



Colorado Local Access to Justice Reports 2015

The following report is the result of a survey at the end of 2015 of local Access to Justice Committees, statewide pro bono coordinators, local bar associations, as well as specialty and minority bar associations. Since each of these groups serves a population with different needs from the others, the information in this report provides a glimpse of what each group accomplishes each year. The purpose of this report is twofold: 1) To note what legal assistance is provided in various areas of the state; and 2) To provide contact information for existing programs to others exploring the establishment of similar programs in their community.

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INTRODUCTION

There are 21 local Access to Justice committees around the state, 27 local bar associations, 15 specialty and minority bar associations, and approximately 18 statewide pro bono coordinators. Local ATJ committees consist of legal and community leaders (such as judges, attorneys, domestic violence advocates, CLS representatives, non-profit leaders, SRLCs, and other community members) who focus on the legal needs of their community. Programs offered by these groups serve a variety of needs depending on the community.

The attached chart provides a more comprehensive list of available programs; also attached is a list of the organizations surveyed for this report.

OVERVIEW

Programs Local ATJ committees, various bar associations, and pro bono coordinators provide legal assistance through several different avenues. These groups often collaborate to provide programs. Partnerships also exist with local community organizations such as Colorado Legal Services, Metro Volunteer Lawyers, community colleges, religious organizations, and local domestic violence programs.

Informational clinics for the public have continually proven to be the most popular program hosted by local ATJ committees, local bar associations, and local pro bono programs. Clinics help a large number of clients with a small number of attorneys. While clinics are offered on a variety of topics, the most popular topics include family and divorce law (particularly in uncontested cases), general legal issues, and veterans' issues.

Other programs available include safehouse and domestic violence services, Virtual Pro Se Clinics (VPCs), and small claims mediation services. Several safehouse and domestic violence programs provide legal advocates to accompany victims to court proceedings, often involving criminal or protection orders. Virtual Pro Se Clinics (VPCs) are public-private collaborations delivering 22 free legal clinics at public libraries across Colorado by volunteer attorneys.

Community Outreach One the most effective means to reach the public is through information distributed at courthouses, including posters and flyers. Self-help center staff (SRLCs and FCFs) around the state is an invaluable resource for the public; much of the information the public receives is from self-help centers. Each judicial district now has at least one SRLC, which has greatly increased access to legal information.

Legal information materials include videos, brochures, and web-based materials. Bookmarks with legal information and court contacts are also used to give clients a starting point. While social media is not yet used widely for community outreach, the idea of using social media for outreach is spreading. Currently, the Northwest Colorado Bar Association uses Facebook, Twitter, and Skype.

Many local ATJ committees and local bar associations use newspapers for community outreach. This form of outreach is used when newspaper space is donated.

Attorney Outreach

Various forms of outreach to attorneys exist, and their use depends on the community. Many of the programs in this report use local bar association newsletters, websites, and email as forms of recruitment. Some jurisdictions make phone calls to volunteers, and a few host CLE programs to train volunteer attorneys for their programs.

Funding

Local ATJ committees and various bar associations are volunteer-driven organizations. Many have little to no funding for their public programs. The most common source of funding for many of these groups comes directly from the local bar associations, some of which have the ATJ committee as a line item in their budgets. Private donations and in-kind donations (such as office space and supplies) support many of these programs.

Statewide pro bono coordinators are often employees of existing legal service programs, such as Colorado Legal Services and Alpine Legal Services; these programs often receive funding from COLTAF and Legal Services Corporation (vis CLS). Funding is sought to develop specific projects or create promotional materials. The local legal community often strives to raise funds for the local Colorado Legal Services (CLS) office since CLS is a primary partner for many of the committees.

Grants from various sources are available, but this type of funding is in high demand and therefore not a dependable source of funding.

Needs

While these programs have tremendous community support, there are several unmet needs that would greatly increase the services provided. The greatest need and “wish list” item is direct funding for programs. Other needs for programs include more attorney volunteers, volunteer training, in-kind donations (including office supplies), clinics, and local pro bono coordinators.

Colorado Judicial Districts

1st JD—Jefferson, Gilpin Counties

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2nd JD—Denver County

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Colorado Local Bar Associations

Adams/Broomfield Bar Association (ABBA)—Adams, Broomfield Counties

Arapahoe County Bar Association (ACBA)

Aurora Bar Association

Boulder County Bar Association (BCBA)

Continental Divide Bar Association (CDBA)—Clear Creek, Summit, Eagle, Lake Counties

Delta County Bar Association (DCBA)

Denver Bar Association (DBA)

Douglas/Elbert Bar Association (DEBA)

El Paso County Bar Association (EPCBA)

First Judicial District Bar Association (1st JD)—Jefferson, Gilpin Counties

Four Corners Bar Association—Dolores, Montezuma Counties

Fremont/Custer Bar Association (FCBA)

Heart of the Rockies Bar Association (HOTR)—Chaffee, Park Counties

Larimer County Bar Association (LCBA)

Mesa County Bar Association (MCBA)

Ninth Judicial District Bar Association (9th JD)—Garfield, Rio Blanco Counties

Northwestern Colorado Bar Association (NWCO)—Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Routt Counties

Pitkin County Bar Association

Pueblo County Bar Association

San Luis Valley Bar Association (SLV)—Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache Counties

Seventh Judicial District Bar Association (7th JD)—Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel Counties

Sixteenth Judicial District Bar Association (16th JD)—Crowley, La Junta, Otero Counties

Southeastern Colorado Bar Association (SECO)—Baca, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers Counties

Southern Colorado Bar Association (SOCO)—Huerfano, Las Animas Counties

Southwestern Colorado Bar Association (SWCO)—Archuleta, La Plata, San Juan Counties

Thirteenth Judicial District Bar Association (13th JD)—Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Washington, Phillips, Sedgewick, Yuma Counties

Weld County Bar Association

Colorado Specialty and Minority Bars

[American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers](#), Colorado Chapter

[American Immigration Lawyers Association](#), Colorado Chapter

[Asian Pacific American Bar Association](#)

[Association of Corporate Counsel](#)

[Colorado Defense Lawyers Association](#)

[Colorado GLBT Bar Association](#)

[Colorado Hispanic Bar Association](#)

[Colorado Indian Bar Association](#)

[Colorado Trial Lawyers Association](#)

[Colorado Women's Bar Association](#) (CWBA)

[Faculty of Federal Advocates](#)

[Federal Bar Association](#), Colorado Chapter

[Sam Cary Bar Association](#) (SCBA)

[South Asian Bar Association](#)

Statewide Pro Bono Coordinators

Alpine Legal Services (9th JD)

Kim Gent kim@alpinelegalservices.org

Boulder County Legal Services

Erika Martinez emartinez@colegalserv.org

Colorado Legal Services—Colorado Springs

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Colorado Legal Services—La Junta

Erin Pickering epickering@colegalserv.org

Colorado Legal Services—Salida

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Larimer County Bar Pro Bono Program

Cindi Hendrix cindhendrix@yahoo.com

Metro Volunteer Lawyers (Denver Metro Area)

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Northeast Colorado Legal Services (13th JD)

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Northwest Colorado Legal Services

Pat Craig pcraig@amigo.net

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Pro Bono Project of Mesa County

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Pueblo County Pro Bono Project

Gail Rodosevich grodosevich@pcisys.net

Seventh Judicial District

Judge Sandra Miller sandra.miller@judicial.state.co.us

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Southwest Colorado Bar Volunteer Legal Aid (SWBVLA—6th JD)

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Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid (7th JD)

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Weld County Legal Services

Jody Pic zpic1@netzero.net

Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators (SRLCs/Sherlocks) and Self-Help Centers

Information on local self-help centers and SRLCs can be found on the [Colorado Courts website](#). Included is contact information, location, and hours.