2019 Awards Luncheon

475 lawyers and community leaders joined us for the 2019 Annual Awards Luncheon held on May 2, 2019 to celebrate the accomplishments of Colorado Lawyers Committee volunteer attorneys and law firms. In 2018, more than 1,000 volunteers donated more than 7,800 hours and $3.03 million worth of time through the Colorado Lawyers Committee’s 24 active projects.

Keynote speaker Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser inspired the audience. He spoke on his office’s mission and stressed the importance of creative problem solving and protecting the rule of law. He urged the audience to work together to solve some of the most pressing issues we face, including the opioid epidemic. A video of Attorney General Weiser’s remarks is available on our website.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Law Firm of the Year
SNELL & WILMER

Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award
DANIEL A. SWEETSER (THE SWEETSER LAW FIRM, P.C.)

Team of the Year
JAIL WAIT LITIGATION TEAM

Special Recognition Award
MELANIE TSUCHIDA
(COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION)

Special Recognition
CLC YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION BOARD MEMBERS
PAST & PRESENT

A full list of this year’s award nominees and honorees, our 2019 Awards Luncheon video and a summary of the CLC’s accomplishments throughout our more than four decades is available on our website.
The Colorado Lawyers Committee welcomes Annika Adams, the 2019 Sattler Civil Rights Fellow. Annika is a rising second-year law student at DU. She will participate in DU’s Civil Rights Clinic starting in the fall. Prior to law school, Annika graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, cum laude, with a major in English and a concentration in Rhetoric & Writing.

While an undergraduate, Annika interned at the Davidson County Juvenile Court which allowed her to gain valuable insight into how those in power can channel their energy and resources into fighting for those who have been systematically oppressed by our criminal justice system. This experience helped shape Annika’s desire to pursue civil rights law.

Annika's work with the Lawyers Committee is made possible by a generous legacy gift from Bruce and Martha Sattler, longtime civil rights activists.
Moments from the 2019 Awards Luncheon

Mary Anne Harvey, Jennifer Levin and Alison Butler

Jim Tarpey, Pat Pascoe & Bernie Buescher

Daniel Ramos, Jena Griswold & Olivia Mendoza

John Tatlock & Dave Stark

John McHugh, Robert Dodd, Christine Hernandez, Suzanne Leff & Phil Weiser

Stephanie Kanan, Megan Ring, Iris Eytan & Carter Gee-Taylor

Peter Schwartz, 2019 Special Recognition Award Recipient, Melanie Tsuchida and Connie Talmage

Young Lawyers Division Board Members Past and Present

2019 Outstanding Sustained Contribution Award Recipient, Dan Sweetser & Judge Gary Jackson

2019 Team of the Year, Jail Wait Litigation Team

2019 Law Firm of the Year, Snell & Wilmer
Open YLD Board Positions

Are you interested in a leadership position and/or networking with other law students and young lawyers? The CLC YLD is open (without charge) to any lawyer or law student who is under 40 years of age or has been in practice fewer than eight years. The YLD Board has 4 open positions: Denver Legal Night Team, Fundraising & Events Team (2 positions) and PR & Membership Team. To learn more about the open positions or to apply, please visit our website. Deadline to apply is August 5. A decision will be made by the end of August.

YLD CLE Series

The CLC YLD has organized a CLE Series specifically for young lawyers. There will be six CLEs, each focusing on a different trial practice skill. Session One: Opening Statements will be on August 23 from 8am-1pm at Polsinelli PC (1401 Lawrence Street, Suite 2300). Presenters include: Judge R. Brooke Jackson (U.S. District Court of Colorado), James M. Lyons (Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP), and Maureen R. Witt (Holland & Hart). Attendees will have an opportunity to present opening statements and receive feedback from experienced lawyers. The CLE is limited to 64 attendees. The cost is $25 for YLD Members and $100 for Non-YLD Members. Sign up on the CLC website.

YLD Grant Program

The CLC YLD Grant Program funds YLD members to assist in their efforts to further the CLC mission of making a difference for children and the underserved through education, advocacy, and systemic change. YLD Members can apply for grants to help defray costs in pro bono representation, fund materials or space for clinics or other direct services, or provide scholarships for trainings that assist lawyers in providing pro bono services. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis, based on need and availability of funding. Grants are generally limited to $1,000 per lawyer/project. Our first grant was recently awarded to a YLD member providing pro bono representation on a human trafficking case. Visit our website to apply.

Hate Crimes National Update

CLC received a grant from the National Lawyers Committee for $15,000 to develop a new Hate Crimes Program (based on the educational program that CLC has offered in Colorado for the last 25 years), which will be distributed nationwide. CLC volunteers have been working in collaboration with members of the National Lawyers Committee to revise the CLC materials to have national applicability. The Hate Crimes National Team drafted the following materials: Program Coordinator Guide, Teacher Guide, Volunteer Guide, Script with Exhibits, a Typical Hate Crimes Statute, and a Teacher Survey.

Legal Night Update

We are excited to share a huge development for Denver Legal Night that will change the way we are able to process data, both during the event and afterwards, using a personalized app created by Scott Shadler (Director of Information Services at Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell LLP). The app will be used on laptops and iPads and will eliminate the need for paper sign in sheets and manual matching. The app is in the final stages of development and we will begin using the app in August.

Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic

On Wednesday, July 17, the Colorado Lawyers Committee co-sponsored a Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP. 22 Colorado nonprofits signed up to receive legal advice from over 65 volunteer attorneys. Thank you to Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP for hosting the event and providing lunches to all our volunteers and nonprofits. CLE Speakers included: Ericka Englert (2nd Judicial District Court) - Ethical Issues for Attorneys on Nonprofit Boards; John Valentine (Balson & Faix, LLP) - Intro to Tax Organizations; and Katie Thomas (Colorado Nonprofit Legal Center) - Fundraising. Sam Edwards (Holland & Hart LLP) was the moderator.

Thank you to our pro bono photographer, Paul Hartmann (Hartmannphoto, LLC) who is responsible for all photos, except for firm headshots.