

KATHLEEN GEBHARDT

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## Experience

### Board Service

- Elected Board Member Colorado State Board of Education for 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Nov. 2024- current
- Elected member, Boulder Valley School District, Board of Education, 2015 – 2023; Vice - President, 2017 – 2023
- Elected member, Colorado Association of School Boards Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, 2015 – 2023 President elect 2018; President 2019; Immediate Past President 2020
- Elected member National Association of School Boards, Board of Directors, March 2020-April 2024
- Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Board of Directors, 2013 -- November 2019 (Chair 2019)
- Great Education Colorado Board of Directors 2009 – 2024
- Rural Schools and Community Trust Board of Trustees 2010 –2020
- Colorado Lawyers' Committee Board of Directors 2000 – Present  
Member of Education Task Force, 1995 – Present

- Kathleen J. Gebhardt, LLC, Boulder, CO. Founder and Partner, 2000 – Present. Education- related litigation and advocacy. Responsible for all facets of managing single member LLC.
- Children's Voices, Boulder, CO, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, 2004 – 2017  
Children's Voices is a non-profit legal advocacy firm dedicated to achieving equal access to a high-quality public education for all school-age children in Colorado. Responsible for developing all aspects of a non-profit, including strategic plans, budget, working with board, and managing budgets.
  - Co-lead counsel in *Dwyer v. State of Colorado*. (2012- 2014) Dwyer challenged the constitutionality of the "negative factor" which resulted in billions of dollars cut from K-12 schools. In September 2016, Colorado Supreme Court ruled these cuts were constitutional.
  - As co-lead counsel, represented parents and children from 21 school districts in the *Lobato v. State of Colorado* school finance litigation. (2007-2013) *Lobato* was a challenge to the constitutionality of the school finance system in Colorado. It involved two appeals to the Colorado Supreme Court, extensive discovery, and a 5-week trial in Denver District Court. Directed all aspects of the litigation, including over 30 attorneys, paralegals and legal interns. Retained and worked with national experts in multiple areas including teacher quality, special education, school finance, impact of poverty on students, and the importance of pre-school education. Retained and worked with 14 amicus parties and counsel.
  - Co-lead counsel for *Giardino v. State of Colorado* class action litigation. (1998 – 2008) *Ele*  
Giardino involved a challenge to the constitutionality of funding for facilities in Colorado. The case settled in May 2000. Led school tours in rural Colorado with elected officials, including Speaker Andrew Romanoff and State Treasurer Cary Kennedy. Tours led to establishment of BEST legislation (Building Excellent Schools Today) in 2008. BEST has funded over \$2.5 billion in facilities throughout Colorado to date.
- University of Denver College of Law Adjunct Professor, 2014 – Present  
Education Law. This is a survey class of major educational legal issues, covering such topics as race-conscious remedies, campus safety and criminal justice, rights of educators, bilingual education, privacy law, religion in the schools, LGBTQ- related issues, ESEA flexibility. Advise students about employment and advocacy opportunities.
- University of Colorado Law School and College of Education: Adjunct Professor 2017 – Present. Education Law. This seminar class covers major educational legal issues, including First Amendment, equity and school finance, bilingual and

special education, LGBTQ-related issues, and state and federal legislation. Education policy/law class for graduate students approaches education policy issues through the history of litigation and current legal challenges with a focus on equal access and equity.

- Caplan and Earnest, Boulder, CO, Attorney, 1998 - 2000  
General litigation, including construction litigation, education-related litigation and insurance defense.
- Rothgerber, Appel, Powers and Johnson, Denver, CO, Special Counsel, 1995 – 1997  
Class action defense of large health care litigation and general product liability defense.
- Hall and Evans, Denver, CO, Partner, 1982 – 1995  
Defended complex litigation, including multi-district products liability, environmental, and employment cases.

## Education

- University of Denver College of Law, Denver, CO 1980 – 1983  
Juris Doctorate  
Internships:  
Justice Jean Dubofsky, Colorado Supreme Court, summer 1981  
Judge Morris Sandstead, Boulder District Court, winter 1983
- Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR 1975 – 1979  
Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, History

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## Community Engagement and Awards

- Transformation Through Education Award; 2020, Business and Professional Women of Colorado
- Demetrio Rodriguez Champion of Education Justice Award 2018; National award presented in recognition of advocacy for public education
- National Policy Maker Award, Best of Green Schools 2017
- Colorado Education Association Coloradan Award 2013
- Colorado Women's Bar Association "Raising the Bar" Award 2013
- Colorado Lawyers Committee Awards:  
Individual of the Year Award 2013  
Outstanding Contribution Award 2012  
Community Contribution Award 2009
- Boulder County Democrats "Give 'em Hell Harry" Award 2012
- Colorado Association of School Executives Casey Award 2002
- Board of Cooperative Education Services Lefkowitz Award 2001

## Professional Activities

- Member, American Bar Association, Colorado Bar Association and Boulder Bar Association, 1983 - present
- Fellow, National Education Policy Center, University of Colorado, 2010 – present
- American Education Research Association Presentation, "School Finance: When Courts Refuse to Engage", New York City, NY April 2017
- Panelist at University of Denver College of Law Symposium, "Justice Reinvestment: The Solution to Mass Incarceration?" February, 2017

- American Education Research Association Presidential Session Presenter, "Public Scholarship from the Witness Stand: The Impact of Research, Scholarship, and Expert Testimony in Educational Reform Litigation," Washington DC, April 2016
- Panelist at University of Denver College of Law Symposium, "Forty Years Since Keyes v School District No. 1," February 2013
- Speaker at multiple Colorado Association of School Boards and Colorado Association of School Executives Conferences, 2005 – Present
- Speaker at several national conferences including Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and School Finance conferences, 2005 – Present
- Guest lecturer at the University of Colorado School of Education, 2010 – Present
- Presenter at Great Education Colorado conferences on school finance, 2010 – 2016
- Speaker at numerous public conferences and events throughout Colorado including the Colorado Cooperation Conference, and Lincoln Club 2012 – Present

## Publications

- "Data-Driven Improvement and Accountability," Hargreaves, Braun and Gebhardt, National Education Policy Center, Legislative Brief, 2013
- "Legal Precedent and the Opportunity for Educational Equity: Where to Now Colorado?" 50 University of Richmond Law Review 893, (2016)
- "School Finance: When Courts Refuse to Engage," article in progress

## Personal

Enjoy spending time with my husband, 5 children, and 2 grandchildren. Fifth generation Coloradan. Sports include running marathons, including Boston marathon, member of first American mountain running team competing in Italy, relays, including Colorado Relay, skiing, and biking. Proficient in Spanish. Traveled many thousands of miles visiting students, teachers, school board members and administrators in school districts in Colorado.

References available upon request

