



RISE **TOGETHER** TO HELP **EMPOWER** DISABILITY & ELDER RIGHTS

This year has brought many challenges – a deadly pandemic, raging wildfires, protests over racial injustice, and a bitterly divisive election. And yes, challenges remain as Disability Law Colorado prepares for 2021. But we're proud to report that even as our advocates were tried and tested by the unprecedented events of 2020, they rose together to meet the moment.

With that in mind, we ask you to consider making a year-end donation to help us rise to meet these challenges. Your support empowers disability rights advocacy in Colorado and increases opportunities for adults and children with disabilities.

Because of you, more people with disabilities will be able to live independent and productive lives, and those in institutions will know they have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

RISE TOGETHER with us to protect the rights of Coloradans throughout the Centennial state by making a donation today.

THE **POWER** OF GIVING

YOUR GIFT TO DISABILITY LAW COLORADO WILL INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO PROTECT RIGHTS AND IMPROVE LIVES OF COLORADANS WITH DISABILITIES AND ELDERS

MAIL OR ONLINE

Mail your gift using the enclosed envelope, or make your gift online at www.DisabilityLawCO.org/donate

Consider making your donation a Tribute Gift in honor or memory of a special person, or to celebrate an important life event

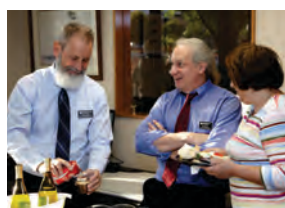
COLORADO GIVES DAY

Remember Disability Law Colorado on Colorado Gives Day Tuesday, December 8 or pre-schedule your gift today at www.ColoradoGives.org/DisabilityLawCO

LIVES CHANGED **PROTECTING RIGHTS OF COLORADANS**



In 2020, Disability Law Colorado continued its fourth decade as the home of Older Americans Act programs in partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services and the state's 16 Area Agencies on Aging. The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman protects and promotes the rights of elders in nursing homes and assisted living residences as well as those enrolled in PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) wherever they receive services; the Legal Assistance Developer for the Elderly program increases access to legal services and protects the rights of elders. Together these programs improve the quality of care and quality of life for Colorado's older adults.





COLORADO'S PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM

It has been a challenging year for Protection & Advocacy (P&A) staff, but despite the pandemic, our P&A teams earned hard-fought victories for individual clients, across systems and in the Colorado Legislature. We continue to stand our ground and fight every day for the rights of people with disabilities. In 2020, we served clients aged 2 to 90 all across Colorado – 38% of cases involved people in rural areas.

Equal Access to Housing and Employment – The Access Team works to ensure that individuals with disabilities have full and equal access to services in the community. This includes housing and employment, use of service and assistance animals, access to public facilities and higher education, and the right to vote. In January, the team launched a new housing program, “Housing for People with Disabilities: Rights, Responsibilities and Resources,” funded by The Colorado Health Foundation. The program is working long-term with five rural communities (Fort Morgan, Durango, Craig, La Junta, Glenwood Springs) to identify and remove barriers to accessible, affordable housing.

All Disabilities are Relevant – Our Education Team has been working with a high school student with multiple disabilities who has been repeatedly suspended and eventually expelled. The team fought to show that his actions were a result of his disabilities and he should not be punished. After successfully filing a complaint with the Colorado Department of Education, we represented him at a Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) where the attorney for the school district was vocal that not all of the student's disabilities should be considered and claimed the student knew right from wrong – something that is not legally relevant. We objected, and eventually prevailed. The Colorado Department of Education expunged the student's expulsion, and ordered the school district to provide compensatory services.

Constitutional Violation Remedied – After years of litigation, followed by three years of comprehensive monitoring Disability Law Colorado is winding up its work in the lawsuit against the federal maximum-security prison in Florence Colorado, known as ADX. Attorneys in the facilities team partnered with major law firms to sue the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. The ADX now provides constitutionally acceptable screening and treatment of individuals with mental illness and inmates with serious mental illness are no longer incarcerated in the ADX. This litigation will benefit an untold number of federal inmates through the years.



THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY

We could not do this life-changing work without donors like you. We're grateful for your support and honored to have you as part of our community of disability & elder rights advocates.

 **DISABILITY LAW**
COLORADO™

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