

Kathleen J. Gebhardt
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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

EMPLOYMENT

Children's Voices, Boulder, CO, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, 2004 – Present

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.

Co-lead counsel in recently decided *Dwyer v. State of Colorado*. *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 8 school districts and 21 school districts in the *Lobato v. State of Colorado* school finance litigation. *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. Oversaw 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.

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 \$1 billion in facilities throughout Colorado to date.

University of Denver College of Law Adjunct Professor, 2014 – Present

Education Law. Class is 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, LGBT- related issues, ESEA flexibility. Advise students about employment and advocacy opportunities.

Kathleen J. Gebhardt, LLC, Boulder, CO. Founder and Partner, 2000 – Present. Education-related litigation and advocacy.

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. Began work as a law clerk.

PUBLICATIONS

“Challenges to Funding School Facilities in Colorado” 83 *Neb. L. Rev.* 856 (2000)

Editor, Access to Justice Column *The Colorado Lawyer* 2002 – 2003

“A Comprehensive Approach to access to Justice: The Colorado Center on Law and Policy” *The Colorado Lawyer*, August 2002

“New Pro Bono Opportunities for Business Attorneys” *The Colorado Lawyer*, May 2002

“Data-Driven Improvement and Accountability”, Hargreaves, Braun, & 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)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Member, American Bar Association, Colorado Bar Association and Boulder Bar Association

Vice Chair, Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Board of Directors, 2013- present

Colorado Lawyers' Committee Board of Directors 2000 – Present

Member of Education Task Force, 1995 – Present

Individual of the Year Award 2013

Outstanding Contribution Award 2012

Community Contribution Award 2009

Fellow, National Education Policy Center

Colorado Woman's Bar Association "Raising the Bar" Award 2013

Panelist at University of Denver College of Law Symposium: "Forty Years Since Keyes v School District No. 1" February, 2013

Panelist at University of Denver College of Law Symposium: "Justice Reinvestment: The Solution to Mass Incarceration?" February 2017

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND AWARDS

Elected member, Boulder Valley School District, Board of Education, 2015 – Present

Elected member, Colorado Association of School Boards Board of Directors, and Executive Committee

2015 – Present

Great Education Colorado Board of Directors 2009 – Present

Rural Schools and Community Trust Board of Trustees 2010 – Present

Colorado Education Association Coloradan Award 2013

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

Speaker at multiple Colorado Association of School Boards and Colorado Association of School Executives Conferences, 2005 – Present

Presenter at Great Education Colorado conferences on school finance, 2010 – Present

Speaker at numerous public conferences and events throughout Colorado including the Colorado Cooperation Conference, and Lincoln Club 2012 – 2013

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

