and encourage member participation in *pro bono* activities.

3. Seek Support from State Access to Justice Entities

Colorado's Access to Justice Commission has been an active partner with CLS in efforts to expand and encourage *pro bono* participation. The Executive Director of CLS serves as a Commissioner on the statewide Access to Justice Commission. Many initiatives, described above, have been successfully introduced through this collaboration. In addition, statewide Access to Justice conferences have encouraged local efforts by regional Committees.

4. Partner with Community Organizations

CLS offices have often partnered with community organizations in addressing client needs. CLS encourages its local offices to investigate and collaborate with local programs that support clients' nonlegal needs.

5. Integrate Technology

CLS is currently supporting several technology initiatives, most notably the CLS website, which serves both clients and advocates (including PAI attorneys) with extensive listings of information and resources. CLS is also encouraging its offices to develop other technology, including video conferencing, web casts, and online conferencing, and is now developing a coordinated intake system. Internal PAI programs have been included in these efforts.

E. Recognition

CLS works with the Colorado Bar Association to recognize PAI contributions by attorneys, law firms, and organizations. The CBA offers several annual awards. The "Donald W. Hoagland Award" honors outstanding leadership in the development, support and ongoing efforts of *pro bono* representation of low-income persons. The "Jacob V. Schaetzel Award" honors attorneys or non-attorneys whose commitment, energy and innovative approaches to the delivery of legal services serve as models for others in the community. The "Marilyn T. Meadoff Award" honors attorneys or non-attorneys (including legal services employees) who have made significant contributions to the representation or advancement of representation of Colorado citizens. The "Jack Donahue Award" honors attorneys or non-attorneys (including legal services employees) who have made significant contributions to the development of innovative programs or approaches to serving the unmet legal needs of Colorado citizens. And the "*Pro Bono* Coordinator of the Year Award" honors the *pro bono* coordinator in Colorado who, in the past year, contributed the most to providing civil legal services to the disadvantages through a local bar or law firm sponsored *pro bono* project or other law related *pro bono* project. (Both the Meadoff Award and the Donahue Award are named in honor of former employees of legal services programs in Colorado.) In addition, the CBA provides "100 Hour Club" certificates for PAI attorneys who contribute 100 hours in one year to the representation of low-income *pro bono* clients. CLS offices with internal PAI programs also offer attorney recognition activities for *pro bono* attorneys on their panels. For instance, in the Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project, all attorneys who participate in client representation receive annual certificates in recognition of their work. Boulder County Legal Services presents its awards at an annual *Pro Bono* Lunch.

Individual Office Reports

Alamosa office. The Alamosa office works with an independent *pro bono* program, the San Luis Valley Pro Bono Project. This program shares the same six-county territory—and similar case guidelines—with the Alamosa office. The *pro bono* program conducts a monthly clinic, Thursday Night Bar (TNB). CLS refers some consumer, family and housing cases, as well as conflict cases, to TNB. The *pro bono* program also refers clients to CLS, especially in specialized poverty law cases. CLS has hosted CLE programs for San Luis Valley attorneys who volunteer with the *pro bono* program.

The six-county 12th Judicial District served by the Alamosa office is an area of high poverty in south central Colorado. The poverty population of 9,067 persons was 19.6% of the total population in 2000. The median household income in 2000 was \$27,650 (compared to the state median of \$47,203). This largely rural, agricultural area supports few private attorneys, who are concentrated in Alamosa and Monte Vista. Since local attorney numbers are limited, and private attorneys have a client base with relatively moderate incomes, CLS makes use of contract funds to enable attorneys to accept referrals from the CLS office without jeopardizing their ability to remain in practice. CLS has recruited contract attorneys to handle protective orders and other family law cases, and will continue to explore ways to make efficient and effective use of PAI resources. The rate of contract payment is less than half of the local prevailing market rate for similar attorney services.

Boulder office. The Boulder office maintains an internal PAI component. This CLS program is known locally as Boulder County Legal Services (BCLS), the name under which the program began over 40 years ago. It has a long history of providing *pro bono* legal services hand-in-hand with its staff attorney services; over 50% of cases are handled by the *pro bono* panel. The office partners with the Boulder County Bar Association to support a wide range of PAI activities, including the Pro Se Assistance Program, contract referrals of emergency cases, and a large *pro bono* panel accepting a wide range of civil legal matters for advice and representation. Funding is provided by CLS, the local Bar Association, and a variety of other local funders.

Boulder County, the 20th Judicial District, is a largely urban area with a suburban fringe. It mirrors the state poverty rate, although the 2000 median household income of the area exceeded the state figure (\$55,816 in Boulder County versus \$47,203 for Colorado). It had a poverty population in 2000 of 26,818 persons. The office is able to serve this population with one attorney and one paralegal due to the contributions of the private attorney panel.

Boulder has a non-attorney volunteer intake program which conducts client interviews at the main office in Louisville as well as an intake site in Longmont. Clients confined to nursing homes, their own homes or other facilities are interviewed at their residences. BCLS staff review all intakes and determine the appropriate disposition for each. Cases are referred to the PAI component when resources and expertise are available for the civil legal problem involved.

The supervising attorney of the Boulder County office reviews cases prior to referral and determines which cases are appropriate for the PAI panel. A pro bono coordinator devotes at least half of her time to the referral and oversight of PAI cases, as well as attorney recruitment and retention. All cases are monitored closely. Both clients and attorneys are asked to complete case closure and survey forms which record case outcome and client satisfaction. Conflict checks are completed by the office prior to acceptance of a case, and by each volunteer attorney prior to the referral of each case.

The Pro Se Assistance Program is a one-on-one session where eligible clients receive assistance from pro bono attorneys in completing their family law cases. Clients may return for additional assistance as often as needed. A volunteer mediator program pairs clients with both attorney and non-attorney mediators.

The Availability of Legal Services Committee of the Boulder County Bar Association meets monthly to offer support and direction to the BCLS office. Each year, the Committee sponsors a CLE presentation for PAI attorneys on a legal topic that affects program clients. The Committee also submits a yearly article to the Boulder Bar newsletter on an issue related to PAI efforts.

An annual pro bono awards lunch recognizes attorney volunteer efforts. BCLS presents certificates recognizing attorney donations of time and participation by law firms. A special award, the John Marshall Award, recognizes an outstanding volunteer attorney. The luncheon also offers CLE credit to attendees through presentations related to pro bono ethical obligations.

An active Access to Justice Committee has as its main purpose the improvement of justice to all citizens in the Twentieth Judicial District (Boulder County). The BCLS Pro Bono Coordinator participates in this Committee, which has nine members and three ex-officio members, including three Judges and one Magistrate. The Committee's focus remains the facilitation of access for limited English-speaking persons through programs for diversity training, interpreters, and translation of court documents. The Committee supports a program, "De Puerta a Puerta" ("From Door to Door"), which uses bilingual volunteers to assist monolingual speakers who have contact with the courts in accessing other agency services.

Colorado Springs office. The Colorado Springs office houses an independent pro bono program, the El Paso County Bar Pro Bono Program. CLS provides office space and other in-kind support. Since August 2004, a Pro Bono Coordinator hired by the Bar Association has been working to refer cases to the Bar's pro bono panel.

Colorado Springs is primarily responsible for El Paso, Lincoln and Teller Counties and shares responsibility for Fremont, Park, Chaffee and Custer Counties with other CLS offices. El Paso, the population center, is a largely urban area. Lincoln County to the east is a suburban/rural mix; Teller County to the west is a mountain/rural area with new housing developments occupied by higher income commuters to city jobs. The median household income in 2000 was about \$5,500 below the state figure, with the exception of Teller County, where the new bedroom communities raised the median household income to \$50,165. The 2000 poverty population of 42,004 was 7.7% of the total population. Attorneys are concentrated in El Paso County, as are the majority of the poverty population.

Intake is performed by CLS staff, who complete an internal conflict of interest determination. The CLS supervising attorney determines appropriate case disposition. Cases are referred to the pro bono panel when resources and expertise are available for the civil legal problem involved. Conflict checks are performed before cases are accepted by volunteer attorneys. The Pro Bono Coordinator monitors case progress, and is also responsible for recruitment of panel attorneys.

CLS conducts a pro se divorce clinic; private attorneys volunteer at a follow-up session once each month to answer individual client questions in a one-on-one setting. The attorneys at the follow-up session also meet with other people who have post decree issues or need advice on how to enforce their court orders (through actions such as contempt filings). Finally, the office is working with a panel of private attorneys to respond to the high number of foreclosures in El Paso County.

A private attorney works with CLS staff to prepare wills for eligible seniors. The attorney conducts group seminars and then follows up with individual seniors to complete their wills. This service was added in 2006 and helped 25 to 30 seniors in its first year of operation.

The CLS managing attorney meets monthly with the Pro Bono Coordinator to consult and update one another. Through their joint efforts, a recruitment drive began in early 2007 to expand the volunteer attorney panel.

A member of the CLS staff serves on the Access to Justice Committee of the Fourth Judicial District, which was instrumental in securing Bar funding for the Pro Bono Coordinator position. The partnership between CLS and the Bar program has strengthened pro bono efforts. Attorney recruitment has expanded, and more cases are being referred to the pro bono panel. CLS provides attorney training, consultation and mentoring for pro bono attorneys, in addition to its support of the Pro Bono Coordinator.

Denver office. The Denver office houses an independent pro bono program, Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL). MVL, a department of the Denver Bar Association, is funded by its five local Bar Associations, the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation, and other local funders. CLS provides office space and other in-kind support.

The metropolitan Denver region served by this office (along with nearby Gilpin County in the mountains) contain the largest concentration of poor persons in the state—129,345 according to the 2000 Census. The poverty population was 7.9% of this area's total population in 2000. The median household income of \$56,440 was above the state median. Most of the state's attorneys practice in this metropolitan area.

Intake is conducted by CLS staff using a non-attorney volunteer intake model. The supervising attorney of the CLS Intake Unit determines appropriate disposition of each case. Prior to case acceptance, an internal conflict of interest determination is completed. Appropriate cases are then forwarded to MVL. Cases which are referred to MVL are then reviewed by MVL staff who determine if the case is appropriate for referral and if resources are available to refer the case to the pro bono attorney panel. Private attorneys complete their own conflict of interest determination prior to accepting a case from MVL.

The majority of MVL cases referred involve domestic relations. Other cases include consumer, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant, real estate, wills/powers of attorney, guardianship/conservatorships, probate, and tax issues. The program has a special panel of attorneys who assist persons with immigration cases.

MVL also coordinates a panel, originally developed by CLS staff, which accepts referrals of Social Security and SSI cases related to disability determinations. The CLS Health and Elder Law Unit developed this private attorney panel to leverage attorney resources for both fee-generating and non-fee-generating cases. Attorneys accept cases in blocks of three, which include two fee-generating and one non-fee-generating matter. Cases involving initial claims often result in lump sum payments to clients, from which clients can pay their attorneys. Cases involving Continuing Disability Reviews, situations in which clients are being re-evaluated to document their continuing eligibility for disability payments, do not often result in lump sum payments which could be used to pay attorneys. By combining the cases in each block referral to an attorney, MVL staff are able to ensure assistance to clients without the means to pay their attorneys, while maintaining the attorney panel by offering them fee-generating cases which enable them to continue serving these clients.

The CLS Health and Elder Law Unit also maintains an informal panel of attorneys who assist clients with Medicaid estate planning on a reduced-fee or pro bono basis.

Cases may also be referred to MVL's Family Law Court Program. MVL coordinates monthly Family Law Court Program clinics in Douglas, Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, and Jefferson Counties. THE FLCP assists clients with relatively uncomplicated, uncontested divorce or custody matters where the other party is not represented by an attorney. Each District Court in the metropolitan area has set aside specific dates on which FLCP cases are scheduled. Volunteer attorneys and paralegals, recruited by MVL, are available to assist the clients through the court process. Clients meet with MVL staff or volunteer attorneys or paralegals to draft court pleadings to file a pro se action. MVL staff file the paperwork and arrange service of process. Clients then meet again with a volunteer attorney or paralegal to complete discovery paperwork and prepare for their court hearings. Volunteer attorneys meet with clients on the day of their hearings, enter an appearance and obtain final orders, and then withdraw from the case. If the case is not resolved at court, MVL may set the case for a subsequent court date or assist the client in obtaining individual representation. MVL also coordinates post-decree clinics for domestic relations cases in Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties.

The staff of MVL have access to CLS staff attorneys who specialize in poverty law issues. Substantive and skills training is provided for attorneys who accept pro bono cases from MVL in the areas of bankruptcy, divorce and family law, housing issues, legal issues of the elderly, Medicaid eligibility and public benefits. MVL partners with the Denver Bar Association and with the Colorado Bar Association's Family Law Section to pair less-experienced attorneys with more experienced mentors. Informal advice, technical assistance and support are provided on an individual basis as needed.

MVL monitors case progress and obtains attorney case closure reports and client satisfaction surveys upon the completion of cases.

Access to Justice Committees in the First, Second and Seventeenth Judicial Districts work with CLS and MVL to expand clinics in underserved areas. The Committees are also assisting in attorney recruitment efforts.

Durango office. The Durango office partners with the Southwest Bar Association to sponsor Southwest Bar Volunteer Legal Aid, Inc. A CLS paralegal serves as part-time pro bono coordinator for this internal PAI program. Funding is provided by CLS, the Bar Association, and other local funders. The supervising attorney of the CLS Durango office served as President of the local Bar Association in 2006, and received the 2006 Southwestern Colorado Bar Association's Professionalism Award.

The counties served by this office overlap three Judicial Districts in the southwestern corner of the state. This is an area of high poverty (11,292 persons, or 12.3% of the population, in 2000), with a median household income in 2000 of \$37,614. One attorney and one paralegal (along with grant attorneys when available) serve this 9,474 square foot region, which includes two tribal lands (the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute). This rural, agricultural area supports few private attorneys, who are concentrated in Durango and Cortez. The Durango office has utilized contract funds to enable private attorneys to accept referrals without jeopardizing their ability to remain in private practice. The rate of contract payment is less than half of the local prevailing market rate for similar attorney services.

The coordinator screens and refers eligible clients to the pro bono panel after consultation with the supervising attorney and pro bono attorney advisors. Cases are referred to the PAI component when resources and expertise are available for the civil legal problem involved. CLS also refers Title III senior cases to pro bono attorneys. The coordinator runs pro se dissolution clinics in cooperation with the Women's Bar Association, and CLS dissolution manuals are provided to financially qualified clinic participants. Pro bono attorneys have been recruited to present senior legal workshops on topics such as living wills and powers of attorney. The pro bono coordinator monitors all PAI cases. Both clients and attorneys are asked to complete case closure and survey forms which record case outcome and client satisfaction. Conflict checks are completed prior to the acceptance and referral of each case.

An active Access to Justice Committee meets every two months, and has tackled local issues such as court fee waivers and expanding access to minority clients. The Access to Justice Committee has created a Spanish-language video explaining a defendant's rights in criminal proceedings, through a grant from the Colorado Bar Foundation. Other projects include a Spanish-language video for pro se litigants, and assistance

to construction subcontractors seeking payment of wages. The Durango supervising attorney serves on the Board of Directors of this Committee. Eleven other Committee members include a local Judge and Magistrate.

Fort Collins office. The Fort Collins office refers its conflict cases and non-priority cases to an independent pro bono program, Larimer County Bar Association Pro Bono Program, located in Loveland and Fort Collins. This program handles many of the same cases as the CLS office. The pro bono program holds screening clinics weekly; clients are either accepted for representation or given advice on how to proceed pro se. The CLS office also assists the pro bono programs with self-help clinics on family law issues.

The Fort Collins office serves Larimer County, an urban/rural mix with a median household income above the state median. Its 22,600 poor persons were 8.9% of the total population in 2000. It also serves Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick Counties. These counties, part of the 13th Judicial District in the northeastern area of the state, are largely rural/agricultural, and had a poverty rate of 10.9% according to the 2000 Census.

Grand Junction office. The Grand Junction office covers a wide territory, and employs different PAI models in different judicial districts. In Mesa County, the office houses an independent pro bono program, the Mesa County Bar Pro Bono Project. In the Ninth Judicial District, it partners with an independent program, Alpine Legal Services. And in the Seventh Judicial District, it partners with two independent programs, Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid and the Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Program.

The four counties served by this office include Mesa County, a rapidly growing area of west central Colorado, where the Grand Junction office is located. Garfield County, to the north of Mesa County, is an urban/rural mix (with urbanization spreading from the eastern side of the county westward). Montrose and Delta Counties, to the east and south of Mesa County, are rural areas which have seen substantially increasing in-migrations of second homeowners and transplants from more expensive areas of the state and nation. The median household income of the area (with the exception of Garfield County) is below the state median. The poverty population of 22,199 persons was 10% of the local populations in 2000. This 9,656 square-mile area is served by the staff of the Grand Junction CLS office. The office's cooperative relationship with the pro bono programs in its area enables it to more effectively serve this large region.

The Director of the Mesa County Bar Pro Bono Project works out of the Grand Junction CLS office. CLS provides office space and other in-kind support. CLS conducts joint client intake for both staff and pro bono cases. CLS has broadened its intake to include cases suitable for referral to pro bono attorneys, enabling the pro bono Director to increase the size of the attorney panel by offering a wider variety of cases. The CLS supervising attorney makes the final determination regarding case disposition. Cases are referred to the pro bono program for cases that fall within their priorities and for which expertise is available. Conflict checks are completed prior to acceptance of a case by the CLS office. Conflict cases are always referred to the pro bono program for consideration. Each volunteer attorney also conducts his or her own conflict check prior to accepting a referral from the pro bono program.

CLS staff and the Pro Bono Director assisted in the creation of a Young Lawyers Division of the local Bar Association, and are working with this new Bar program to encourage pro bono participation. Staff and pro bono personnel have also worked together to create community clinics to assist clients with pro se divorce and custody matters. CLS and the pro bono program work cooperatively to serve victims of domestic violence needing protection orders. The Pro Bono Director generally assists victims with the initial paperwork to obtain a temporary protection order, which must be served upon the abuser, who then has a right to a hearing before the order is made permanent. CLS staff attorneys or occasionally pro bono attorneys attend the hearing to help the victim obtain the permanent protection order. Clinics are also offered to seniors on a variety of elder law topics, as a joint project of CLS and the pro bono program.

The partnership between the two civil legal aid programs has grown significantly since CLS began housing the independent pro bono program in 2003. The programs have an excellent working relationship, sharing office space and client workload, and provide clients with a seamless service that avoids duplication of effort and simplifies access to services.

The Grand Junction CLS office accepts referrals of Garfield County cases from Alpine Legal Services. CLS offers training to and shares expertise and materials with the pro bono program, and is negotiating the development of cooperative guidelines between the two programs.

Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid conducts joint intake for itself and the Grand Junction CLS office in Montrose County. A CLS staff attorney conducts regular pro se family law clinics on divorce and custody issues for the pro bono program. The CLS attorney also responds to individual client questions following the clinic, and provides advice and direction to the pro bono program coordinator on pending cases. In addition, the CLS attorney now provides regular bankruptcy clinics, which are group sessions accompanied by individualized attention to each client.

The Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Program provides referrals to CLS in conjunction with the pro bono and law referral services it performs in Delta County by agreement with the Delta County Bar Association. In addition, CLS and the Delta County program coordinate community clinics including a foreclosure clinic that was offered in August 2008.

A CLS staff attorney, the Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid pro bono program coordinator, representatives from the Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Program, and the Coordinator of the Gunnison office of Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project participate in the Seventh Judicial District Access to Justice Committee. This Committee meets quarterly through video-conferencing, and has developed monthly advice clinics and workshops, and has sponsored fundraisers to support local pro bono programs.

Greeley office. The Greeley office works with an independent pro bono program, Weld County Legal Services. This office also serves Morgan, Washington, and Yuma Counties in northeastern Colorado, a rural/agricultural area with a 12% poverty rate according to the 2000 Census.

Weld County has the majority of the poverty population, which in 2000 totaled 22,019 or 12% of the population. Weld County is an urban/rural mix with a largely agricultural economy supplemented by animal processing plants in Greeley. Most attorneys practice in Greeley, the population center. The median household income for the county was \$42,321 in 2000.

CLS staff conduct intake, complete conflict checks, and refer clients to Weld County Legal Services. The pro bono program maintains a panel of volunteer attorneys who accept both CLS clients and clients who apply directly to the program. Most clients receive a thirty-minute consultation with an attorney. Each attorney completes his or her own conflict check prior to acceptance of a case. A staff attorney of the Greeley CLS office is a member of the Board of Directors of Weld County Legal Services, which has recently merged with the local Access to Justice Committee. Weld County Legal Services conducts its Call a Lawyer program out of the CLS offices, as well as some of its legal clinics. WCLS offers multiple clinics covering a variety of legal topics.

La Junta office. The La Junta office has developed a contract attorney program as an internal component of the office. Intake is conducted by CLS office staff, with the attorney Administrator of the Southeast Colorado Legal Services Project making the final determination regarding case referral. The Administrator has developed a panel of attorneys willing to accept case referrals on a contract basis. Clients are matched with contract attorneys for representation in cases meeting office priorities. Cases are referred to the PAI component when resources and expertise are available for the civil legal problem involved. Office staff monitor the progress of each case and record case outcomes. Conflict checks are completed prior to the referral of each case to a contract attorney.

The contract attorney model was developed in response to the economic profile of the ten counties served by the CLS La Junta office. Southeastern Colorado is an area of high poverty and limited resources. The La Junta CLS office serves an area of 19,838 square miles, with a poverty population (in 2000) equal to 16.4% of the total population (compared to 10.2% for Colorado in 2000). The median household income in 2000 was \$27,513 (compared to the state median of \$47,203). The CLS office is staffed by one full-time attorney, one half-time attorney, and one paralegal. Use of private attorneys enables this office to more effectively serve its large geographic territory. Local attorney numbers are limited, however, and the few attorneys in the area are also called upon to accept a significant number of court appointments in criminal and

some civil matters (such as dependency and neglect cases). They also have a client base with relatively moderate incomes. The availability of contract funds enables private attorneys to accept multiple referrals from the CLS office without jeopardizing their ability to remain in practice. The rate of contract payment is less than half of the local prevailing market rate for similar attorney services.

In 2008, a grant paralegal was added in the Pueblo office, to serve both the Pueblo and La Junta PAI programs. This half-time paralegal position supports the La Junta contract referral program and assists with community education, and has established Family Law Court Programs (modeled on the Denver program) in Walsenburg and Trinidad. The paralegal will also seek local funds to support continuation of this position beyond the initial grant period.

Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project. The Northwest Colorado Legal Services Project (NCLSP) is entirely a PAI program. Its four offices (in Frisco, Gunnison, Hayden and Leadville) are staffed by pro bono coordinators who work with local pro bono attorney advisors to determine the disposition of cases. Well over half of NCLSP's funds are provided from the Legal Services Corporation grant to CLS. The rest of the project's funds are raised locally by CLS from various United Ways, Bar Associations, local governments, foundations and agencies. The Gunnison coordinator position is currently vacant, and CLS management plans to work with the local Bar Association, volunteer attorneys, and other service agencies and local supporters to evaluate anticipated service demands and potential delivery mechanisms for this one-county area.

The eleven counties served by NCLSP contain mountain resort communities and rural enclaves in a 21,056 square mile area of northwestern Colorado. There are no large population centers, although several counties are experiencing population booms as retirees and second homeowners are attracted to the scenic mountain communities. Resultant cost of living issues have driven low income residents to concentrate in the remaining affordable areas. The median household income varies widely among the eleven counties, with Clear Creek, Eagle, Grand, Pitkin, Routt and Summit Counties exceeding the state median income, and Gunnison, Jackson, Lake, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties falling below the state median income. Attorneys are concentrated in the higher income areas, but are often willing to travel to serve low income clients in nearby poorer counties.

Supervision is provided by local attorney advisors and by CLS management. The coordinators are responsible for conflict of interest checks, interviewing and screening potential clients, recruiting volunteer attorneys, assigning cases to participating attorneys, and monitoring case progress. Both clients and attorneys are asked to complete case closure and survey forms which record case outcome and client satisfaction. Nearly all of the actual legal services are provided to clients by attorneys on a pro bono basis. In several communities emergency cases or complex legal matters are referred to a small panel of attorneys who contract with NCLSP to provide services at a greatly reduced rate.

A toll-free legal information hotline serves the eleven counties of NCLSP from the Leadville office, acting as access point for most initial client contact, providing information and referral services, performing basic screening of applicants, and serving as a contact point for volunteers. NCLSP works closely with local libraries to provide legal information materials and CLS application packets, as well as community education seminars, at the libraries. Local pro bono attorneys staff advice clinics in Eagle, Gunnison, Moffat, Routt and Summit Counties. Title III senior legal services are provided by volunteer attorneys in eight NCLSP counties.

NCLSP staff have joined local Access to Justice Committees in the Seventh Judicial District and the Fifth Judicial District. The Committee in the Seventh Judicial District has initiated advice-only panels and is working on a criminal advice-only panel to advise defendants regarding plea deals. The Committee in the Fifth Judicial District has developed a resource list and is working on landlord-tenant and employment law videos. NCLSP staff also participate in local Bar Association activities and meetings. A "Volunteer Attorney of the Year" is selected annually from NCLSP's eleven-county area, and all volunteer attorneys receive annual certificates of appreciation, acknowledging their contributions to clients.

Pueblo office. The Pueblo office has initiated an internal pro bono program, staffed by a half-time Pro Bono Coordinator. The supervising attorney of the office serves on the Pro Bono Committee of the Bar, and is the local Bar representative to the Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors, and past President of the local

Bar. Staff attorneys participate on the local Bar's domestic violence task force, and offer presentations on senior legal issues to employees of health care organizations serving senior citizens.

Pueblo County is an industrial/rural combination, with populations concentrated in the city of Pueblo, in the south-central area of Colorado. This county comprises the 10th Judicial District, with a poverty population of 20,449 persons (14.4% of the total population) in 2000. The median household income was \$32,775 in 2000. Attorneys are concentrated in the city of Pueblo, and serve a clientele with moderate incomes.

In 2008, a grant paralegal was added in the Pueblo office, to serve both the Pueblo and La Junta PAI programs. This half-time pro bono paralegal screens and refers clients to volunteer attorneys. Clients are matched with contract attorneys for representation in cases meeting office priorities. Cases are referred to the PAI component when resources and expertise are available for the civil legal problem involved. Office staff monitor the progress of each case and record case outcomes. Conflict checks are completed prior to the referral of each case to a contract attorney. The paralegal assists with and expands community education such as "Call A Lawyer" programs as well as PAI attorney support activities such as Continuing Legal Education seminars. The paralegal has initiated a Family Law Court Program based upon the Denver model in Pueblo County. The paralegal will also seek local funds to support continuation of this position beyond the initial grant period.

Salida office. The Salida office (formerly the Buena Vista office) partners with an independent pro bono program run by the Heart of the Rockies Bar Association. This office serves a three-county area, part of the 11th Judicial District, in mountainous central Colorado. The 2000 poverty population of 3,000 persons was 8.8% of the total population. The median household income was \$40,333 in 2000. (Only Park County, which contains bedroom communities for commuters to Front Range jobs, exceeded the median household income in 2000.) Few attorneys practice in these communities.

Intake is conducted by the CLS office, which performs a conflict of interest check and determines case disposition. The CLS office refers cases which meet CLS financial and case acceptance guidelines to pro bono attorneys. CLS conflict cases, and cases served under a Title III grant, may also be referred for pro bono assistance. The President of the Bar Association assists with case placement and recruiting of attorneys for the panel. Individual attorneys perform their own conflict of interest checks prior to accepting cases.

The half-time PAI Paralegal grant position in the Pueblo office may assist with development of PAI activities in the Salida area.

Summary

Despite a difficult economic climate, CLS has expanded and strengthened its PAI activities. An additional internal PAI program has been added in the Pueblo office, and efforts are expanding in the southeastern area of the state. PAI models are structured to take advantage of available community resources and to address the legal needs of eligible clients as reflected in CLS priorities. The effectiveness of PAI programs is demonstrated by the donation of almost \$3.00 of attorney time for each \$1.00 allocated to PAI activities. The Statewide Access to Justice Commission has worked with the Colorado Supreme Court to institute several programs supporting pro bono efforts. Access to Justice Committees in several jurisdictions are increasing private Bar efforts and enhancing cooperation between CLS and the private Bar. New technology has been implemented with the needs of volunteer attorneys as well as office staff in mind.

Attachment E

Denver Bar Association

Law-Related Volunteer Opportunities



Community Based Projects

Program name	Program description	Contact	Time commitment	Timing
Lawline 9	Staff a Lawline 9 call-in program. Answer general legal questions and provide legal information and referrals to other community legal resources. Weekly topics vary and legal resource information provided.	ple@cobar.org	1 1/2 hour shifts	Year-round every Wednesday (4:00–5:15 p.m. and/or 5:15–6:30 p.m.)
Morning Lawline 9	Staff a Lawline 9 Call-in program. Answer general legal questions and provide legal information and referrals to other community legal resources.	ple@cobar.org	2 hour shifts once a month	Second Thursday morning from 5:30–7:30 a.m. every month
The People's Fair	Staff the DBA booth to answer legal questions and offer legal information and referrals to other community legal resources to Fair attendees. Legal resource information provided.	ple@cobar.org	2 hour shifts	June
Veterans' Stand Down	Assist homeless vets by answering legal questions and offering legal information and referrals to other community legal resources. Legal Resource Information provided.	ple@cobar.org	2 hour shifts	November
Metro Volunteer Lawyers	Provide <i>pro bono</i> legal services to eligible MVL clients. Services include bankruptcy, probate, taxes, wills, family law, etc. Go to www.metrovolunteerlawyers.org for more info on other <i>pro bono</i> opportunities.	Dianne Van Voorhees at diannev@denbar.org	Varies Free CLE credit for training	Ongoing during year, depending upon client eligibility
Community Action Network (CAN)	Assist with CAN projects like school supply and food drives, the Children's Hospital Courage Classic, and fund raising events for the community.	Heather Clark at hclark@cobar.org	unlimited	Ongoing during the year
Court Annexed Mediation Program (CAMP)	Co-mediate cases in Denver County Court's Civil Division. Must have 40 hours minimum basic mediation training.	Deb Sperlak at 303-824-5377	3–4 hours per session	Ongoing during the year; mediators in court daily; volunteer when available
Pro Se Clinics	Conduct a <i>pro se</i> legal clinic for the community. Call Carolyn Gravit for topics and availability, or if you have a clinic you'd like to offer. Topics include: Collections, Small Claims, Divorce and Bankruptcy.	Carolyn Gravit at cgravit@cobar.org	2 hours + prep time	Ongoing during the year, once a month
DBA Committees & Activities	Volunteer to serve on a DBA Committee. For more information about these opportunities, visit www.denbar.org .	Melissa Nicoletti at melissan@cobar.org	Varies	Ongoing during the year, monthly meeting
Legal Night at Mi Casa	Volunteer attorneys will provide information on a variety of legal topics and how they may relate to immigration issues. The clinics are informational only and legal advice or counsel will not be provided.	ple@cobar.org	2 hours	3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Legal Night at El Centro San Juan Diego	Volunteer attorneys will provide information on a variety of legal topics and how they may relate to immigration issues. The clinics are informational only and legal advice or counsel will not be provided.	ple@cobar.org	2 hours	1st Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.

School Based Projects

Program name	Program description	Grade level	Time commitment	Timing
Speakers	Speak to a class on any one of a variety of topics.	All Levels	1-3 hours	Ongoing during school year, depending on school requests
Court Tours	Take classes on tour of the local City/County Courthouse; training/ orientation provided. Non-litigators welcomed!	All Levels	2-3 hours	Ongoing during school year, depending on school requests
Career Days	Speak about the legal professions to a classroom, or at a CBA/DBA sponsored booth.	All Levels	3 hours	Ongoing during school year, depending upon school requests
Law Week	Law Week Volunteers: Implement curricula and programs in classrooms during first week of May; includes dialogue formats and in-class activities.	Middle and High School	1-3 hours	First week in May
	Law Week Planning Committee: Work with DBA committees to develop and implement a Law Week project(s) for schools and/or Denver community.		Approximately 5-15 hours	January-May
Law Day Art Contest	Visit a school to discuss Law Day and what it is. Pass out information and explain details of the contest. Help judge the art work by the students. This is for K-5 students.	K-5	2 hours	January-March
In-Class Mock Trials	Visit a classroom to help implement and explain what a mock trial is and how it works. Teachers work with students in advance. Mock trial scripts are available for elementary, middle and high school classes.	All Levels	1-3 hours	Ongoing during school year, depending upon school requests
In Class Law-Related Activities	Implement miscellaneous law related activities in the classroom. Materials are provided for use by attorney and teacher.	All grade levels	2-4 hours	Ongoing during school year, depending on school requests
Colorado Mock Trial Program	Attorney Coaches: Partner with teachers to coach students about mock trial elements and prepare a case problem for regional/ state mock trial competition.	Middle and High School	Varies	Mid-December-mid-March Can extend to mid-May if team advances to National
	Assistant Attorney Coaches: Assist primary attorney coaches with preparation of mock trial teams.	Middle and High School	Varies	Varies for each school
	Scoring Panelists: Adjudicate mock trial rounds at the regional/ state tournament. An orientation and Bench Brief provided in advance.		3-4 hours	February and March Friday afternoon or Saturday
	Courtroom Monitors: Monitor courtroom(s) and rounds during mock trial tournament. An orientation and checklist provided.		6-8 hours	February and March Friday afternoon or Saturday
Constitution Day	Speak to a class about the constitution. Paralegals and law students are welcome.	All grade levels	1-3 hours	On September 17th or week of.
We the People DPS Program	Visit a DPS school and help judge a congressional hearing performed by elementary, middle and high school students	All grade levels	2-3 hours	Ongoing during the school year, depending upon school requests

The Denver Bar Association encourages members to engage in volunteer opportunities that positively affect metro-Denver communities and the Association itself. These Bar programs are designed to provide public legal education and legal services to the public, and professional development and networking opportunities to its members.

Volunteering with any one of these programs combines an attorney's creativity and expertise to make a difference within the community. With many options available for the busy attorney, the Bar works to fit members into the right volunteer opportunity.

Anyone from the community can benefit from one or more of these programs. For more information about these law-related educational or legal services programs, please contact the Denver Bar Association at 303-860-1115.

Volunteer Contact Quick Reference

Metro Volunteer Lawyers

Dianne Van Voorhees, 303-830-8210 or diannev@denbar.org

Community Action Network

Heather Clark, 303-824-5350 or hclark@cobar.org

Court Annexed Action Program (CAMP)

Deb Sperlak, 303-824-5377

Denver Bar Association Committees

Melissa Nicoletti, 303-824-5321 or melissan@cobar.org

All Other Volunteer Opportunities

ple@cobar.org



Denver Bar Association
1900 Grant Street, Suite 900
Denver, CO 80203
303-860-1115

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Asian Pacific Development Center

The Asian Pacific Development Center provides a variety of human services to the Asian Pacific population in Colorado. They need volunteer attorneys who can assist clients with the following types of legal matters: Domestic Violence, Divorce, Child Custody, Immigration Issues (visas, removal issues, etc.), Civil Disputes (traffic accidents, violations, etc.), Work Injury and Worker's Compensation Benefits, Social Security Benefits (SSI or SSDI related issues), Housing Discrimination, and Criminal Defense. For more information, call (303) 365-2959.

Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion

CAHEP focuses on providing health care services to members of Colorado's Asian community. Often these groups involve low income, elderly people from a variety of ethnic groups. CAHEP is seeking volunteer attorneys who may be able to assist clients in securing benefits. Call (303) 954-0058, or visit website www.cahep.org.

Colorado Lawyers Committee

CLC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan consortium of 50 Denver-area law firms that do high impact *pro bono* work. The Committee needs attorneys to advocate, negotiate and litigate for children, indigent, and other disadvantaged communities. To volunteer, visit www.coloradolawyerscommittee.org or e-mail info@coloradolawyerscommittee.org.

Colorado Lawyers for the Arts

CoLA's mission is to help artists and arts organizations succeed on their own creative abilities so that success or failure does not hinge on legal pitfalls. For more information email info@coloradolawyersforthearts.org or visit www.coloradolawyersforthearts.org.

Colorado Legal Services

CLS provides legal advice and representation to low income eligible persons and seniors in civil matters throughout the state. Visit www.ColoradoLegalServices.org or call one of the satellite offices.

- Alamosa (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache) (719) 589-4993
- Boulder (303) 449-7575
- Colorado Springs (719) 471-0380
- Denver (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson, Clear Creek, Gilpin) (303) 837-1313
- Durango (Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan,

San Miguel) (888) 298-8483

- Fort Collins (Larimer, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick) (970) 493-2891
- Frisco (Pitkin, Summit) (800) 521-6968
- Grand Junction (Delta, Garfield, Mesa, Montrose) (970) 243-7817
- Greeley (Morgan, Washington, Weld, Yuma) (970) 353-7554
- Hayden (Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt) (800) 521-6968
- La Junta (Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers) (888) 805-5152
- Leadville (Eagle, Lake) (800) 521-6968
- Pueblo (Pueblo, Custer, Fremont) (719) 545-6708
- Salida (Chafee, Custer, Fremont, Park) (719) 539-4251
- Migrant Farm Worker Division (all counties) (800) 864-4330

Colorado Nonprofit Pro Bono Legal Group

The Legal Group hopes to create a mechanism for lawyers (primarily transactional lawyers) to provide *pro bono* assistance to Colorado nonprofits which require *pro bono* legal assistance. For more information email the Chair of the Planning Committee, Peter Schwartz at [DavisGraham & Stubbs, peter.schwartz@dgslaw.com](mailto:DavisGraham&Stubbs.peter.schwartz@dgslaw.com), or call (303) 892-7381.

Colorado Organization for Victims' Assistance

COVA has a new legal program that will offer *pro bono* assistance to enforce victims' rights. COVA will train attorneys who want to be involved in this type of work. The cases will provide opportunities to litigate new legal questions because there is not much case law in Colorado pertaining to victim's rights. For more information call (303) 861-1160. www.coloradocrimevictims.org.

The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

The Legal Center's primary goal is to open up the legal system to those who would otherwise be unable to voice their needs because of the complexity of the service bureaucracy, their disability or because they are unable to act on their own behalf. Call (303) 722-0300 or www.thelegalcenter.org.

Local Access to Justice Committees

Judicial Districts have formed Local Access to Justice Committees to provide targeted legal assistance to its residents. To view *pro bono* opportunities coordinated by these local committees, see www.coloradojustice.org, then click on Local ATJ Committees.

Longmont Ending Domestic Violence Initiative

LEVI is a coalition of 23 agencies in the Longmont and Boulder area that deals with domestic violence issues. LEVI puts volunteer attorneys in touch with indigent clients who need legal representation. For more information call (303) 774-4534 or visit www.longmontdomesticviolence.org.

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

RMIAN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing legal information and representation to non-citizens detained by the Department of Homeland Security and lacking access to legal counsel. RMIAN seeks volunteer attorneys to represent non-citizen men, women, and children in immigration removal proceedings. Each volunteer attorney will be provided with an experienced immigration practitioner to serve as a mentor for the case. For more information please call (303) 433-2812 or visit www.rmian.org.

Seniors Inc.

This group is looking for attorneys to serve as volunteer coaches. A Coach is an expert in an area of interest to seniors, such as reverse mortgages, financial planning, estate planning, long-term care, etc. Seniors Inc. has a particular need for volunteer attorneys who could advise clients, 95% of whom are low income, with estate planning issues such as writing wills, POAs, or other legal issues such as tenant rights, property rights and fraud. Call (303) 300-6900 or visit www.seniorsinc.org.



make someone's
history
A Colorado *pro bono* campaign.

Pro Bono Opportunities

make **history**
Only you can.



www.MakeHistoryColorado.org

CBA
COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION
Established in 1937

Make History Colorado is a *pro bono* campaign led by the Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. Make History Colorado works to educate and link attorneys to resources and opportunities to provide *pro bono* legal services.

DENVER METRO AREA

Denver Bar Association Clinics
For more information,
contact cgravis@cobar.org.

Legal Night at Mi Casa
(303) 573-1302
www.micasadenver.org

360 Acoma
Third Tuesday
5:30–7 p.m.
Attorneys needed to provide information, and make referrals to appropriate agencies, in areas of immigration, credit, housing, landlord/tenant issues, employment and family law. Spanish interpreters are available.

El Centro de San Juan Diego

(303) 295-9470
2830 Lawrence St.
First Wednesday
5:30–7 p.m.
Volunteer attorneys provide information and advice in credit, housing, landlord tenant, employment and family law. Attorneys provide referrals to appropriate agencies.

Bankruptcy Clinic

(303) 860-1115
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
721 19th St., Rm. 125
Second Tuesday and Fourth Wednesday
1:30–3 p.m.
Attorneys review bankruptcy process and forms, including how bankruptcy can eliminate debts, difference between Chapter 7 and Chapter 13, effect on credit ratings, and forms required for filing; also address issues relating to creditor harassment and contacts by collection agents.

Small Claims Clinic

(303) 860-1115
City and County Building
1437 Bannock St., Room 117
Third Tuesday
11 a.m. –1 p.m.
Informational clinics on filing small claims cases and collecting on judgments.

Collections Clinic

(303) 860-1115
City and County Building
1437 Bannock St., Room 117
Third Thursday
11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Informational clinics on filing small claims cases and collecting on judgments.

Doing Your Own Divorce Clinics

(303) 860-1115
City and County Building
1437 Bannock St.
Third Wednesday
Noon–1:30 p.m.

Jefferson County
100 Jefferson County Pkwy, Golden
Second Wednesday
Noon–1:30 p.m.

Family Law Legal Clinic

(303) 860-1115
Division of Workforce Development
1200 Federal Blvd, Rm. 1018
Third Tuesday
5:30–7 p.m.
Informational clinics providing overview of divorce process, including procedures and forms, child custody, child support, maintenance and property division.

OTHER METRO AREA OPPORTUNITIES

Lawline 9 at KUSA-TV Channel 9

(303) 860-1115
500 Speer Blvd.
Wednesdays
4–5:15 p.m. and 5:15–6:30 p.m.
Call-in program. Answer general legal questions and provide legal information and referrals to other community legal resources. Weekly Topics vary and legal resource information provided.

El Centro Humanitario

ECH seeks attorneys for its wage claim program, Denver's first day laborer organization that protects the rights of vulnerable day laborer populations through an employment program, a legal program, and other educational programs. For more information call (303) 292-4115.

Family Tree Women in Crisis

Family Tree serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This organization needs attorneys for its free legal clinic in Wheat Ridge, which is held the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. for about 2.5 hours. The clinic deals with do-it-yourself divorce as well as custody issues. Family Tree is also looking for volunteer attorneys to take individual cases often involving post-decree issues. Call (303) 420-0412 or visit www.thefamilytree.org.

First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program

This program provides free and low-cost legal information, advice, and representation to senior citizens 55 and older residing in Jefferson and Gilpin counties. Call (303) 216-0851 for more information.

Metro Volunteer Lawyers

MVL needs attorneys to assist low income residents in a seven county metropolitan Denver area. Cases include domestic relations, divorce, parental rights, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant. MVL also conducts family law and pro se divorce workshops. For more information call (303) 866-9378 or visit www.metrovolunteerlawyers.org.

Project Safeguard

Project Safeguard needs family law attorneys for domestic violence victims seeking permanent civil protection orders and dissolution of marriage or allocation of parental responsibilities. Project Safeguard provides all the appropriate forms. For more information call (303) 863-7416, or email clientservices@projectsafeguard.org, or visit projectsafeguard.qwestoffice.net.

Rocky Mountain Survivors' Center

RMSC is a non-profit organization that works with survivors of torture and war trauma. The group needs volunteer attorneys to work with refugees seeking asylum. RMSC recruits, trains and mentors volunteer attorneys and law students. For more information, call (303) 321-3221.

COLORADO OUTSIDE DENVER METRO AREA

Alpine Legal Services, Inc. Pro Bono Program

ALS is a full service legal aid office providing information and referrals, *pro bono* attorneys, legal information rights, do-it-yourself divorce class, landlord-tenant, elder law, and emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence. ALS serves Garfield, Pitkin and Eagle counties. Call (970) 945-8858, (970) 920-2828, or visit www.alpinelegalservices.com.

Alternative Horizons

Alternative Horizons needs attorneys in the Durango area to provide legal representation to people experiencing domestic violence in divorce, child custody, and post decree cases. We offer a 24 hour hotline to support domestic violence survivors, protection orders, pro se divorce clinics, court advocacy for victims involved in criminal cases, support groups in English and Spanish. Visit www.alternative-horizons.org or call (970) 247-4374.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is in need of volunteer attorneys to represent indigent clients on immigration matters in Eagle, Vail, Garfield and Pitkin counties. For more information, call (970) 384-2060.

Delta County Bar Association Pro Bono Clinic

The Delta County Bar Association *Pro Bono* clinic assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys. For more information or to volunteer, call (970) 874-2101.

El Paso County Pro Bono Project

The *pro bono* project is a nonprofit organization that assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys. Volunteer attorneys provide access to justice by advising or representing qualified residents in civil cases, and assisting with clinics and workshops. Call (719) 471-0380, ext 121.

Larimer County Bar Association Pro Bono Program

The *Pro Bono* program needs attorneys to assist low income individuals who are financially over-qualified for Colorado Legal Aid, but who are still within the federal poverty guidelines and unable to afford legal representation. For more information call (970) 402-2075 or visit www.cobar.org/index.cfm/ID/1596/larime/Pro-Bono-Program.

Mesa County Pro Bono Project

The Mesa County *Pro Bono* Project is a non-profit organization that assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys. Volunteer attorneys provide equal access to justice by advising or representing qualified residents in civil cases, and assisting with clinics and workshops. For more information call (970) 243-7940, ext. 108.

Northwest Colorado Legal Services

NWCLS has several state offices. Please contact the office nearest your location to inquire about *pro bono* opportunities:

- Frisco, counties served, Clear Creek, Pitkin, Summit, contact Patricia Craig, PO Box 2694, Frisco (970) 668-9612 or (800) 521-6968
- Gunnison, county served, Gunnison, contact Candace Sparks, PO Box 963, Gunnison (970) 641-3023 or (800) 521-6968
- Hayden, counties served, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, contact Sherri Ferree, PO Box 1555, Hayden (970) 276-2161 or (800) 521-6968
- Leadville, counties served, Eagle, Lake, contact Lea Ann Martinez, PO Box 1904, Leadville (970) 486-3238 or (800) 521-6968

Pueblo County Bar Pro Bono Project

Volunteer attorneys participate in Lawyer Night, Ask-A-Lawyer, Clinics, and Radio-TV presentations on legal issues. Actual cases are referred to Colorado Legal Services. For more information call (719) 553-2553.

San Luis Valley Pro Bono Project

The *Pro Bono* project assists indigent applicants with civil legal needs through referral to volunteer attorneys. The *pro bono* project serves Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Volunteer attorneys provide equal access to justice by advising or representing qualified residents in civil cases. For more information, call (719) 589-6534.

Southwest Bar Volunteer Legal Aid, Inc.

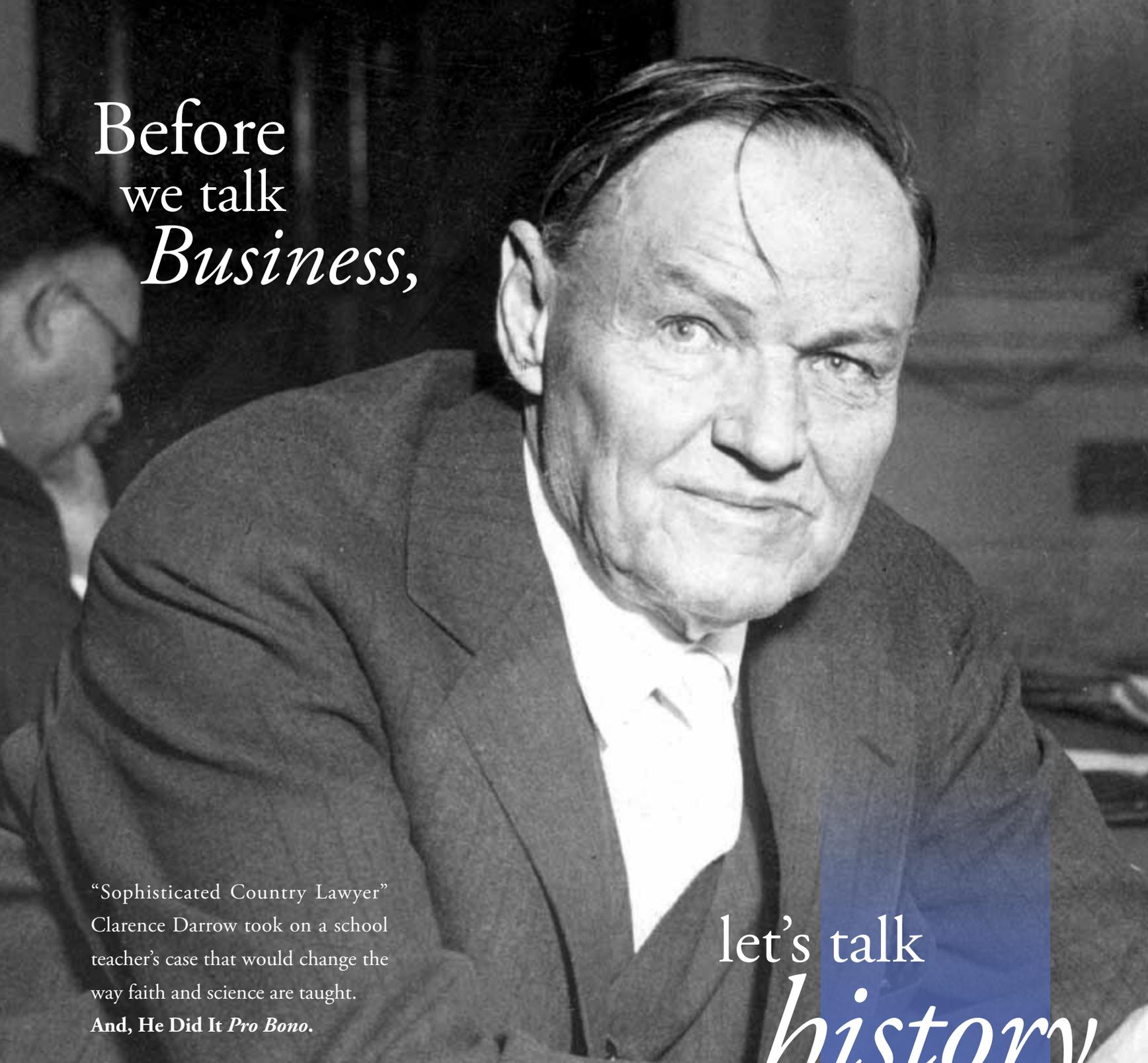
SWBVLA is located in the Durango office of Colorado Legal Services (CLS). There is an ongoing need for attorneys to provide advisory and direct client services in the areas of family, employment, consumer, housing, elder, public benefits and probate law. SWBVLA serves La Plata, San Juan, and Archuleta counties as well as Southern Ute, and Ute Mountain Ute reservations. Call (888) 298-8483.

Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid

UVLA refers *pro bono* cases in Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties, as well as referring *pro bono* for senior citizens in Delta, Gunnison and Hinsdale counties. It needs attorneys to provide ongoing consultations, representations, and mediations in civil matters for low income eligible individuals. UVLA also conducts a free legal advice night the second Thursday of each month at the Montrose County Justice Center. Call (970) 249-7202.

Weld County Legal Services

Volunteer attorneys provide equal access to justice by representing qualified residents in civil cases at no charge, teaching monthly do-it-yourself divorce clinics, and staffing the Call-A-Lawyer hotline. 915 10th Street, Greeley. For more information, call (970) 351.7300, ext. 4514



Before
we talk
Business,

“Sophisticated Country Lawyer”
Clarence Darrow took on a school
teacher’s case that would change the
way faith and science are taught.
And, He Did It *Pro Bono.*

let’s talk
history
A Colorado *pro bono* campaign.

make history
Only you can.

www.MakeHistoryColorado.org

Before
we talk
Business,

Civil rights champion Thurgood Marshall spent decades in the courts working to prove we were separate but unequal. In time, he prevailed.
And, He Did It *Pro Bono.*

let's talk
history
A Colorado *pro bono* campaign.

make history
Only you can.

www.MakeHistoryColorado.org

Before
we talk
Business,

Abe Fortas' representation led to the guarantee that all states would have to provide attorneys for criminal defendants who cannot afford one.

And, He Did It *Pro Bono.*

let's talk
history
A Colorado *pro bono* campaign.

make history
Only you can.

www.MakeHistoryColorado.org

CHIEF JUSTICE COMMISSION ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION
WORKING GROUP A

DECEMBER 1, 2011

MEMBERS: ASSOC. DEAN FRED CHEEVER, SARAH CLARK, PROF. ROBERTO CORRADA, CHARLES GARCIA, JUDGE NEIL GORSUCH, DEAN MARTIN KATZ, JUDGE MARCIA KRIEGER, DEAN WHITING LEARY, PROF. MICHAEL MASSEY, JUDGE JOHN MCGAHEY, JOHN MOSBY, JUDGE GILBERT ROMAN, PROF. ELI WALD, DEAN PHIL WEISER, PROF. MARIANNE WESSON, DEAN DANIEL VIGIL, DEAN WHITING LEARY, PROF. MELISSA HART,

LORENZO TRUJILLO, CHAIR.

REPORT AGENDA:

1. ORIENTATION 2012 **FOR THIS WE STAND** CU & DU
-

BACKGROUND:

NOV. 9 – **FOR THIS WE STAND** SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING TO PREPARE DETAILS, INCLUDING CONFIRMATION OF THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2012 FOR THE JOINT LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATION.

NOV. 11 – MEETING WITH DEAN WEISER, DEAN LEARY, PROF. HART, DEAN VIGIL, AND TRUJILLO REGARDING DETAILS OF THE JOINT ORIENTATION.

NOV. 16 – WORKING GROUP A COMMITTEE MEETING TO FINALIZE DETAILS OF THE JOINT LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATION AND TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF CLE CREDIT FOR ATTORNEYS WHO TEACH LAW STUDENTS.

1. FALL 2012 JOINT LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATION

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE NEW LAW STUDENTS WITH A FOUNDATION ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING TOPIC AREAS: HISTORY OF THE PROFESSION, VALUES OF THE PROFESSION, THE RULE OF LAW, PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS AS A LAWYER, SERVICE, HONESTY, CIVILITY, AMONG OTHERS.

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2012
LOCATION: SEWALL BALLROOM AT THE DENVER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS & FEDERAL AND STATE COURTHOUSES
PROPOSED AGENDA: DEAN DAN VIGIL
PROPOSED BUDGET: SARAH CLARK

ACTION: REQUEST APPROVAL TO SEEK FUNDING AND IMPLEMENT THE FALL 2012 ORIENTATION AS PRESENTED

For This We Stand
Orientation for All First Year Law Students in Colorado
September 22, 2012

Proposed Orientation Schedule as of November 16, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Remarks by:

Chief Justice Michael Bender (45 minutes)

Dean Katz (10 minutes)

Dean Weiser (10 minutes)

Mark Fogg, CBA President (10 minutes)

10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Break

10:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Professionalism and Ethics Session – New content to be prepared by Professor Hart, Professor Wald, and representatives of the Bar (Will consult with Mark Fogg on who will represent bar in this effort; suggestion was made that a lawyer with a relatively small number of years of experience be included)

11:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. Judges Krieger and Carparelli (40 minutes)

12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. Lunch (Tables of 10, 8 students, 1 judge and 1 lawyer)

1:05 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Travel Time

1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Visit courts (students in groups of approximately 25, grouped with judge and lawyer facilitators; each student to visit one court, but with one federal and one state judge at each court)

2:35 p.m. Program ends

DRAFT BUDGET 11-28-11

September 22, 2012 Joint Orientation - For This We Stand			
DENVER CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS			
ITEM	QTY or HOURS	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
Seawell Grand Ballroom Rental (8 AM to 1 PM)	1	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00
Back Wall Draping (Black or White)	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Video Package (projectors/screens)	2	\$700.00	\$1,400.00
IMAG Camera	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Lectern with Microphone	1	\$45.00	\$45.00
Microphone	1	\$45.00	\$45.00
Video Switcher	1	\$250.00	\$250.00
Ballroom Technician Hours (Rigging, Sound, Lighting and Video)	27	\$45.00	\$1,215.00
Event Manager	6	\$26.00	\$156.00
Maintenance Fee (Event set up, strike and cleaning)	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
		DISCOUNT	(\$3,000.00)
		SUBTOTAL	\$5,761.00

DRAFT BUDGET 11-28-11

September 22, 2012 Joint Orientation - For This We Stand			
EVENT RENTS			
ITEM	QTY or HOURS	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
Tables	50	\$10.00	\$500.00
Chairs	500	\$2.00	\$1,000.00
Linens	60	\$8.00	\$480.00
Staging	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
		SUBTOTAL	\$2,480.00

DRAFT BUDGET 11-28-11

September 22, 2012 Joint Orientation - For This We Stand			
EPICURIAN CATERING			
ITEM	QTY or HOURS	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
Coffee Stations	500	\$5.00	\$2,500.00
Box Lunches	500	\$11.95	\$5,975.00
		SUBTOTAL	\$8,475.00

DRAFT BUDGET 11-28-11

September 22, 2012 Joint Orientation - For This We Stand	
TOTAL COSTS	
DENVER CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS	\$5,761.00
EVENT RENTS	\$2,480.00
EPICURIAN CATERING	\$8,475.00
TOTAL	\$16,716.00

DRAFT BUDGET 11-28-11

September 22, 2012 Joint Orientation - For This We Stand
OTHER POSSIBLE COSTS
Parking: \$8-\$20 per car (paid for by attendees)
Courthouse Security - State: None anticipated
Courthouse Security - Federal: Unknown

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief's Commission on the Legal Profession
From: Working Group C
Date: November 28, 2011
Subject: December 1, 2011 Commission Meeting

1. Inns of Court

On October 31, 2011, Working Group C met with representatives from Colorado's Inns of Court. The purpose of the meeting was to connect the Inns representatives in a formal way to foster collaboration and conversation about the continued vitality of Colorado's Inns.

On October 19 and November 16, 2011, Randy Bramer of the Doyle Inn hosted two new lawyer training sessions—first concerned depositions and the second, mediation. Information about the trainings was circulated to all the Inns of Court through the Inn representatives that had previously met with Working Group C, and about 25 lawyers attended each training session. Law clerks from the Court of Appeals law clerks were also invited and attended the training sessions. The next session will be held in January.

Next Steps: Working Group C hopes to facilitate the creation of an Inns of Court Executive Council to continue the conversation and collaboration among the Inns that has been started by Working Group C.

2. Bench-Initiated Bar Activities

Working Group C conducted a preliminary survey of current bench/bar activities that are initiated by judicial officers. The results of the survey are attached.

Next Steps: Working Group C will continue to solicit and collect responses concerning these activities.

3. Future Direction

Working Group C anticipates continued investigation and future action in the following areas:

- Identify and address impediments to judicial officer involvement in bar and community activities
- Consider issues surrounding professionalism and decorum in the courtroom
- Contact representatives from practice area entities and specialty bars

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM CHIEF JUDGES BENCH/BAR ACTIVITY

INTERACTION WITH ATTORNEYS

In response to an inquiry about their judicial district's interaction with attorneys, eight chief judges provided Working Group C with the following information:

Annual bench/bar conferences: The most common way judges interact with attorneys is through an annual bench/bar conference, roundtable, or CLE event.

1st J.D. There, the judges and the local bar association hold a "Judges' Roundtable" each fall, with tables set up for Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, and Probate/Mental Health. CLE credit is approved, and the meeting is packed.

2nd J.D. The judges and the local bar association hold an annual "bench/bar retreat," which is planned by both the judges and members of the bar. The event is somewhat successful, with reasonably good attendance from the judges and attendance from the most active bar members.

4th J.D. The local bar association hosts an annual bench/bar conference, and the topics generally involve what can be done to make the system work better. There is good judicial attendance, but limited lawyer turnout.

7th J.D. There are two bar associations in the 7th, the Delta Bar and the 7th J.D. Bar. The 7th J.D. Bar uses a significant share of its funds to host an "Inn of Court" CLE and dinner that is offered free of charge to attendees. The Delta Bar puts on a similar

educational and social program. The judges often participate in these programs.

12th J.D. Although there is no annual bench/bar CLE event, at times the judges in the 12th J.D. either arrange or prepare and present a CLE program for local attorneys. The judges coordinate with the local bar association to send out invitations, usually by email. The turnout is usually good.

19th J.D. Recently, the chief judge arranged for and presented a CLE aimed at the local district attorneys and public defenders. The CLE was held during one of the local bar association meetings and about 75 lawyers attended, including 12-15 lawyers from the DA's and PD's office.

Monthly or ad hoc lunches or other events: Another way judges interact with attorneys is by hosting monthly or ad hoc lunches or other events.

4th J.D. Lunches with members of the bar are held every other month.

7th J.D. All of the judges in the 7th J.D. host ad hoc "brown bag" lunches with members of the bar on a variety of topics such as rule modifications, and including administrative items such as changes in the division of the district court caseload. Attendance ranges from a handful of attorneys to a room full of them if the topic is of enough interest.

8th J.D. The 8th J.D. has a nearly two decade tradition of quarterly lunchtime bench/bar meetings, which are held in a conference room at the justice center. Lunch (pizza, sandwiches, etc.) is provided and alternately paid for by the bench and bar. There are usually 25-30 judges and lawyers in attendance and a wide variety of topics are discussed. In addition,

updates are provided by the chief judge and the bar president.

12th J.D. The judges in the 12th J.D. host ad hoc bench/bar meetings to discuss district issues such as changes to the district court calendar, electronic filing, the transition to paperless files, and changes to specific docket types.

21st J.D. In the 21st J.D., the judges meet periodically with the lawyers they see most often in their courtrooms—usually the district attorneys and the public defenders. Additionally, the judges occasionally meet with the lawyers in a particular area of practice, such as domestic, dependency and neglect, or civil to discuss any procedural changes or just to touch base.

Judicial membership and participation in local bar association: In many judicial districts the judges are members of the local bar association and participate in bar events.

1st J.D. Our judges are also routinely called upon to present CLE for Bar sponsored training.

19th J.D. Most of the judges in the 19th J.D. belong to the Weld County Bar Association and several judges serve or have served in leadership roles. The bar association's monthly meetings are held in the jury assembly room at the courthouse and typically attract 20 to 40 lawyers. Because the majority of local district attorneys and public defenders are not members of the bar association, the judges make other arrangements to meet regularly with those lawyers.

Email communications: Several chief judges remarked that invitations to bench/bar events are sent to attorneys via email. One judicial district—the 19th—uses email to communicate

regularly with different segments of the bar, such as the water lawyers, the district attorneys, the public defenders, and the newly admitted lawyers.

19th J.D. The chief judge has created and maintained email list serves for the bar as a whole, as well as different segments of the bar, such as the water lawyers, the district attorneys, the public defenders, and the newly admitted lawyers. The chief judge uses these list serves to send public announcements and administrative orders from the district's chief judge, from the Chief Justice, and from the State Court Administrator. For example, the chief judge recently announced openings on judicial nominating commissions.

Social events (Term Day, Annual Dinner, etc.): Judges throughout Colorado also interact more informally at professional social events such as Term Day and annual bar association dinners.

8th J.D. The 8th J.D. has Term Day twice a year, one in March and one in September. All judicial officers and members of the bar are invited to these all day Friday events, and nearly all of the judges attend and about 150 lawyers attend. The day begins with donuts and coffee, followed by a "state of the judiciary" speech from the chief judge and a bar association business meeting. The newly admitted lawyers are then introduced in an amusing fashion. In the spring, members from the state bar association attend and speak to the group. The afternoon is filled with social activities such as biking and bowling, followed by either cocktails and appetizers or dinner, on an alternating basis. The local bar association does all the planning and publicizing of the 8th J.D.'s Term Days.

19th J.D. The local bar association hosts an annual dinner that is always well attended by both the attorneys and judicial officers. Often there is a social activity along with the dinner, such as golf tournament or a play. The local bar association also sponsors trips to Rockies games and to Central City by chartered bus, and many of the attorneys and judicial officers take part in these activities as well.

BENCH/BAR ACTIVITY					
Judicial District	Annual Bench/Bar Conference	Monthly or Ad Hoc Lunches or Other Events	Email Communications	Judicial Membership and Participation in Local Bar Association	Social Events (e.g., Term Day, Annual Dinner, etc.)
1st	X				
2nd	X				
3rd					
4th	X	X			
5th					
6th					
7th	X	X			
8th		X			X
9th					
10th					
11th					
12th	X	X			
13th					
14th					

BENCH/BAR ACTIVITY					
Judicial District	Annual Bench/Bar Conference	Monthly or Ad Hoc Lunches or Other Events	Email Communications	Judicial Membership and Participation in Local Bar Association	Social Events (e.g., Term Day, Annual Dinner, etc.)
15th					
16th					
17th					
18th					
19th	X	X	X	X	X
20th					
21st		X			
22nd					

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief's Commission on the Legal Profession
From: Working Group B
Date: November 28, 2011
Subject: December 1, 2011 Commission Meeting

1. Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans

John Vaught and Ben Currier are co-chairs of the Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans program, which held clinics in Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and Denver on November 10–11, 2011.

Highlights from the Denver clinic:

- Held 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Matthews Center, 3030 Downing Street, a community center in Five Points that principally serves homeless vets.
- Had approximately 56 lawyer and student-volunteers in two shifts. Notably, approximately twice that number have volunteered for future clinics.
- Met in teams of one/two lawyers and one law student with approximately 55 veterans. Some meetings lasted over an hour.
- Legal problems were as anticipated, including divorce, child-custody, evictions, criminal matters, etc.
- Approximately eighteen matters will require follow-up via referrals to lawyers in the community or to government agencies, or involved matters where the interviewing lawyer agreed to take the case. Two matters resulted in immediate court appearances on behalf of veterans. In the future, the program anticipates working more closely with the Veteran's Court in Denver.
- Senator Michael Bennet, Major General Paul Martin of the Colorado National Guard, and a representative of Congressman Perlmutter visited the Denver clinic.
- We had on-site news coverage by 9News, Fox News, and the Denver Post. Each news outlet also provided pre-clinic community service announcements about the clinics.

Highlights from the Colorado Springs and Fort Collins clinics:

- Colorado Springs served 15 veterans with 11 volunteer lawyers and 1 bar staff member.
- Fort Collins served 19 veterans with 2 general practice lawyers and 2 Colorado Legal Services lawyers.

Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans plans to host clinics in Denver in March, July, and November. The program may expand to include clinics in Grand Junction, Durango, and possibly Pueblo.

2. Statewide Mentoring Program

The CLE Board unanimously approved the Commission's proposal to award CLE credit to lawyers who participate in the Statewide Mentoring Program. The CLE Board added the following language to Regulation 103(g):

The Board may also accredit the participation by judges and lawyers in any mentoring program approved and overseen by the Supreme Court, with the maximum credit for this type of activity being fifteen credits during any one compliance period.

The pilot phase of the Statewide Mentoring Program kicks off with the Denver Bar Association orientation on January 5, 2012. The DBA—which is the primary participating organization—has received approximately 60 mentee applications. It is anticipated that the other participating organizations will get started thereafter.

From: Vaught, John
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2011 12:12 PM
To: Bender, Michael
Subject: Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans

Dear Chief Justice Bender:

You asked me to provide you a memo regarding some of the background and highlights of this year's veterans' clinics held in conjunction with Veteran's Day 2011. As you are aware, under your strategic direction, preparation for development of the program and this year's clinics in Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs and in Denver began about six months ago. Mark Fogg approached me to co-chair this program, in conjunction with Ben Currier, Chair of the DBA Young Lawyer's Division. We approached the assignment by focusing on three major tasks. First, identifying, locating and communicating with veterans who need *pro bono* legal services. Second, determining what resources are available in the national and local communities to help veterans, in that legal assistance is often closely associated with other veteran services, such as VA benefits, loans and grants and other veteran-specific programs. Third we set out to identify lawyers in the community who would be willing to screen veterans at local clinics and who would be willing to take referrals, where oral advice at the clinics did not conclude a legal matter.

To accomplish the first task, we frequently met with United Veteran's Committee (UVC), an organization of approximately 167 veteran's groups (VFWs, legislative liaisons, the Organization of Purple Heart Recipients, DU, CU, CSU and Metro State Veteran organizations, etc.). We also worked with various governmental agencies in Denver and in state and national governments, including the VA.

On the second issue, we worked with Challenge America and Warrior Gateway, two organizations that we met through the UVC, that have developed searchable databases of veteran services/benefits in the US. They estimate that 400,000 such services are available, although their databases are currently limited to about 40,000 services; nonetheless a substantial start. We also worked with a grant-funded program at DU, the VA and other organizations to learn more about VA benefits and related matters.

Third, we approached the Colorado Bar Association and DU and CU law students to serve as volunteers to screen veterans and to provide long-term legal services, where necessary. Ben Currier was instrumental in securing volunteers, particularly young lawyers. Mark Fogg worked closely with DU and CU for student volunteers. We developed a training program that provided CLE credit to educate volunteer-lawyers in areas of the law where veterans would most likely need help (family law, eviction, divorce, criminal, bankruptcy, etc.). We also created a website linked to the CBA website regarding the November clinics. Chuck Turner, Executive Director of the CBA, and his assistant, Carolyn Gravit, were instrumental in developing the website and the training program. Our initial CLE/training was conducted on November 5, 2011.

Associated with a VA "Stand-Down" in Ft. Collins, our first clinic opened on November 10th. The Denver and Colorado Springs clinics operated on November 11th. While I am still awaiting reports on the Ft. Collins and Colorado Springs clinics, highlights of the Denver clinic include:

- Held 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Matthews Center, 3030 Downing Street, a community center in Five Points that principally serves homeless vets.
- We had approximately 56 lawyer and student-volunteers in two shifts. Approximately twice that number have volunteered for future clinics.
- We met in teams of one/two lawyers and one law student with approximately 55 veterans. Some meetings lasted over an hour.
- Legal problems were as anticipated, including divorce, child-custody, evictions, criminal matters, etc.
- Approximately eighteen matters will require follow-up via referrals to lawyers in the community or to government agencies, or involved matters where the interviewing lawyer agreed to take the case. Two matters resulted in immediate court appearances on behalf of veterans. In the future, we want to work more closely with the Veteran's Court in Denver.
- Senator Michael Bennet, Major General Paul Martin of the Colorado National Guard, and a representative of Congressman Perlmutter, visited the Denver clinic.
- We had on-site news coverage by 9News, Fox News and the Denver Post. Each had also provided pre-clinic community service announcements about the clinics.

Going forward, Mark Fogg, Chuck Turner, Ben Currier, Carolyn Gravit and I are meeting Monday, November 21, 2011, to review the program and to discuss lessons learned. Following that meeting, we will begin to focus on expanding the program to include clinics in Grand Junction, Durango and possibly Pueblo, for a total of six clinics. We anticipate the second series of clinics will occur in conjunction with Memorial Day, 2012.

Hopefully I have not missed the mark on what you needed, but if I can provide any additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Best regards,

John M. Vaught

The Docket

November 2011

Colorado Lawyers Step Up for Colorado Veterans
by Benjamin Currier, John Vaught

Colorado Lawyers Step Up for Colorado Veterans



Currier



Vaught

Access to justice for all Americans is an issue that is constantly evolving in an effort to meet the needs of those who cannot afford traditional legal services. With governmental budgets and outreach programs being pared, the communities that most rely on *pro bono* legal services are compelled to turn to individuals and to private initiatives to meet their ever-expanding need. Some groups have enjoyed success and are gaining access to justice through innovative means, but many have not. Among this latter group are our military veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families.

In an attempt to meet the needs of Colorado veterans and service members, the Colorado Bar Association is developing a statewide *pro bono* legal services initiative to provide legal service to Colorado veterans, some active duty service members, and their families— Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans. This program is structured to provide free legal advice through clinics held around the state and also provide *pro bono* and low fee legal services to individuals who require further help.

Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans will begin the first of many free clinics on Nov. 11 in Denver and Colorado Springs, and on Nov. 10 in Fort Collins.

It is estimated that one-third of the adult homeless population are veterans, and a vast number of other veterans also are in need of legal help but unable to afford and receive the assistance they desperately require. Many national reserve, retired, or otherwise discharged veterans do not have access to legal services. Active duty service members receive some assistance from the Judge Advocate General's Corps; however, many still have legal issues and problems that are not met by the current active duty legal services and do not have the resources to afford legal services to solve their problems. Because of this, Colorado attorneys and the CBA are reaching out to help veterans with their legal needs and problems.

This program is consistent with the recommendations made by the Chief Justice Michael Bender, as part of the Chief Justice's Commission on the Legal Profession. Modeled after a similar program in Texas, it is being led by a joint

collaboration between the Commission, CBA President-elect Mark Fogg, John Vaught, CBA Young Lawyers Division Chair Benjamin Currier, CBA Executive Director Chuck Turner, and staff members of the DBA and CBA, including Carolyn Gravit, Heather Clark, and Denise Lynch.

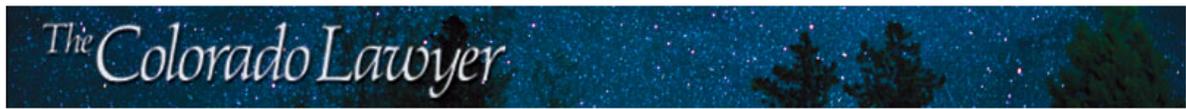
The Denver event is scheduled to be held at the Bo Matthews Center, at 3030 Downing St., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This initial Denver event will be staffed by law students, young lawyers, and other Colorado attorneys. In addition to these volunteers, a Colorado-based service organization called Challenge America will be present to help guide veterans through the maze of other benefits available to them. This highly anticipated event is the first of many steps to try to serve the needs of Colorado veterans, one veteran at a time. **D**

We are currently searching for volunteers to assist for future clinics across the state. We also are looking for individuals who are willing to take on pro bono and low fee cases to help veterans in need. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carolyn Gravit at cgravit@cobar.org. We look forward to seeing you and helping with this new and exciting effort to provide pro bono legal services to Colorado veterans and service members.

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Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans



The Colorado Bar Association and the CBA Young Lawyers Division will be offering free legal clinics for veterans.

MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY FREE OF CHARGE and get information on topics such as Veterans resources, benefits, taxes, housing and family law.

The clinics assist in understanding the legal processes and forms. They do not provide direct legal advice nor will they be able to directly assist in completing forms.

Free veterans legal clinic will be in DENVER, COLORADO SPRINGS and FT. COLLINS.

FT. COLLINS—THURSDAY, Nov. 10
As part of the 5th Annual Northern Colorado Veterans Stand Down
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Catholic Charities Northern - the Mission
460 Linden Center Drive
Fort Collins, CO

DENVER—FRIDAY, Nov. 11
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Matthews Center
3030 Downing St., Denver
Free parking
Public Transportation RTD Route 12 Downing and 30th Station D Line
[Click here for a Denver flyer/map.](#)

COLORADO SPRINGS—FRIDAY, Nov. 11
Hosted by the El Paso County Bar Association
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Citadel Mall
750 Citadel Drive East
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
The clinic will be located on the upper level of the food court area near guest services.
We will handle family law, bankruptcy, eviction, foreclosure, consumer, and veterans benefits at this clinic.

[Click here contact us to volunteer for clinics or learn more about volunteer attorney training.](#)

[Click here for training materials.](#)



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You are here: [Home](#) / [Community](#) / Veterans' Legal Clinics to Start in November; New Website for Legal Services in Denver

Veterans' Legal Clinics to Start in November; New Website for Legal Services in Denver

September 21, 2011 By [CBA-CLE Staff](#) 3 Comments

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The Colorado Bar Association is beginning a statewide effort to establish free legal clinics for veterans. The first clinics will be held in Denver and Colorado Springs on Veteran's Day, November 11, and Fort Collins on November 10. Lawyers who are interested in volunteering to staff the "legal advice" clinics are needed for those locations, as well as others to be established in the future.



Additionally, lawyers will be needed to assist in taking on *pro bono* cases for those veterans needing representation. If you are interested in helping our veterans, please contact Heather Clark at hclark@cobar.org.

Also, a new website has been created to connect local veterans with the people who want to help them resolve their legal issues. [Veterans Legal Services of Denver](#) was founded by combat veterans and University of Denver Sturm College of Law students Dustin Charapata and Sean Marsh.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 2, 2011

Contact: [Sara Crocker](#), (303) 824-5347

Free Legal Assistance Program for Veterans Unveiled Statewide by Colorado Bar Association

DENVER—Recently, an Air Force veteran, disabled as a result of his service in the Gulf and Iraq wars, had lost his VA benefits. He depends on those benefits for living and education expenses. Though he is appealing the loss of benefits, he was unable to pay rent on the apartment he had leased for the last seven years and was facing eviction.

Through the help of John Vaught, an attorney volunteer with the Colorado Bar Association's Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans, he obtained an extension of the eviction order, giving him time to wait to receive financial aid that would be able to help him with his expenses. Today, he remains in his apartment and is able to continue his education.

This is just one example of the kind of help available to veterans, service members and their families at free legal assistance programs, or clinics, that will be launched Nov. 10 and 11 by the Colorado Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division.

Those veterans and family who attend a clinic will be able to meet with an attorney and receive information on topics such as veterans' resources, benefits, taxes, housing and family law. Also, for those who require further assistance, free and low-cost legal services may be available.

"As a veteran myself, I'm glad I can offer my time to help my brothers and sisters in arms," said Vaught, an attorney with Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell. "We hope that these clinics, aimed at the issues veterans face at home, will help us serve these men and women who have already done so much for our country."

Clinics will launch in Colorado Springs, Denver and Fort Collins on Thursday, Nov. 10, and Friday, Nov. 11:

- In Fort Collins, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at Catholic Charities Northern, 460 Linden Center Drive, as part of the 5th Annual Northern Colorado Veterans Stand Down.
- In Denver, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at the Matthews Center, 3030 Downing St.
- In Colorado Springs, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 at Citadel Mall on the upper level of the food court area near guest services, 750 Citadel Drive East. Hosted by the El Paso Bar Association.

For more information about these clinics, [click here](#).

About the Colorado Bar Association

The Colorado Bar Association is a voluntary bar association with nearly 18,000 members—almost three-quarters of all attorneys in the state—founded in 1897. The bar provides opportunities for continuing education, volunteering and networking for those in the legal profession while upholding the standards of the bar. The bar likewise works to secure the efficient administration of justice, encourage the adoption of proper legislation and perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members. For more information visit www.cobar.org.

###

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Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans Established to Offer Free Legal Advice to Military Veterans

11.08.2011

Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans will offer free legal advice at the first of many clinics in Denver on Veteran's Day 2011.

The Colorado Bar Association developed Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans to provide *pro bono* legal service to Colorado veterans, some active duty service members, and their families. The program will provide free legal advice through clinics held around the state and through no-cost or low-fee legal services to individuals who require further help.

The first free Denver legal services clinic will be held on Friday, November 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bo Matthews Center, 3030 Downing Street. There will also be free clinics in Colorado Springs on November 11 and in Fort Collins on November 10.

The initial Denver event will be staffed by law students and Colorado attorneys. Challenge America, a Colorado-based service organization, will also be there to help guide veterans through other benefits available to them.

The program follows recommendations made by Chief Justice Michael Bender as part of the Chief Justice's Commission on the Legal Profession. Modeled after a similar program in Texas, it is being led by a joint collaboration between the Commission, CBA President-elect Mark Fogg, Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell partner John Vaught, CBA Young Lawyers Division Chair Benjamin Currier, CBA Executive Director Chuck Turner, and staff members of the Denver and Colorado bar associations.

Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans is looking for volunteers to assist at future clinics across the state and attorneys to handle no-fee and low-fee cases to help veterans in need on an ongoing basis. If interested, please contact [Carolyn Gravit](#).

Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell is proud to have eight lawyers and several staff members who are veterans of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. Among them are two Iraqi War veterans, two Vietnam veterans, four service academy graduates, a Rhodes Scholar and a Marine with the Bronze Star for Valor. It is in their honor and in service to all United States military veterans that WTO partner and Vietnam veteran [John Vaught](#) has dedicated time and energy to help establish Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans.

THE DENVER POST

Denver and the West

Movable courts uphold homeless veterans at Denver's Stand Down event

By Jessica Fender

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_19261417#ixzz1f10tEP7h

Posted: 11/04/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 11/04/2011 05:18:39 AM MDT

Military veteran Darren Trujillo, 46, is three months sober and has lined up a paid gig ringing a donation bell for the Salvation Army.

But an old trespassing ticket that turned into a warrant after he failed to appear in court meant he wasn't eligible for the job—until Thursday.

Denver lawyers and judges for the first time brought a courtroom to homeless veterans, joining a Department of Veterans Affairs-sponsored event aimed at getting struggling vets such essentials as haircuts and eye exams.

"I was going to turn myself in today. I got lucky. I just came here for a sleeping bag," Trujillo said. "Now I don't have to go to jail. I can do community service."

It can be daunting for homeless veterans to clear their records of the types of minor infractions—park-curfew fines, trespassing, public intoxication—that often go hand in hand with living on the streets, said Denver County Magistrate Beth Faragher.



Army veteran George Seals, right, pleads his legal case to a Denver County judge Thursday morning as lawyer Roger Billotte listens in at Denver's Veterans Stand Down event. (Photos by Andy Cross, The Denver Post)

The temporary court focused on clearing the tickets and warrants related to misdemeanor, nonviolent violations. In most cases, defendants got community service rather than jail time.

"It's a really good thing," said Faragher, who sits on the Denver Access to Justice Commission. "It also helps the court if we can get our cases resolved."

Faragher, the Denver Bar Association and the county court system organized the temporary court, where they hoped to help up to 80 people untangle their legal problems.

The larger event, the 21st annual Veterans Stand Down, drew 486 of the estimated 700 homeless vets living in Denver, including Army vet Lance Rivera, 51, who made an appearance Thursday in the temporary courtroom.

Denver County Court Judge Raymond Satter approved Rivera's furlough from jail so he could attend the annual event and pick up the boots, clothes and sleeping bags available to the vets. On Sunday, he heads back to jail.

"I feel I was blessed," Rivera said.

Army vet George Seals, 62, said he arrived at Denver's National Guard Armory and headed straight to the courtroom as soon as he heard he could take care of a light-rail ticket and related warrant.

"I skipped all the other stations," Seals said. "I always had to watch over my back. This here was worth it just by itself."

Colorado's legal community has zeroed in on veterans' issues in the past few years.

The 4th Judicial District, which includes Colorado Springs, opened a court for vets in the fall of 2009. In September, Denver's drug court followed suit.

Supreme Court Justice Michael Bender lauded the legal community for coming together to help a troubled population.

"The general public and legal community are beginning to realize a large number of vets are in need of a lot of legal services," Bender said. "They deserve it."

Next week, the Colorado Bar Association plans clinics in Denver, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, where vets can get advice on obtaining benefits, domestic issues and other legal questions.

Satter runs Denver's homeless court docket one Friday a month and oversaw Thursday's court.

"These guys lack the acuity to just take care of simple stuff," Satter said. "We're just trying to help them."