



Fourth Annual Public Service Day
Friday, August 21st, 2015

AGENDA¹

12:30 – 12:45 pm Get Pizza in the Schaden Commons Café

12:45 pm – 1:15 pm Keynote Speaker: Professor Melissa Hart

Professor Hart has been teaching at the University of Colorado Law School since 2001, teaching courses in employment discrimination, legal ethics, constitutional law, judicial procedure and judicial decision making. She is now the Director of the Byron White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. A 1995 graduate of Harvard Law School, she clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the Second Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens on the United States Supreme Court. Professor Hart practiced law for several years in Washington, D.C., including as a Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice. Melissa's scholarship focuses primarily on employment discrimination and civil procedure. She remains active in the legal community, regularly handling pro bono cases and serving on the Colorado Access to Justice Commission and the Colorado Supreme Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and Board of Continuing Judicial and Legal Education. She has authored several amicus briefs in employment discrimination and constitutional cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and in other matters before the Colorado Supreme Court and several federal courts of appeals.

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm Reflections on Service: Public Interest Student Association

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm Overview of Public Service Opportunities: Chris McKee

Christopher McKee is the former Special Counsel to the Director at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), where he served as a senior advisor to the Director and all other divisions of PDS on forensic evidence issues in his final years with the office. Mr. McKee led the agency's Forensic Practice Group, supervised staff forensic fellows and the staff forensic scientist, and served as the primary reviewer of requests for expert services in all PDS cases. In addition to his advisory and supervisory roles, Mr. McKee served as lead or special counsel in cases involving important forensic issues, as well as maintaining his own personal caseload of complex homicide cases. Mr. McKee has litigated cases involving challenges to DNA, glass composition, firearms toolmark impressions, fingerprints, alleged arson evidence, alleged sexual assault

¹ All events from noon to 2:00 will be in the Wolf Law Schaden Commons Café.

injuries and numerous forensic pathology issues. During his tenure at PDS, Mr. McKee served as a trial attorney, Trial Division Supervisor and Deputy Trial Chief. Before joining PDS, Mr. McKee was a Staff Attorney at the DeKalb County Public Defender's Office in Decatur, Georgia, where he handled all levels of criminal cases before trial and appellate courts. Mr. McKee received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and J.D./M.T.S. at Emory University. Mr. McKee has been an adjunct law professor at the University of Colorado Law School since 2009 teaching appellate advocacy and advanced evidence courses.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Public Service Open House (See rooms below)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Project Meetings (Same room assignments as stated below)

PARTICIPATING PROJECTS

Colorado Lawyers Committee Projects – CLC Staff –Room 206

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is a 37-year-old nonprofit, nonpartisan consortium of more than 60 Colorado law firms dedicated to providing and increasing opportunities for children, the poor and other disadvantaged communities through high impact *pro bono* legal advocacy. The Lawyers Committee currently has more than 25 task forces and 850 attorneys working on projects in the areas of Children's Rights & Education, Civil Rights & Criminal Law, Poverty & Public Benefits, Community Development, and Immigration. The Lawyers Committee has several opportunities for law students including our new **Young Lawyers Division (the CLC YLD)**. Membership in the CLC YLD is open (without charge) to any lawyer or law student who wants to join and offers law students an opportunity to work closely with volunteer attorneys to make a difference. Members are invited to participate in one or more of the following YLD teams:

- Fundraising and Events Team
- Public Relations Team
- Nonprofit Legal Audit and Special Projects Team
- Denver Legal Night Team
- Hate Crimes Education Team
- Strategic Planning Team

Law students may also participate in another major project of the Lawyers Committee: the Hate Crimes Education Task Force. This task force educates students about Colorado's Hate/Bias Crimes ("Hate Crime") Statute, using a fictional trial where the audience plays the role of the jury and volunteers serve as judge and attorneys (come practice your voir dire and closing argument skills). For Public Service Day, the Lawyers Committee will discuss these projects as well as other volunteer opportunities.

The Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force – Professor William Boyd and Research Associate Amelia Peterson – Room 205

This is a collaboration between 19 states and provinces from Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, and the United States that is working to develop regulatory frameworks to reduce emissions from deforestation and land use change. Colorado Law has served as the GCF's

Secretariat and research base since its inception in 2009. All law students are invited to assist the GCF with a variety of projects, including the GCF Network (an online platform for identifying sources of local and regional support and facilitating effective and timely collaboration and problem-solving between GCF members and network partners), the GCF REDD+ Knowledge Database (which tracks Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) law and policy implementation), the GCF Training Program (which includes legal and institutional capacity-building workshops), and related research efforts. Students are expected to commit 30 hours (minimum) over course of the semester.

The Acequia Project – Professor Sarah Krakoff – Room 204

This is an environmental justice project of the Getches-Wilkinson Center, whose partners include the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association and Colorado Open Lands, that assists low-income farmers in the San Luis Valley with protecting their water rights and their long-standing sustainable farming practices. Student volunteers will travel to the Valley, meet with irrigators whose families have lived there for centuries, and assist with drafting by-laws, articles of incorporation, and in some cases litigation concerning water rights establishment and protection. All law students may join, including first years. A minimum of 30 hours over the semester is required. Spanish language skills a plus, but not necessary.

Consumer Empowerment Project – Professor Amy Schmitz – Room 202

This is a non-profit consumer education and advocacy project that aims to provide helpful and independent information. Volunteers will write short blogs on hot topics having to do with financial tips, being a smart consumer, student financial strategies, digital privacy, debt collection, credit card rules, and other consumer issues. Students also will assist a "back-to-school" campaign to raise awareness regarding financial and consumer resources at CU.

Record and Arrest Sealing with Colorado Criminal Defense Bar – Professor Ann England and Professor Anna Adler – Room 306

Coloradans are released from the criminal justice system every year, but face significant hardships from their arrest and criminal records, such as barriers to housing, education, and employment. Be part of a volunteer core partnering with the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar to run record sealing clinics. You need no prior legal experience and you can choose how much time to devote to the project as you go. This meeting will discuss the project and do some minimal training. A second training that will be more devoted to the nuts and bolts of the project will be held at a date TBD

Korey Wise Innocence Project – Professor Ann England – Room 207

The Korey Wise Innocence Project at Colorado Law is an organization that works to free the wrongly convicted from prison. It is a volunteer opportunity that is run and housed here at Colorado Law. We are excited to have a new director and we are really hoping to grow the project this year. On Public Service Day we will train students who are interested in volunteering their time during the 2015-16 school year. Students must be willing to commit 5 hours every other week to the project (with flexibility for midterms, school breaks, and finals). This project is open for all students, including first years. We look forward to meeting you.

The Pro Bono Research and Writing Project – Professor Amy Griffin – Room 307

Colorado faces a serious crisis in civil legal representation of the indigent, and Colorado Legal Services (CLS) could use your help. Colorado Legal Services' mission is as follows:

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.

CLS is the primary provider of civil legal aid in Colorado, but has just 47 lawyers to serve an income-eligible population of more than 880,000 people. CLS gives priority to the legal aspects of the efforts of poor people to maintain the basic necessities of a decent life – minimally adequate income, food, shelter, utilities, medical care, freedom from domestic violence and abuse and the protection of individual rights of the elderly and physically and mentally disabled. CLS is not able to handle all the cases that arise with these issues, and turns away at least one person for every case it accepts.

The Pro Bono Research and Writing Project seeks to help CLS in this effort, by matching law students with Colorado Legal Services attorneys who can benefit from students' legal research and writing skills. You can volunteer for a specific project when it meets your interests and fits your schedule. Not only will you be providing valuable legal assistance to those who need it most, you will improve your research and writing skills and earn Public Service Pledge hours at the same time. You will probably also create a great writing sample. Both Professor Amy Griffin, a legal writing professor, and Professor Robert Linz, a librarian, will be available to give advice as you work on these projects.

First-year students can volunteer for this project beginning in the spring semester, and an attorney from CLS will be here in January to hold an information session for those interested in participating. Second- and third-year students can volunteer any time. If you are interested, please contact Professor Amy Griffin at amy.griffin@colorado.edu.

Colorado Law Constitution Day – Professor Melissa Hart – Room 305

The Colorado Law Constitution Day Project partners law students and lawyers to visit high school classrooms to deliver a one-day, interactive lesson on a current topic in constitutional law in honor of the nationally recognized signing of the Constitution on September 17. This year, presenters will visit classrooms all over Colorado between September 14 and 25 to present a lesson on a First Amendment question. The Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law will provide presenters with a lesson plan and will offer training for presenters on both the substantive law and good teaching strategies. The Center will also reimburse for travel more than 50 miles from Boulder and for overnight accommodations as needed. Colorado Law students receive public service pledge credit for their work preparing for and presenting a Constitution Day lesson.