



## Public Good Practitioner Speed Mentoring & Reception September 6, 2017, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, The Forum

<b>4:30pm – 5:30pm</b>	<b>Check-In &amp; Welcome</b> You may check in as early as 4:30pm. You will receive your “table assignments.” After a brief welcome, the event will officially begin at 5:30pm.
<b>5:35pm – 5:55pm</b>	<b>Round 1</b>
<b>6:00pm – 6:20pm</b>	<b>Round 2</b>
<b>6:25pm – 6:45pm</b>	<b>Round 3</b>
<b>6:45pm – 7:30pm</b>	<b>Reception with Students &amp; Mentors</b> Enjoy this mix and mingle session with students and mentors. Here’s the chance to chat with a mentor you were unable to talk with earlier. Food & drink provided.

### Denver Law Alumni Practitioner Participants

**Rachel Bender**

*Asst. County Attorney, Jefferson County Attorney*

**Jamie Crawford**

*Attorney, Bakken Law (immigration)*

**Lauren Duke**

*Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow,  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network*

**Lauren Hammond**

*Enforcement Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency-Region 8*

**Judge Melina Hernandez**

*Magistrate Judge, Denver Juvenile Court*

**Antonio Mendez**

*Executive Director, Serve Colorado*

**Dominique Mendiola**

*Policy Director, Colorado Department of Revenue,  
Marijuana Enforcement Division*

**Amelia Power**

*Deputy State Public Defender, Arapahoe County,  
Colorado State Public Defender*

**Kacie Mulhern**

*Staff Attorney, Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center*

**Jen Purrington**

*Staff Attorney, Disability Law Colorado*

**Josh Russcol**

*Associate Attorney, Chan Law Firm (immigration)*

**Aubyn Royall**

*Colorado State Director, The Humane Society*

**Azucena Rascon**

*Deputy District Attorney,  
17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney’s Office*

**Christopher Stork**

*Asst. Attorney General, Natural Resources &  
Environment Section, Colorado Attorney General*

**Aurora Randolph**

*Associate Attorney,  
Johnson & Klein (civil rights/criminal defense)*

**Mike Shay,**

*Equal Opportunity Specialist/Investigator,  
US Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights*

**Rachel Bender** is an Assistant County Attorney with the Jefferson County Attorney's Office. She started her undergraduate degree at Occidental College in Los Angeles and transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder where she earned her B.A. in Anthropology. Rachel then did a brief stint as a marketing coordinator with a sponsorship marketing company, primarily managing sponsorships at City of Denver entertainment venues before deciding to change paths and pursue a legal career in the public sector. She attended the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, graduating with a certificate in constitutional rights and remedies. After graduation, she clerked in Boulder for the Honorable Judith LaBuda of the Twentieth Judicial District for almost two years. In her current position with Jefferson County, Rachel handles state and federal court litigation for the Sheriff's Office, provides legal advice to the Sheriff's Office, litigates property tax appeals, and assists with general civil litigation matters and legal advice for other departments in the County.

**Jamie Crawford** is a 2014 graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. During law school, Jamie interned with Lawyers Without Borders in Guatemala City, Guatemala as well as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She is now an associate attorney at Bakken Law, a small Denver firm specializing in U.S. immigration and nationality law. Jamie's specialties include affirmative and defensive asylum and visas for artists, musicians, researchers, and scientists. Her recent volunteer activities include serving as a pro bono attorney at the Dilley Family Detention Center in Dilley, Texas and acting as a legal observer at the Denver International Airport in response to the 2017 immigration executive orders.

**Lauren Duke** first worked with RMIAN as a pro bono attorney and became an Equal Justice Works Fellow in 2016. Lauren graduated Order of St. Ives from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2014. Prior to law school, Lauren advocated for immigrants in Northwest Arkansas where she established the first Spanish adult basic education program in the state. She received the Chancellor's Scholarship for her academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to public service. During law school, Lauren worked for the Spanish Speaking Lawyers Association to increase access to legal services in the immigrant community. She also worked for the law school's Civil Litigation Clinic with a focus on immigrant victims of wage theft. Prior to joining RMIAN, Lauren worked in private practice as an employment and civil litigation associate. Lauren graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arkansas with a dual degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies. She also received a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) with a focus on non-profit management from the University of Arkansas, where she worked as an instructor for undergraduate Political Science classes.

**Lauren Hammond** is a 2015 J.D. graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Lauren is an enforcement attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 in Denver. She pursues administrative and judicial civil actions against violators of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act across Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and 27 tribal nations. Previous professional experiences include interning at the Colorado Attorney General's Office Natural Resource and Environment Section, Denver City and County Court Judge Gilman, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mobile Source Enforcement Branch, Sustainable Development Strategies Group, and the Sierra Club. During law school, Lauren was a student attorney for the Environmental Law Clinic, President of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Society, on the editorial board of the Water Law Review, and research assistant to Professor Bernard Chao. Lauren graduated with her B.A. from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

**Judge Melina Hernandez** has worked as a magistrate in the Denver Juvenile court since early 2017 and as a law clerk, and later family court facilitator, in the domestic relations docket for the Denver District court since 2012. Her specialties include nuanced child support issues and family law issues specific to unrepresented indigent parties. She began her career serving as a law clerk for the honorable now-Justice William W. Hood III. Though born in Miami, Florida (fluent in Spanish and Spanglish), Melina moved to Colorado just in time to miss hurricane Andrew. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and then went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. A Colorado-licensed attorney, Melina's focus on increasing access to justice for underrepresented persons, addressing and preventing family violence, and championing alternative dispute resolution has been applied in civil defense, criminal prosecution, and domestic relations litigation. Melina is a member of the Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee and the Colorado Women's Bar Association Judicial Due Diligence Committee, and has served on the Domestic Relations

Institute Planning Committee for three years in a row. In her free time, she enjoys exercising, hockey, remodeling, and trying to learn Deutsch.

**Antonio Mendez** has worked in government for almost a decade and most recently served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne, prior to serving as executive director of Serve Colorado, which aims to build a culture of civic engagement across the state in partnership with a vast array of community based organizations. Antonio was the fortunate recipient of a Posse Scholarship and graduated from Colby College with a B.A. in American Studies. After Colby, Antonio dedicated himself to public service. He worked as a Teach for America Corps member, a Senior Trainer at the Posse Foundation, a Colorado Legislative Fellow, and an intern in the Obama Administration. In 2014, Antonio graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law with a Juris Doctor and a certificate in International Law. That summer, Antonio joined the Hickenlooper for Colorado campaign. Antonio and his wife, Caitlin, live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood with Duke, their poodle-terrier mix.

**Dominique Mendiola** joined the Colorado Department of Revenue's Marijuana Enforcement Division in 2014, where she serves as the Policy Director overseeing all Division administrative action, legislative, and rule-making matters. In her role, Dominique conducts legal and policy analyses, makes recommendations regarding initiation and resolution of administrative actions, monitors and advises on legislative proposals and implementation, and serves as the liaison between the Division and Office of the Attorney General. Dominique received her Political Science degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2009, followed by her law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2012. In law school, Dominique participated in the Civil Litigation Clinic and served as an Academic Achievement Program Leader for first year students of Civil Procedure. Prior to joining the Division, she practiced law in Texas and Colorado with a primary focus in civil litigation.

**Kacie Mulhern** is an attorney with the Caregiver Advocacy Program at the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center. She provides free and low cost representation to non-parent caregivers in domestic relations, juvenile, and probate matters throughout Colorado. Kacie's varied practice promotes the best interests of children who cannot return to their biological homes based upon abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Prior to joining the Children's Law Center, Kacie clerked for the Honorable Ingrid S. Bakke in 20th Judicial District. She earned her law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law as well as the Order of St. Ives academic distinction.

**Amelia Power** has been a Deputy State Public Defender in Arapahoe County since October 2015. She currently represents juvenile clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies. Amelia graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2015. During law school, Amelia spent four semesters in the Criminal Defense Clinic. That experience instilled in her a passion to practice for the public good and to zealously advocate for indigent clients.

**Jennifer Purrington** is a staff attorney with Disability Law Colorado and leads the Access Team, which focuses on housing and employment discrimination, as well as public accommodations and higher education. She graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in May 2012. Prior to her law school experience, Jennifer was a special education teacher and AmeriCorps member, teaching in California, Massachusetts, and Minnesota.

**Aurora Randolph** graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in May 2017. While at Denver Law, she interned at Public Citizen and the ACLU, and spent two years as a student attorney in the Civil Rights Clinic representing various prisoners. Aurora is an associate at Johnson & Klein where she works on civil rights cases, with a focus on prisoners' rights.

**Azucena Rascon** is a Denver Law graduate from 2015. Azucena went to law school knowing she wanted to be a prosecutor; however, she tried various internships to make sure she knew what she wanted to do with her law degree. The last year, Azucena worked at a local DA office under the Student Practice Act. She was able to gain valuable hands on experience doing trials, motions hearings, writing motions, and handling cases on a day to day basis. The internship was the greatest opportunity she had. Azucena is currently working for the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Adams County.

**Aubyn Royall** graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2014. She has been working for The Humane Society of the United States since late 2014 as the Colorado State Director. In this role, Aubyn works to promote good animal welfare policy and legislation. This includes working with elected officials to introduce animal protection legislation at the Colorado State Capitol, drafting and amending bills, lobbying, working with coalitions of animal and environmental groups, facilitating stakeholder meetings, and grassroots organizing.

**Josh Russcol** is an Associate Attorney at the Chan Law Firm, practicing immigration law. Before attending law school, Josh spent three years in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and worked in public benefits at the nonprofit Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington DC. Josh earned his law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2015. During his law school career, he interned at the Denver Immigration Court, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), and Colorado Legal Services. He regularly participates in semi-monthly pro bono legal nights at Centro San Juan Diego and at local citizenship workshops to help community members become U.S. citizens.

**Michael Shay** is an Equal Opportunity Specialist (Investigator) with the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Before attending law school, Michael spent four years in the U.S.M.C. and then worked in college financial aid administration and veteran counseling for ten years. Michael earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in December 2015. During law school Michael interned at OCR in hopes of working to further education policy and civil rights. He began work again at OCR in April 2016 and also volunteers with several education policy non-profit organization with a goal toward equality of access.

**Christopher Stork** grew up in La Junta, Colorado, and attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for his undergraduate degree. From there, he attended law school at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law where he was involved with the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program including the Water Law Review and the Environmental Law Clinic. Since graduating law school in 2014, he has worked at the 16th Judicial District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney and was also an Associate Attorney at Patrick, Miller & Noto P.C. Most recently, Chris took a position at the Colorado Attorney General's Office where he is Assistant Attorney General in the Natural Resources and Environment Section and works in both the Water Resources and Water Conservation Units.