

CO Access to Justice Commission Connection



2023 Fall Roundup

The Commission's quarterly update sharing highlights of access to justice work, news, and opportunities for engagement.



WATCH: PANEL ON WHETHER CHATGPT SHOULD BE EMBRACED AS AN ACCESS-TO-JUSTICE SOLUTION

In October, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission co-organized the second return of the AI Ethics Lecture Series, held in Wolf Law's Wittemyer Courtroom. The event, "ChatGPT Should be Admitted to Practice Law in Colorado. Talk Amongst Yourselves," explored whether Generative AI tools should be embraced as part of the solution to access to justice woes. Technology is seen by some as a solution to help address widespread access to justice shortcomings. Our own Executive Director Elisa Overall, and Commissioner Jason Lynch were panelists in this timely discussion, which was recorded and published on YouTube.



JEFFERSON COUNTY ATTORNEYS EARN RECOGNITION DURING NATIONAL PRO BONO WEEK

Law360 published an article that highlighted Coloradan attorneys and their efforts during this year's Pro Bono Week. In October, volunteers offered "ask-a-lawyer" consultations and outreach from Colorado's Child Support Services and the local sheriff's office. Coloradan attorneys gave presentations on topics like power of attorney and protection orders and assisted walk-in clients on matters such as traffic tickets, divorce cases, personal injury claims, and more.

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COLORADO LAW'S NEW ACCESS TO JUSTICE INNOVATION LAB

Prof. Staci Pratt, who serves on the Technology Committee for the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, wants to empower her students to be part of the access to justice solution. Her inaugural 2-credit course, "Interactive Programming for Lawyers," a.k.a. "CU Law Access to Justice Innovation Lab," launched this semester – and she is hopeful that the work taking place in this course can be the start of a new frontier in making our justice system more accessible.

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PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE COLORADO JUDICIAL BRANCH

In the October 2023 Colorado Lawyer publication, Chief Justice Brian Boatright focuses on the Judicial Department's ongoing efforts to make Colorado a national leader in the administration of justice, workplace culture, and employee support. Chief Justice Boatright writes "We want to do a better job of sharing what we're doing and why, because it's critical for the public to have confidence in our operations." The branch has renewed its mission, vision, and values with the help of Justice Melissa Hart and numerous other court employees throughout the state.



FRONTLINE JUSTICE SELECTS ALASKAN TRAILBLAZER NIKOLE NELSON AS FOUNDING CEO

Frontline Justice finds hope in a growing evidence base demonstrating that a new category of legal helper specifically trained to help people resolve their civil legal issues—the justice worker—can transform how Americans get legal help. Nelson comes to Frontline Justice from the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), Alaska's only statewide provider of free civil legal assistance to low-income Alaskans, where she served as Executive Director for the past 13 years and before that as a staff attorney and supervising attorney for nearly 12 years.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

- ['Hold Us Accountable': Justice Melissa Hart Warns of Barriers to Justice to Colorado Lawyers Committee \(Colorado Politics\)](#)
 - [Evictions in Colorado Jump 32%: Pueblo County Eviction Diversion Program Aims to Help \(KOAA\)](#)
 - [Homeless Coloradans are Seeking Assistance in Record Numbers to Obtain ID Documents \(Denver Post\)](#)
 - [Detailed Profile Exposes the Legal Vulnerabilities of H2-A Shepherders in Colorado \(High Country News\)](#)
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PRO BONO CORNER



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

- [Federal Pro Se Clinic Pro Se Prisoner Pilot Program](#) (phone call with pro se prisoners to answer screened questions)
- [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)

[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.



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