Colorado Lawyers Committee

UPDATE • FALL • 2017

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JULY NONPROFIT LEGAL AUDIT CLINIC

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The event was co-sponsored with Sherman & Howard L.L.C., the Association of Corporate Counsel-CO Chapter, Colorado Nonprofit Association, and Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. Many thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors for making the event such a wonderful success! We hope to see you at the next clinic on February 28, 2018 at Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.

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Dardoh was born and raised in Ithaca, NY and graduated from Amherst College with a B.A. in Political Science. She is very excited to be working with the Colorado Lawyers Committee! Welcome, Dardoh!
News from the YLD

- In September, the YLD Board Chair position passed to Lauren Carboni from Dentons. While Lauren is enjoying her maternity leave, Tess Hand-Bender remains as acting Board Chair.
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- Strategic Planning held a YLD Reception in September to brainstorm about new projects for the YLD. Thank you Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP for hosting. Thank you Morrison & Foerster LLP for sponsoring food, and Douglas A. Turner, PC for sponsoring beverages.
- Legal Night Volunteer Reception took place on October 24th at Snell & Wilmer. Thank you Snell & Wilmer for hosting. Volunteers were honored for their tireless dedication to helping individuals who cannot afford an attorney at our local clinics as volunteer attorneys, interpreters, and coordinators.
- The YLD recently created a new individual giving program for young lawyers and law students (under 40 years old or under 8 years of practice) called “Club 150”. It is a one-year financial commitment of $150. Payment can be made on our website and, if necessary, can be spread throughout 2018. YLD Members who join Club 150 will receive free admission and a drink ticket to the 2nd Annual YLD Casino Night on February 9th. If you are interested in joining us, contact Kathleen McCrohan.

Newly Formed Subcommittees Tackle Children’s and Education Issues

Children’s Task Force Subcommittees:

- Foster Care: This subcommittee will look at a number of issues relating to foster care and determine which ones they want to address. Possibilities include: (1) a lawsuit similar to the litigation recently filed in Minnesota; (2) possible Olmstead violations (in 1999, in Olmstead v. L.C., the U.S. Supreme Court held that states must eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and ensure that they receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs); (3) is the state complying with state/federal law to reduce the barriers to permanency (notably for kids in the Division of Youth Services); (4) can we assist the state in making sure that counties apply for Medicaid for kids who are aging out of the foster care system; (5) what are the state’s general obligations for children who are aging out of the foster care system (1990’s Washington State Workman case may be useful); and (6) is the state complying with the Foster Care Bill of Rights?

- Immigration: This group will examine several possible issues regarding how recent government practices are impacting children: (1) do undue numbers of children or children who are here legally have a right to be parented (which would impact the ability of ICE to deport their parents); and (2) whether the government is enforcing the Obama Parental Interest Directive that requires ICE to consider parental interests during court proceedings.

- Foster Care/Bias Statute: The committee believes one of the causes of the re-segregation of DPS is the scarcity of transportation. The Donnell-Kay Foundation has been working with RTD with limited success. This subcommittee will explore whether the CLC can assist in the efforts to expand transportation for DPS students.

- Anti-Bullying: House Bill 11-1254 requires school districts to modify their anti-bullying policies to prohibit bullying on the basis of a student’s actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. After six years of work by the Gill Foundation, 17% of Colorado schools have not complied. 11% of children in this state are impacted as a result. This committee will explore whether they can assist schools to comply with this law.

- Joint Education/Children’s Task Force Subcommittees:
  - School Discipline Subcommittee: This subcommittee will explore: (1) racial discrepancies in enforcement of school discipline policies; (2) the Claire Davis bill (which makes schools liable for violence and has forced major disastrous changes in discipline policies) and (3) Department of Youth Services inadequate education services.
  - Special Education Subcommittee: This subcommittee will look at: (1) charter school practices of not providing services to special needs kids (keeping kids through “count day” and then telling them they have no services), (2) implementation of the recent US Supreme Court decision in the Douglas County case (which requires the state to offer an “individualized education program” (IEP) reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress that is appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances); and (3) possible litigation regarding the state’s failure to fund special education.

CLC Legal Resource Directory

Over the summer, our Sattler Fellow, Megan Barkdull, updated our Legal Resource Directory to reflect all current resources for our three Legal Clinics: Denver Legal Night, Greeley Legal Night, and Project Homeless Connect. The CLC recently decided to make the updated directory available to other organizations who want to use the directory.

Volunteer with Hate Crimes

With the new school year under way, the CLC Hate Crimes Education Task Force is busy presenting a fictional trial on Colorado’s Hate Crimes/Bias Statute at local middle and high schools. We are looking for more volunteers to help with these presentations.

To learn more about the Hate Crimes Education Task Force and how you can get involved, visit our website: www.coloradolawyerscommittee.org/hatecrimeseducation

CLC is on the Move!

Colorado Lawyers Committee is looking for new office space. If your firm is interested in housing the CLC and can accommodate 2 offices with 2 adjacent work spaces for an office manager and intern, please contact Connie Talmage.

Chair’s Roundtable

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Recht Kornfeld PC

Julie E. Anderson
Anderson Hemmat, LLC

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