

CO Access to Justice Commission Connection



2023 End-of-summer roundup

The Commission is launching this new quarterly update to share highlights of access to justice work, news, and opportunities for engagement.



State Officials Overwhelmingly Support Access to Justice Commission

Governor Polis signed HB23-1280 at a public ceremony officially codifying the Colorado Access to Justice Commission. The bill enjoyed near-unanimous bipartisan support in both chambers of the Colorado Legislature, passing the House 64-0 and the Senate 34-1. The bill, which was publicly supported by numerous community partners and government organizations, will pave the way for the ATJC to further its mission of expanding access, quality, and fairness in the justice system for all Coloradans.

[Learn More](#)



MEET MATT





BACA, E.D. OF COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES

Matt Baca, one of the Colorado Access to Justice Commissioners, began in April as the Executive Director of Colorado's largest legal aid provider - Colorado Legal Services (CLS). CLS is a statewide nonprofit legal aid program that provides civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and seniors across Colorado. CLS offers free legal assistance in a range of areas, like family law, consumer protection, eviction defense, and services for survivors of serious crime and human trafficking.

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IAALS CREATES NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALLIED LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver announced the release of its new report, Allied Legal Professionals: A National Framework for Program Growth. As part of IAALS' Allied Legal Professionals project, the report includes multiple research-informed recommendations to help standardize a new tier of legal professionals across states, with the goal of increasing the options for accessible and affordable legal help for the public.

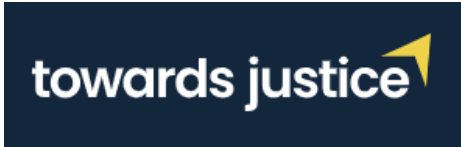
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COLORADO COURTS RECEIVE NATIONAL GRANT FOR EVICTION DIVERSION

The Colorado Judicial Department has been awarded a highly competitive grant to launch an eviction diversion pilot program in the 4th Judicial District (Colorado Springs). The grant, awarded by the National Center for State Courts, will establish a program that offers alternative solutions to housing problems and promote housing and financial stability. The Judicial Department will partner with legal, financial, and social service providers in El Paso and Teller Counties to advance housing security in an innovative approach to housing solutions.

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FREE WAGE THEFT CLE ON SEPTEMBER 18

The Colorado Hispanic Bar Association and the Access to Justice Task Force are partnering to host a free Wage Theft training CLE on September 18, 2023 from 11:00am-12:30pm at the Colorado Bar Association - 1290 Broadway Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80203. Attorneys who are interested in pro bono work can learn how to help workers who have been denied the right to earn wages and benefits that are protected by federal, state, and local labor and employment laws. These include cases where workers are underpaid, unpaid, and/or unlawfully denied benefits.

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

- [Colorado's Legal Aid Foundation & COLTAF seek an Executive](#)

Director

- [Student-built App to Help Coloradans Appeal SNAP Decisions \(Colorado Center on Law & Policy\)](#)
 - [Once In a Lifetime Opportunity to Improve Access to Justice \(The Hill\)](#)
 - [Colorado Towing Bill of Rights \(Community Economic Defense Project\)](#)
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PRO BONO CORNER



Lawyers, you went to law school to help people! Here are some ways how:

- [Metro Volunteer Lawyers](#) (Denver metro area opportunities)
 - [Colorado Lawyers Committee](#) (join a task force of peers & mentors)
 - [Colorado Legal Services](#) (opportunities from all around the state)
 - [Virtual Pro-Se Clinic](#) (help people without leaving your couch)
 - [Colorado Bar Association's Appellate Pro Bono Program](#) (join a list of lawyers willing to take a pre-screened case)
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[Stay informed about the Commission.](#) Join our listserv to get periodic updates about our work and related news.

[Support our work.](#) Make a one-time or monthly donation today.

[Ideas for upcoming newsletters?](#) We want to hear them! Please email tips and ideas to elisa@coloradoaccesstojustice.org.



Colorado Access to Justice Commission | 1290 N Broadway Ste 1700, Denver, CO 80203

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