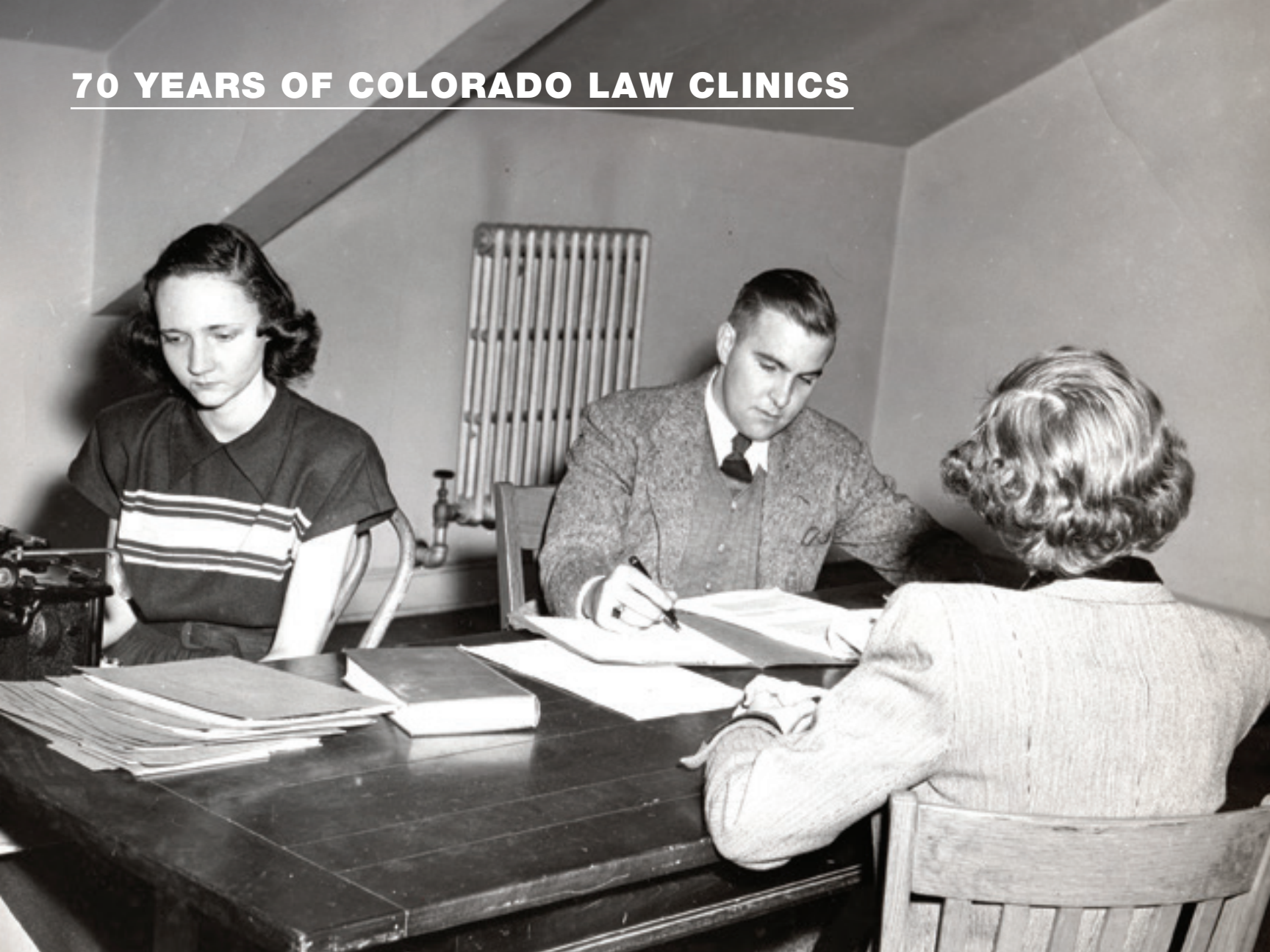


70 YEARS OF COLORADO LAW CLINICS



When 16-year-old Kaylee learned that her infant son, Dreyden, was born with a heart defect, fighting for custody of him was the last thing on her mind.

But because she was in foster care herself, the state opened a dependency and neglect action against her with the goal of transferring legal custody of Dreyden to the Department of Social Services. The case was assigned to the Juvenile and Family Law Clinic, where Kaylee worked with Clinical Professor **Colene Robinson**, along with law students **Jeremiah Jones** ('18) and **John Stenger** ('19), to fight for custody of Dreyden.

"It was a really stressful time having an infant with a heart issue and going through a custody battle," Kaylee said. "Colene and the law students in the clinic really had my back. They went above and beyond to gather information to support my case and made sure I understood what was happening along the way."

Under Professor Robinson's guidance, the student attorneys prepared motions to contest Dreyden's removal from Kaylee's custody at the first court hearing.

The clinic worked closely with Kaylee's guardian ad litem, **Deborah Moguillansky** ('12), to demonstrate that Kaylee was a responsible and capable parent. Due in large part to the passion, energy, and swift action taken by the clinic's student attorneys, they were able to reach a resolution in the case after three months. Kaylee was granted custody.

"I am so grateful for what the clinic has done for me," Kaylee said. "I don't know where my life would be right now if I didn't have custody of my son."

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Clinical Education Program at the University of Colorado Law School.

When the Legal Aid Clinic at Colorado Law opened its doors in 1948, students learned basic criminal practice skills and represented clients in cases before municipal and county courts in Boulder County. Since then, the clinical program has grown to include nine specialized clinics, all of which address critical community needs.

The clinical program is rooted in humble beginnings. In 1948, the Colorado Supreme Court approved the law school's request, advanced by Professor **Clyde O. Martz**, for students to practice law under a special student practice rule (now C.R.C.P. 205.7). With a \$750 budget, the Legal Aid Clinic began as an extracurricular activity, with no academic credit granted for participation.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the clinical program expanded its focus areas to include legal research, public welfare, public defense, and aiding local attorneys in trial cases. It also hired its first full-time faculty members. In 1963, Colorado Law added its second clinic, the Assigned Counsel Program, through which students participated in criminal defense work in state and federal courts. At the time, Colorado Law clinics were among only a few in the nation in which students actually took part in trials, ranging from drug cases to assisting court-appointed attorneys representing indigent defendants accused of federal crimes. Students in the Assigned Counsel Program were also among the first law students to sign pleadings to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Today, more than 120 second- and third-year law students annually take a clinic, where they are closely supervised by nine faculty members, receive academic credit, attend formal classes, and work on real cases and projects. Through the more than 400 cases and projects worked on each year, the clinical program is able to provide tens of thousands of dollars in free legal services each year to disadvantaged people who would not have been able to afford representation.

Deborah Cantrell, professor and director of the clinical program, said one of the pillars of clinical education at Colorado Law is the trust and confidence the clinical program instills in students early on. "We are asking students to step up as lead attorneys early in their careers. We believe in our students' ability to help those in need while they are still in law school," Cantrell said. "We think the clinical program helps students start to learn what it takes to lead flourishing lives as lawyers."

Clinics provide a valuable space for students to integrate the theoretical aspects of law with the pragmatic challenges of the daily work of a lawyer. Graduates often cite their work on actual cases and getting to know real clients as one of the most significant experiences in law school.

"The memory from law school that sticks out to me as the most meaningful was when I joined a legal clinic and was able to help an Ethiopian man receive a grant of asylum as a refugee on account of the torture he had experienced in his home country," said **Crisanta Duran** ('05), who is now a state legislator. "When our client was granted asylum, I was left with an even stronger feeling of how

grateful I am to be an American and to have the tools to help people in a meaningful way."

Xakema Henderson ('14) recalled her experience as a student attorney in the Juvenile Law Clinic with Professor Robinson as the most useful of law school.

"The skills I gained and developed in clinic have transferred to my day-to-day practice," she said. "I learned everything from the basic skill of how to keep a case organized, to the more judgment-based skill of how to think through how present decisions may affect long-term outcomes. I also learned what it means to take ownership of a case and client, how to manage expectations for the client and other stakeholders, how to advocate within the parameters of ethical conflicts, and perhaps most importantly, how to trust myself as an advocate and counselor. I don't think there was any experience better than being a student attorney."

While each clinic operates in a different area of law, they share the same relentless drive to serve the public. From providing pro bono transactional legal services for entrepreneurs and small businesses in Colorado, to representing American Indian tribes in disputes over preservation of Native land, to crafting policy proposals related to technology and sustainable community development, the clinics work on a wide range of issues across the state.

Even with a 70-year track record, the clinical program is not running out of steam. As the legal needs of community members and groups evolve, the program will continue to innovate to meet the needs of its constituents in new and unique ways, Cantrell said.

Colorado Law launched its first new clinic in a decade in August 2016. The Sustainable Community Development Clinic assists community organizations on economic development projects aimed at sustainable community development, social justice, and the reduction of poverty. While much of its work has focused on housing, public health, and food security projects around Boulder County, the clinic has also expanded its reach to southern Colorado, where student attorneys are helping to revitalize a community food hub alongside a cooperative of farmers.

Working beside the clinics is the Korey Wise Innocence Project, which was expanded and renamed in 2015 following a gift from Korey Wise, who was exonerated in a high-profile case in which five New York City teenagers were wrongly convicted. The gift funded the hiring of a full-time program director and allows students to take on more investigative work from those seeking help with appeals.

"I think one of the reasons that the clinical program at Colorado Law really stands out is the robust range of lawyering experiences available to students," Cantrell said. "Students can experience litigation in state, federal, and tribal courts; criminal and civil cases; and alternative dispute resolution. Students can see transactional work that runs from traditional business entities like LLCs to more unique entities like cooperatives. Students can choose federal, state, or local policymaking. They can also become community organizers. Not many law schools offer all that we do."



L-R: Ann England, Carrie Armknecht, Carla Fredericks, Brad Bernthal, Colene Robinson, Norm Aaronson, Blake Reid, Deborah Cantrell, Karin Sheldon, Violeta Chapin



DURING THE PAST YEAR



American Indian Law Clinic, Professor **Carla Fredericks**—Represented the Standing Rock Sioux tribe to address issues raised by the Dakota Access pipeline.



Civil Practice Clinic, Professor **Norm Aaronson**—Obtained a significant settlement for a physically disabled woman unable to work and advanced a case for a 15-year-old Nigerian immigrant seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile status.



Criminal Defense Clinic, Professor **Ann England**—Advised newly arrested clients at jails across Boulder County as the only organization providing free criminal defense services for misdemeanor crimes in the county.



Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic, Professor **Violeta Chapin**—Organized a series of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal workshops to assist undocumented college students enrolled at colleges and universities across Colorado, and provided ongoing support to immigrants on campus. Read more on page 10.



Entrepreneurial Law Clinic, Professor **Brad Bernthal**—Helped Boulder toy company Traxart file a patent for its idea. Read more on page 9.



Juvenile and Family Law Clinic, Professor **Colene Robinson**—Assisted parents caught in the opioid epidemic, defended teenagers in delinquency cases, and filed custody actions for low-income mothers.



Getches-Green Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic, Professor **Karin Sheldon** (interim)—Protected and restored populations of endangered sea turtles by researching the direct impacts of climate change on the turtles' nesting beaches on the Texas coast.

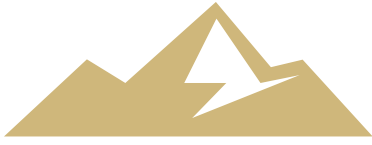


Sustainable Community Development Clinic, Professor **Deborah Cantrell**—Worked with resident owners in mobile home communities in Boulder to protect their interests and empower them with a sense of security.



Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic, Professor **Blake Reid**—Advocated to make copyrighted works more accessible to people with disabilities and protect security researchers investigating vulnerabilities in election security by filing petitions with the U.S. Copyright Office for various exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

REFLECTIONS FROM CLINIC STUDENTS



American Indian Law Clinic

“My clinic experience was valuable because it brought me out of the classroom and put me face-to-face with real clients. I now have context to give to my classroom experience.

Classroom discussions often center on the theoretical and leave aside the considerations that are necessary when working with real clients. While the classroom teaches you how to think about the law, the clinic teaches you how to think about your client. In that sense, clinics have been, for me, the most effective means of teaching real advocacy.”

Eric Dude (’19)



Civil Practice Clinic

“Clinic has been a great opportunity to learn practical lawyering skills while helping people in need. Most of my cases are family law or asylum, and it has been eye-opening to learn about these areas of the law while working with kind, hard-working clients who are seeking a better life for themselves and their families. Asylum cases are especially compelling—hearing my clients’ experiences of fleeing persecution in their home countries where they were detained and tortured for their political beliefs is heartbreaking. Nevertheless, I am moved and inspired by their resilience and determination, which makes working on their cases my privilege and pleasure.”

Helen Oh (’19)



Criminal Defense Clinic

“In the Criminal Defense Clinic, I represented the downtrodden. We challenged suspect police conduct, freed people from jail, went to trial, and defended the Constitution. The clinic taught me more than how to argue motions before a judge or tell my client’s story to the jury. It taught me how to fight for my client’s dignity. I came to CU to become a public defender. Working with Clinical Professor **Ann England** was part of this becoming true, and I was just hired by the Colorado Public Defender! The clinic gave me the skills essential to land the job of my dreams.”

Cameron Bedard (’18)



Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic

“Because of the clinic, I know that Colorado Law has provided me the tools necessary to be an effective legal advocate. Most notable is Colorado Law’s emphasis on critical thinking. With little legal experience, I was overwhelmed by the unfamiliar scope and substance of the assigned clinic project.

Fortunately—as emphasized during 1L year—critical thinking overcame my lack of experience. Beyond getting me past a thought of ineptitude, critical thinking allowed me to offer our client a novel, and viable, solution to the legal problem presented to us.”

Jordan Vogel (’19)



Sustainable Community Development Clinic

“Because of the clinic I am much more confident in a number of different lawyering competencies. I feel comfortable starting a project from a blank slate, researching complex legal issues on my own, and speaking up at a city council or other meeting, even around people who have more experience than me. Clinic has exposed me to a number of different settings where ‘lawyering’ occurs in the community. I filed a Colorado Open Records Act request, drafted legally binding contracts, practiced my negotiation skills, spoke at a local government public meeting, and so much more.”

Katie Saunders (’19)



Technology Law & Policy Clinic

“I now feel more empowered to explore and practice in areas of law I was unfamiliar with when I started law school. I learned the nuances of intellectual property and privacy law through clinic projects and seminar discussions with my peers on current events. After my experiences in clinic, I feel more confident in my professional and legal abilities to tackle unfamiliar or difficult assignments.”

Susan Miller (’19)



Top: Tech Law & Policy Clinic students with Professor **Blake Reid**
 Bottom (L-R): Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic students with Professor **Karin Sheldon**
 Clinical students being sworn in by a local judge before they begin meeting with and representing clients.



Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic

“My clinic experience was valuable to me because I was able to help clients in need at a pivotal moment in their lives. Not only was I able to work with underprivileged clients, but I was able to make a difference and actually help them. I learned about the difficulties in immigration law and the necessity for competent representation. Ultimately, my experience was valuable because it gave me an idea of what I can expect to see as an attorney. The clinic further strengthened my interest in representing underprivileged clients to the best of my ability.”

Eddie Ramirez (‘19)



Entrepreneurial Law Clinic

“Taking a clinic has synthesized many ideas from other law school courses into one practical application experience. The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic’s classroom component has re-emphasized the law learned in other courses. These materials provide a great review of what I have learned so far, supplement concepts that I am concurrently learning, and preview courses I have yet to complete. By combining multiple courses into a single, real-world experience, law school theory is more easily digested, and the transition from law student to practicing attorney is more approachable.”

Rachel Hammond (‘19)



Juvenile and Family Law Clinic

“Because of the clinic I have a much better idea of what my life will be like after law school, and it has given me the opportunity to find a passion I didn’t know was in me. I never thought that I would want to go into family law, but now I know that I love the interactions with the clients and other lawyers, the time at the courthouse, and the ability to not be stuck in an office all day. The clinic has shown me that I don’t need to follow the typical path of being an associate doing research for others, but that I can start being an asset to the world right away.”

Jeremiah Jones (‘18)

PROPELLER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

BY JUDITH LABUDA ('92)



Norm Aaronson is an emeritus professor who retired in 2011. He continues to work part-time at Colorado Law

Clinical Professor Emeritus **Norm Aaronson** celebrates 39 years with Colorado Law's clinics.

It was with trepidation that I first stepped into Professor **Norm Aaronson's** Legal Aid class in the summer of 1990 at Colorado Law. I was embarking on a summer course with a small group of students I hardly knew and a professor with whom I had not yet interacted, knowing our entire summer would be spent representing real clients whose lives would be impacted by the quality of our representation. But, like so many students who came to Norm's clinic before and after me, I left with a newfound passion for my chosen career, instilled by a selfless man who has spent his entire life and legal career in public service while ensuring the rights of the underrepresented. I also left the clinic having created a lifelong friendship with Norm.

That summer, we represented individuals of the Cuban Mariel boatlift who had served their sentences but were detained in U.S. federal prisons beyond their release dates due to their lack of constitutional rights and protections. Several of us were successful in our efforts to obtain release dates for our clients—not due to our skill or advocacy but due to Norm's constant dedication, oversight, patience, and long hours of work in crafting our amateur work product into artful legal pleadings.

During the last 39 years, the past six as a professor emeritus, Norm has continued the work he has loved at Colorado Law. He has provided high-quality representation for immigration/asylum clients, as well as clients going through dissolution of marriages and those with disabilities. He has focused his work over the last 10 years on immigration asylum cases, including special immigrant juvenile cases, which he calls “emotionally satisfying, as the clients are so vulnerable and so appreciative.”

This year, Norm celebrates his 39th anniversary with the Colorado Law legal clinics, and the Boulder legal community celebrates his 39 years of passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to the sometimes challenging and often amusing task of training young lawyers in the procedure, skill, and compassion of practicing law. I recall that his coaching of us, as we would nervously make our first court appearances, would include, “Don't forget to say your name when you go to the podium.” Of course, I forgot.

Since joining Colorado Law in 1979, Norm has taken under his wing inexperienced, eager law students whom he has prodded, guided, and challenged, and on whom he has left an indelible mark. His training of thousands of lawyers on the value of public service has impacted and improved the lives of many thousands of litigants.

He has remained with Colorado Law for all of these years because, in his words, he loves “training young lawyers who go on to contribute to the community. Knowing I have played a small part in that is rewarding.” He has embraced his students, talking of them more like a proud parent than just a professor, and beaming as he speaks of their growth and progression from the beginning of the year to the end of the year, and how so many of them have become friends.

Norm started his public service career as a young Peace Corps volunteer in Iran before he began working for Legal Aid Services in rural Colorado. A few years ago, I met for lunch with Norm and a law school classmate whom I had first met in that clinic back in 1990. My classmate, who joined the Peace Corps and became an international relief worker after law school, shared with Norm that it was Norm's dedication to public service, and his patience and enthusiasm with all of us in the clinic, that propelled her to live a life of public service.

His inspiration to so many can be seen in the words of his former colleague, the Honorable **Carol Glowinsky**, who said, “When I joined the clinical faculty at Colorado Law in 1983, Norm quickly became my mentor and close friend. Thirty-five years later, he continues to tell me, with the same enthusiasm, about his wonderful new batch of students and about the challenging asylum cases he and his students have won. What's truly wonderful is Norm. He has seemingly unlimited passion for helping the most vulnerable of populations and for inspiring students. He personifies the best of the legal profession.”


Few people have had an impact on so many lives as Norm has. He has done so quietly and behind the scenes, never seeking glory, recognition, or honor. Today, with respect and admiration, we honor this treasured member of our legal community, Norm Aaronson, one of the true unsung heroes of our profession.

The Honorable Judith LaBuda is a district court judge in the 20th Judicial District, which serves Boulder County.

A PATENT FOR A STARTUP

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY MAKENZI GALVAN ('19)



L-R: (back row) Russell Wagstaff ('18), Susan Crouse, Hunter Reid, Trevor Bervik ('19), Rachel Hammond ('19), Karyn Kesselring ('18), Ben Fernandez ('04); (front row): Taylor Scott, Danny Sherwinter ('07)

Susan Crouse, founder of the Boulder toy company Traxart, knew her vision for a new product. But she needed patent help along the way. Crouse turned to the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic (ELC) at Colorado Law for assistance. With the help of ELC student attorneys, Traxart filed a provisional patent application.

Intellectual property counseling is an area of need in the Front Range startup community. Colorado Law's ELC joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Law School Clinic Certification Program five years ago. Area practitioners **Ben Fernandez** ('04) and **Danny Sherwinter** ('07) serve as advisors for the ELC and provide critical support for the clinic's patent work.

Crouse was inspired by Boulder-based robotic toy startup Sphero. Crouse's vision was to allow users to construct obstacle courses for smart toys—like Sphero's products—that are operated by internet-connected devices. The obstacle courses facilitate interaction with Sphero robots and similar smart toys. The modular design of the toy allows for many different uses, including competitive games. Crouse enlisted the help of her son, University of Colorado engineering graduate Adam Kemp, and three of his fellow

engineers to develop a prototype of their first product, Kinazium. The ELC's 2016–17 patent team prepared and filed a provisional patent on Traxart's behalf. The ELC's 2017–18 patent team—**Trevor Bervik** ('19), **Rachel Hammond** ('19), **Karyn Kesselring** ('18), and **Russell Wagstaff** ('18)—are now working to file a nonprovisional patent application. When the patent is granted, Traxart plans to license its intellectual property to a toy manufacturer. "The team continues to exceed our expectations and has an impressive depth of understanding about patent law and engineering concepts," Crouse said.

Under the USPTO's patent program, the ELC drafts and files patent applications. Clients pay only for filing fees. This allows the ELC to provide high-value assistance for clients at a stage at which their company is unable to cover market-level costs associated with patent prosecution.

Clients like Traxart are starting to see the fruit of the ELC's labors. Over the past year, the ELC has secured three granted patents on behalf of its clients with at least two additional patents expected to be granted in the near future.

Learn more about the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic at colorado.edu/law/elc.

ALL IN ON DACA

BY TRAVIS WEINER ('18)

When reports began in fall 2017 that President Donald Trump was considering ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that had begun under President Barack Obama, Associate Clinical Professor **Violeta Chapin** faced some tough choices regarding the structure of the Criminal/Immigration Defense Clinic at Colorado Law that semester.

I knew that in previous years, students in the clinic often worked on the criminal cases of noncitizens and followed up with the immigration-related consequences stemming from those cases. Now, foreseeing the imminent need for immigration assistance in light of the news on DACA, Professor Chapin let us know that she sought to pivot the clinic's focus more toward the immigration side.

The DACA program granted a two-year deferral of deportation, a Social Security number, and permission to work to certain undocumented immigrants living in the U.S.—primarily those who were brought to this country as children. It conferred no immigration status and no path to citizenship; rather, it allowed for temporary relief from deportation and, most crucially, allowed recipients, commonly referred to as “Dreamers,” to work legally in the U.S.

Within two weeks of the first day of the clinic, the announcement came from the White House: President Trump had directed the Department of Homeland Security to rescind DACA. We discussed as a clinic how to proceed, but the writing was on the wall: we needed to do everything we could to help this population of young immigrants. After the president's announcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that DACA recipients whose status expired before March 5, 2018, were eligible to renew their status, but that all renewal applications had to be received by USCIS by Oct. 5, 2017. Of the 17,000 DACA recipients in Colorado, a few thousand were eligible to renew their status based on the fact that they qualified under that criterion. However, the deadline was weeks away, and the renewal fee was \$495, a cost-prohibitive price for most of these students. Serious barriers stood in the way of renewal for many DACA recipients in Colorado who were otherwise eligible.

Professor Chapin ultimately made what, to many of us, was not so much a choice but rather a decision to do what we knew was right: We would devote the entire semester to (1) renewing as many DACA applications as we could, (2) screening those applicants for alternative forms of immigration relief, (3) hosting immigration screenings and citizenship drives to provide information on, and applications for, citizenship and other immigration benefits (with a focus on CU staff), and finally, (4) pursuing immigration bond hearings toward the end of the semester.

Our clinic conducted two renewal clinics at CU Boulder, helping undocumented students enrolled at CU Boulder, CU Denver, Metropolitan State University, and Front Range Community College's Boulder County campus in Longmont. We then went on the road and held two DACA renewal drives in October, one at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, and the other at Northern Colorado University in Greeley. During the daylong drives, we helped students renew their DACA applications and, thanks to generous donors, were able to cover the renewal fee for each applicant. We also screened DACA recipients for alternative forms of immigration relief, taking on and coordinating cases in which applicants may have had a pending criminal charge or where their conditions of entry may have been such that they could

later qualify for alternative forms of immigration relief. We continued working on these cases after screening the DACA applicants, and found that many of them involved an in-depth dive into both criminal and immigration law.

My classmates in the clinic went above and beyond. We planned and executed weekend citizenship and DACA drives, drove all around the Front Range putting up fliers advertising our services, and met with local immigration groups and the Boulder County Probation and Sheriff's offices to better understand and work with them on changing the policies and procedures surrounding law enforcement's practices of sharing immigration information with federal authorities.

To close out the clinic, Professor Chapin contacted the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network and had us work on bond cases for detained noncitizens. Some of us worked on those bond cases well into finals, but that did not matter; we were more than happy to do so.

Despite being overwhelmed with requests for assistance throughout the university and beyond, Professor Chapin ran the clinic in the most efficient, professional, and inspiring manner. We became the de facto immigration law resource for CU students and staff. Instead of declining requests, Professor Chapin simply added more DACA clinics and citizenship drives to be able to support CU students and staff. Indeed, in numerous instances we discovered staff members at the university who were eligible to adjust their immigration status but did not know that they were eligible before meeting with us. Professor Chapin was loath to turn away someone who needed help; the clinical students stepped up to the plate, and we learned a tremendous amount in the process.

The strength, resiliency, maturity, and perseverance of the DACA recipients we worked with at CU Boulder, CSU, and UNC left a lasting impression. Despite the political gamesmanship and crippling uncertainty following the president's announcement last fall, they get up every day and go to class, go to work, and take care of their families. Renewing their statuses and helping them with other forms of immigration relief were not overly complex tasks, but they were things that would not have been done but for our pro bono clinic, to say nothing of the \$495 renewal fee. Individual and group donors expressed overwhelming generosity in their donations to the clinic to cover these fees, and for that all of us are incredibly grateful.

On the last day of our first renewal clinic in Fort Collins, at a dinner hosted by CSU professors, we went around the room and talked about what this work meant to us. Several students in the clinic told the group that this was the most meaningful thing they had done thus far in law school. This was not a surprise to me; despite the fact that we were constantly thanked by the DACA recipients and their families, often it was we, the clinical students, who would respond with, “No, thank you.” We responded this way because we considered it an honor to be able to do this essential work with them—work that could perhaps keep families together, and keep work authorizations current, for a few more months. In the immigration realm, it is sometimes the small, individual victories that matter the most.



Professor Violeta Chapin speaks during a DACA rally in Longmont.