

Alex Velto is an associate in Hutchison & Steffen’s Reno office. He is a commercial litigator who also maintains a collective bargaining and union representation practice. Alex is member of the Board of Governors for the Nevada State Bar and Chairman of the City of Reno’s Planning Commission.

Anda Stephenson (Wolfe, Van Ackern & Stephenson LLP) was one of the founders of the Funkwerks brewery in Fort Collins. She is a general business attorney serving Northern Colorado businesses of all sizes with an emphasis in business formation; real estate matters; brewery, winery, and distillery formation, licensing, and product regulation; mergers, acquisitions, and leveraged buyouts; borrowing, lending, and venture capital transactions; distribution, licensing, and franchise arrangements; employee matters; trademark, trade secret, and other intellectual property issues; and general contract drafting and negotiation. Prior to moving to Fort Collins to open Funkwerks, Anda gained extensive transactional, corporate, and regulatory law experience working with a diverse range of clients nationally and across the world in both law firm environments and as in-house corporate counsel. Anda has significant understanding of the issues businesses face on a day-to-day basis, and provides solid, logical, and business oriented solutions to clients. Anda frequently speaks and writes on intellectual property issues, brewery startup and operational issues, alcohol distribution, and employment issues. She has spoken at past Craft Brewers Conferences and the Colorado State University Beverage Business Institute.

Cali Franks is a Program Attorney with Lawline, where she spends her days speaking with passionate attorneys and learning from the best and the brightest in the legal profession. A native Texan, Cali earned her BA in Government from the University of Texas in Austin in 2015. After graduating from St. Mary’s University School of Law and getting her Texas Law License in 2018, Cali practiced civil litigation/insurance defense in Dallas, Texas, for three years. Cali is active in her community and bar service, serving on numerous boards and holding various elected positions. Cali was named On the Rise Young Lawyer by the ABA in 2022. In addition to her service to the bar, Cali has been published in law reviews and numerous other legal publications. When not working, Cali likes to travel with her fiancé and play with her three small rescue dogs, Bailee, Chiquita, and Murphy.



Caleb Green is an associate in Dickinson Wright’s Las Vegas office. His primary areas of practice include intellectual property law and cyber-security/data protection matters. He is also the Young Lawyer Action Group Chair for the IP Section of the American Bar Association and the Treasurer of the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association.

Matt Cooper developed a specific niche representing business owners, entrepreneurs, and investors involved in the highly regulated cannabis industry at a local and national level. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Matt worked extensively in Colorado’s regulated marijuana industry and sought to bridge the gap between the white-collar and “green-collar.” Matt is well-versed in cannabis laws at the state and local levels and advises clients on licensing, compliance, multi-state operations and expansions, through various corporate transactions.

Clement Hayes is a Corporate/Intellectual Property attorney and the Managing Partner of Block45 Legal. Clement speaks regularly at national conferences on topics ranging from prosecuting and invalidating patents to the value of intellectual property in M&A. Mr. Hayes has worked internationally for King & Wood Mallesons at their global headquarters in Beijing, China and locally in Denver for Messner Reeves, where he was introduced to cannabis law and handled the IP portfolio of a Fortune 500 company. His favorite saying is: "This only happens in the cannabis industry."

Joyce Akhahenda is a Chief Deputy with the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. Prior to becoming a Chief Deputy, she worked as a trial attorney in the Denver Trial Office for nearly 17 years. Ms. Akhahenda earned her Juris Doctor from Tulane Law School. During law school, she earned an international mediation certificate from Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to completing her advanced education, she served three years in the United States Peace Corps stationed in Nyamaropa, Zimbabwe and worked for Africare, the largest and oldest African-American founded international NGO focused exclusively on the continent of Africa, in both Washington DC and Lusaka, Zambia. Ms. Akhahenda is an active member of several professional bar associations, including the Colorado Bar Association Criminal Law section where she is presently President-Elect; the Sam Cary Bar Association, where she serves on the Executive Board and as treasurer; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL); Colorado Criminal Defense Bar (CCDB); and Black Public Defender's Association (BPDA). She is also a member of Colorado Black Women for Political Action (CBWPA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Sister to Sister International and Colorado Attorneys against Police Violence (CAAPV). She is a member of the 2022 Class of the Colorado Diverse Attorney Community Circle and is on their 2023 Planning Committee. She also participates in the Black Public Defender's Association Black Defender Leadership Institute 1.0. Ms. Akhahenda serves on the Task Force to Reimagine Policing and Public Safety and the Colorado Interstate Compact Council. She spends her free time mentoring young professionals and championing social justice issues in the community.

Jessica Perez is an Assistant District Attorney in the 13th Judicial District within Sandoval County, New Mexico. There, she works primarily as a felony trial attorney handling a variety of cases. She also manages expungement and extradition matters for her office. In addition to her work as a prosecutor, Jessica likes to be involved with the legal community through volunteer work. She serves on various boards, including the Young Lawyers Division as former chair and an ABA YLD Assembly delegate, the Board of Bar Commissioners for her state, and as the chair of the Prosecutors Section. In 2019 she was awarded as Community Service Prosecutor of the Year by the New Mexico District Attorneys' Association and by the Prosecutors Section in 2020 for prosecutorial excellence. On the rare occasion that she's not working, Jessica enjoys reading romance books, hiking with her dog, and she's a big fan of sleeping.

Tori Sundheim serves as Assistant Staff Counsel to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN)(2021-present) where she represents Regulatory Operations Staff in proceedings before the Commission. Prior to working for the PUCN, she was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Nevada, Office of the Attorney General (AGO)(2018-2021) in the Government and Natural Resources Division, and the Public Lands and Natural Resources Director at the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) (2015-2018). As NACO's Public Lands and Natural Resources Director, she advocated for Nevada's counties needs participating in various state and federal public lands and natural resources efforts. During her tenure at the AGO, Tori represented the Nevada Indian Commission, the Department of Administration, Department of Wildlife, and multiple state agencies under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, including the Division of Water Resources, Division of State Lands and others handling water law, tribal law, and environmental cases and legal advice. Tori graduated from McGeorge School of Law with a JD in 2013 and a Masters in Water Resources Law in January, 2015.

Miranda Caballero spent her third year of law school as an intern with R. Reese and Associates, PLLC. Her hard work and innovative ideas caught the eye of her colleagues. Upon graduation from the University of Houston Law Center, she was offered a full-time position as an Associate. Miranda's practice is primarily focused on transactions from due diligence to post-closing and everything in between. She has also had the opportunity to gain a wealth of experience drafting and negotiating commercial contracts as well as handling corporate and general business practice matters. She understands the importance of collaborating with exploration and development management teams, engineers and finance groups when approaching a matter in order to ascertain her clients' objectives and extract the most value. Miranda grew up in Pearland, Texas, and is an avid fan of Houston sports teams. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two rescue dogs, Khaleesi and Tormund.

Professor Blake A. Klinkner is an award-winning legal educator and author. Blake currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of North Dakota School of Law, where he teaches Civil Procedure, Cybersecurity, Law and Technology, and Law Practice Management. Prior to joining UND Law, Blake served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Washburn University School of Law, where he taught Evidence, Academic Support, and Bar Exam Preparation. Before entering academia, Blake served a 2-year judicial clerkship for the District Court of Wyoming, served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Wyoming, worked for the regional law firm of Crowley Fleck, and ran a solo practice. Blake's law practice focused on complex commercial litigation, energy law, environmental and natural resources law, and technology law. Blake served as President of the Wyoming State Bar Young Lawyers Section, and also served a 2-year term as District Representative for Wyoming and Colorado to the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Blake has presented numerous CLEs throughout the country on Law and Technology, and Blake has also authored the Tech Tips column in the Wyoming State Bar journal since 2015. Blake completed his undergraduate degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his master's degree at Northern Illinois University, and his juris doctor at the University of Utah School of Law. The graduating class of Washburn University School of Law recently named Blake as the 2022-2023 Professor of the Year.

Sushant Mohan focuses his practice on complex commercial and business litigation. He has experience representing clients in a wide variety of matters, including contract disputes, mineral ownership disagreements, business torts and OSHA proceedings. Sushant is also versed in Texas property liens, including mineral liens. Prior to law school, Sushant worked for a public accounting firm, where he focused on financial audits of publicly traded companies. He continues to hold a non-practicing license as a Texas Certified Public Accountant. During law school, Sushant was a member of the interscholastic moot court team and also served as an editor of the Houston Law Review, where he earned an award for Best Paper in the area of Employment Law as well as an award for Best Notes and Comments Editor.



Hon. Richard L. Gabriel was appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court in June of 2015, after serving on the Colorado Court of Appeals from 2008-15. Justice Gabriel received his B.A. in American Studies from Yale University in 1984 and his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1987. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals, Justice Gabriel was a long-time partner with Holme Roberts & Owen LLP (now, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner) in Denver, where his practice focused on commercial, intellectual property, probate, and products liability litigation, including appeals, and where he headed the firm's intellectual property practice group. Justice Gabriel has received numerous awards for his service to the community, including the Denver Bar Association's Award of Merit (that Association's highest award), a Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center Champions for Children award and its In the Pursuit

of Justice Lifetime Achievement Award, recognition by Marquis Who's Who as a Distinguished Humanitarian, and the Richard Marden Davis Award (given to a lawyer under the age of 40 who has combined excellence in the practice of law and creative community leadership). He is a member of the state bars of New York and Colorado, the bars of numerous federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, and the American, Colorado, New York, and Denver Bar Associations, where he has served (and continues to serve) on many committees. Justice Gabriel is also actively involved on the board of the Colorado Judicial Institute, the executive council of the Minoru Yasui Inn of Court, and the Our Courts civics education program. He writes and speaks frequently on matters relating to the judiciary, trial and appellate practice, and professionalism. In his spare time, he plays the trumpet professionally.



Susan Blanco is the Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial District of Colorado and is the first female chief judge for the district. She has presided over criminal, civil, probate, domestic relations, and terminations and adoptions. Prior to the bench, she served as a Deputy District Attorney followed by over a decade in private practice focusing on criminal defense, juvenile delinquency, dependency and neglect, and municipal prosecution. Her engagement of the community to collaborate on projects with the Judicial Branch include the development of the first Competency Court in Colorado and the award winning Latinx task force focused on improving access to justice for minority populations. She helped develop and launch the DEI initiative “Lawyer’s Teaching for Change” which allows attorneys to teach about the law in grade school classrooms. Currently she serves on the Chief Judge’s Council, is a commissioner on the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, the CBA Criminal Law Executive Council, and the CWBA Board of Directors. She is chair of the Colorado Judicial Branch’s

Pathways to Access Standing Committee working on virtual proceedings, language access, and plain language forms and she also is the co-chair of the Colorado Judicial Branch’s IT Standing Committee.



Tamara P. Nash serves as the Director of Experiential Learning and Lecturer at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law (Vermillion, South Dakota). Nash joined the University in the Spring 2022 semester. Nash formerly served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota. Her practice focused on firearm and felony narcotics prosecution in state and federal court. She has also served as a Deputy State’s Attorney in Union County, South Dakota and a judicial law clerk for the Second Judicial Circuit of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System. Nash graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from Wayne State College (Wayne, Nebraska) where she graduated with honors and magna cum laude. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law where she graduated with honors in 2013.