

# CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL LAW PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## Business Law Society

The Business Law Society (BLS) is a student organization that provides a forum to exchange ideas for students interested in business law. To ensure that you are receiving updates about BLS events, email [BLS](mailto:BLS@law.du.edu) to be placed on the mailing list. If you have questions about the BLS or the society in general, reach out to Adriana Levandowski, Hannah Herbst, or [BLS@law.du.edu](mailto:BLS@law.du.edu).

Congratulations to the new BLS Board: Adriana Levandowski & Hannah Herbst, Co-Presidents; Cameron Van Beek, Vice President; Will Rigali, Treasurer; Dan Conroy, Secretary; Madeline Considine & Garrett Rose, 2L Reps; Reid Melton, Brian Parker, and Jason Grimes, 1L Reps, and Sam Sternburg, Part-Time Rep.

## Venture Law Society

The Venture Law Society (VLS) is an organization for law students interested in

## The Closer: Intra-School Competition

On October 16 and 17, Denver Law held its third annual intra-school version of *The Closer* negotiation competition tailored after the national event that takes place at Baylor Law School each January. Twelve students, many first time competitors, participated in this year's event, with 6 acting as counsel for Alexis Little, the executive and 6 acting as counsel for Coffee & Tea Distribution, Inc., the company interested in hiring Little as its new Chief Marketing Officer. Students competed in two 30-minute negotiations during the preliminary rounds on October 16, with the goal of finalizing the executive employment agreement. Each round was observed and scored by 2 local attorneys. The top 2 competitors from each side of the transaction advanced to the final rounds on Saturday, received additional information (Little had a Non-Compete Agreement with her current employer), and competed in one final 30-minute round judged by 3 local attorneys.

Bradley Scoble (3L) and Veronica Torok (2L) were named the winners representing Alexis Little and Coffee & Tea Distribution, Inc., respectively. Meagan Anderson (3L) and Megan Sugrue (2L) were named the runners' up representing Alexis Little and Coffee & Tea Distribution, Inc., respectively.

Congratulations to all the student competitors - great job!

## Business Law Institute 2020 (By: Alexandra Feathers: 2L)

The 2020 Business Law Institute (BLI) informational webpage instructed attendees to "put on your most comfortable clothes, grab your coffee, click on your device, and tune [in.]" This year's agenda included sessions on topics like data privacy, entity formation and startups,

Shark Tank, entrepreneurship, startups and entity formation, venture financing, for and non-profit businesses, mergers and acquisitions, corporations, and emerging markets. VLS offers educational opportunities through panels, networking opportunities through events and community, and experiential opportunities through workshops and clinics. However, members have no required time commitment and are encouraged to capitalize on opportunities compatible with their schedule and interests. To join VLS or request more information, please contact the VP of Finance and Operations, [Alexandra Feathers](#).

To members of other student organizations: venture law intersects with a wide range of identity groups and areas of legal interest. VLS would like to increase cross-organization collaborations and encourages members of other organizations to reach out at any time. For collaborations, please contact the VPs of Programming and Events, [Katherine Thomas](#) and [Justin Sawyer](#).

Covid-19 impacts, diversity, economic forecasts for the years ahead, in-house counsel issues, and advice for attorneys from an entrepreneur. A personal favorite from this year's roster was "Going In-House: Lawyers as Business Leaders" with panelist Laura Alms, Network Counsel at Verizon; Brent R. Wadman, Partner at Messner Reeves; and Denver Law graduate, Lucky Vidmar, Head of IP Litigation at Microsoft.

As a law student unable to collect the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits earned by lawyers who attended the institute's sessions, the BLI brought me value in two different, but meaningful ways. First, the BLI gifted me the opportunity to learn about both hot and foundational topics in my area of legal interest with no grades attached. Second, the BLI provided me access to a network of esteemed members of the Colorado business legal community.

See you in 2021, BLI.

## Corporate Externship Opportunities (By: Prof. Kristen Hulse)

Law firm and company externships continue to offer terrific opportunities for students to gain hands-on practical experience in the corporate realm. In Spring 2021 we will again run our specialized Corporate Apprenticeship Program, with 16 supervisors participating. Outside of that program, we have also heard about several corporate practice externships available for Spring. If you'd like to discuss these or other corporate experiential opportunities, please email [Prof. Hulse](#) to set up a time to talk. In addition, I hold weekly office hours from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm on Wednesdays via Zoom (<https://udenver.zoom.us/j/91582622098>).

## Transactional LawMeets

Denver Law and UMKC School of Law will be co-hosting a virtual regional LawMeets transactional competition on Friday, March 26, 2021. The competition assigns student teams to represent a client in a transaction, draft a

document, mark-up the other side's drafted document, and compete in two negotiations to finalize the document and its terms. Twenty-four law school teams from around the US will participate in 2021 (12 in the Denver Law region and 12 in the UMKC School of Law region), including one team from Denver Law. Be on the lookout for an announcement about how to apply and try out for Denver Law's team.

## Pioneer Venture Group

Calling grad students who want to get hands-on exposure to seed/venture capital investing. Pioneer Venture Group (PVG), DU's first student-run venture capital fund, invests in innovative seed-stage and pre-seed-stage start-ups across the Rocky Mountain Region. PVG takes an active, hands-on approach that empowers entrepreneurs as they grow their companies, while students simultaneously gain real-world exposure to Colorado's powerful start-up world. PVG's unique position on a university campus allows it to leverage diverse knowledge-sets gained from DU's different degree programs and students' life experiences. PVG has student partners at its core from the business, law, and engineering schools with active support of experienced faculty, outside advisory board members, alumni, and community members.

PVG is seeking students from across DU's campus to join the PVG team. Participation with the PVG is a one-year minimum commitment (including breaks). By joining the team, you will gain: access to experiential learning about venture capital; an opportunity to work with a team of students from across DU's campus with unique skills and talents; a partnership experience with Project X-ITE, DU's flagship entrepreneurship program; entrance to pitch opportunities and networking with the venture capital community in Colorado; experience with due diligence and deal vetting; experience assessing investment opportunities in companies in the Rocky Mountain Region; and leadership involvement in the design and implementation of a start-up venture fund.

Additional information can be found [here](#). Interested in becoming a member, complete this [inquiry form](#) to join the waitlist for PVG.

## The Race to the Bottom Blog

The Race to the Bottom Blog (RTTB) is a student-faculty blog that provides a forum for discussing trends and case law updates on corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, cryptocurrency, and securities law. You can access the blog through the [website](#) or via Twitter (@RTTBCorpGov).

Interested in being a contributor, the RTTB will open its fall candidacy in late October/early November so be on the lookout for that information.

## Spring 2021 Courses & Registration and Student Advising

Spring 2021 registration kicks off soon and it's time to consider classes you might take in order to fulfill your CCLP certificate requirements.

Welcome back to Prof. Ritsick who will be teaching Corporate Drafting synchronously online on Mondays from 6:00 - 8:30pm. Welcome to our newest adjuncts - Prof. Coriden will be teaching Corporate Drafting on Sundays in the part-time program from 9:30am - 12:45pm, Prof. Stolkin will be teaching an Introduction to the Regulation of Cryptoassets bootcamp on four Friday mornings throughout the semester, Prof. Kuglin will be teaching Accounting for Lawyers on Monday mornings from 9:00 - 11:30am, and Prof. Nelson will be teaching Securities Law on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 - 11:45am.

The following spring 2021 courses meet the critical thinking seminar requirement: Antitrust & Unfair Competition, International Business Negotiations, Negotiating Natural Resources Agreements, Private Equity Seminar, Securities Law Seminar and Practicum, and Transactional Negotiation.

The following spring 2021 courses meet the CCLP writing requirement: Corporate Drafting (all three sections) and Private Equity Seminar

Not sure what classes you should be taking, the order in which to tackle them, or whether you have met all the requirements of the CCLP certificate, then you should take advantage of student advising. Email [Prof. Bowers](#) with your questions or schedule a time to talk.

## Colorado Bar Association - Business Law Section

Are you interested in networking and meeting local business lawyers? Then you should become a student member of the Colorado Bar Association and the Business Law Section ([students join for free](#)). Be sure to join the [Business Law Section](#), which holds a number of events every year and allows students to attend the “Lunch and Learn” continuing legal education series for free.

These are some of the Business Law Section’s upcoming events (contact Prof. Bowers if you are interested):

November 17 (9am - 2:30pm; Webcast): 29th Annual Institute on Advising Nonprofit Organizations in Colorado

November 18 (11am - 12pm; Audio Webcast): Drafting Supply Agreements

February 17, 2021 (12pm - 1pm; Webcast): Legislative Update: Financial Services Industry