

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019



2019 MARY LATHROP  
TRAILBLAZER AWARD  
CEREMONY & RECEPTION

HONORING  
**ALLI GERKMAN**



## Dedicated to Promoting Women

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie is proud to support the Colorado Women's Bar Association.

Our hats are off to **Alli Gerkman**, the 2019 recipient of the Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award Winner, for her tireless efforts to make our community stronger, richer and more vibrant.

**Lewis Roca**  
ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE

**Tamara F. Goodlette**  
tgoodlette@lrrc.com  
303.628.9518 direct

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*We hope you will enjoy tonight's signature cocktail*



*Art by Diana Dean*

## SASSYPHUS

*(Sassy + Sisyphus)*

*A delightful combination of whisky, sarsaparilla and ginger simple syrup*



# AGENDA

## INTRODUCTION

CATHERINE “CAT” SHEA, CWBA President  
*Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel*

## MARY LATHROP AWARD SPONSOR RECOGNITION

HOLLY WHITE  
*Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP*

## MASTER OF CEREMONY

KYM SORRELLS  
*CWBA Professional Advancement Committee Co-Chair*

## SPEAKERS

REBECCA “BECKY” LOVE KOURLIS  
*IAALS*

BETSY ALLES  
*Alli’s Mom*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARD

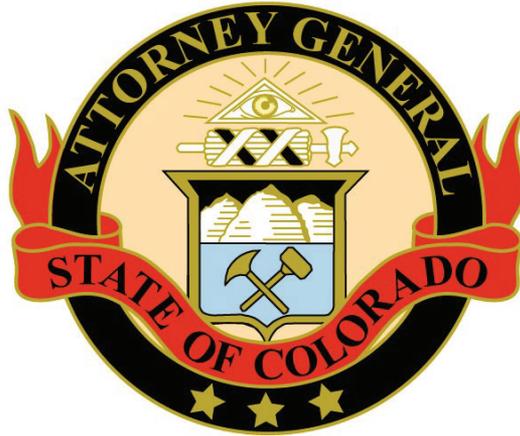
KYM SORRELLS AND HOLLY WHITE

## ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD

ALLI GERKMAN  
*IAALS*

## CLOSING REMARKS

The Colorado Women's Bar Association Members  
at the  
Colorado Attorney General's Office



*congratulate*

*Alli Gerkman*

as the

**2019**

*Mary Lathrop Trailblazer  
Award Recipient*

Attorney General Phil Weiser, Natalie Hanlon-Leh, Jennifer Carty, Vanessa Devereaux, Janet Drake, Erin Grundy, Jennifer Hunt, Heather Kelly, Lindsey Knapton, Emmy Langley, Krista Maher, Kevin McReynolds, Kym Sorrells

## MARY LATHROP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1991** *Elizabeth Adams Conour, Elizabeth L. Guyton Girch, Estelle Hadley, and Helen T. Street*
- 1992** *Mary Brickner, Margaret B. Ellison, and Brooke Wunnicke*
- 1993** *Jean Dubofsky, Marilyn Traub Meadoff, and The Honorable Jacqueline St. Joan*
- 1994** *Natalie S. Ellwood*
- 1995** *Norma Comstock, Karen Steinhauser and The Honorable Zita L. Weinshienk*
- 1996** *Sheila Hyatt, Barbara Salomon, and Mimi Wesson*
- 1997** *Cathlin Donnell and Mary Hoagland*
- 1998** *Susan Barnes and The Honorable Claudia Jordan*
- 1999** *Gale Norton and Gail Schoettler*
- 2000** *Christine Arguello and Dottie Wham*
- 2001** *The Honorable Rebecca Love Kourlis*
- 2002** *The Honorable Mary Mullarkey*
- 2003** *The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Mary E. Ricketson*
- 2004** *Marla Williams*
- 2005** *The Honorable Nancy E. Rice*
- 2006** *Fay M. Matsukage*
- 2007** *Pamela Robillard Mackey*
- 2008** *Lynda A. McNeive*
- 2009** *Elizabeth A. Starrs*
- 2010** *Deborah R. Adams*
- 2011** *The Honorable Mary A. Celeste*
- 2012** *The Honorable Janice B. Davidson and Lynn Feiger*
- 2013** *Lorraine Parker and Doris Truhlar*
- 2014** *The Honorable Patricia Coan (Ret.)*
- 2015** *The Honorable Sandra I. Rothenberg (Ret.)*
- 2016** *Helen C. Shreves*
- 2017** *Rebecca Alexander*
- 2018** *Beth H. McCann*

# Mary Lathrop Award Recipient

# 2019

*Each year, the CWBA gives its highest honor, the Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award, to an honoree who embodies the spirit of the award to its fullest. The award goes to those women who have been trailblazers in the law, have served the mission of advancing women in the law, and have made notable differences in our legal community.*

*It is with great pleasure that we present **Alli Gerkman** with the 2019 Mary Lathrop Award as she embodies and exemplifies each of the traits that this award honors.*



Alli has blazed her own path – pursuing a non-traditional career as an attorney – that will have a lasting impact on women in the law for generations to come. Following graduation from the University of New Hampshire, Alli obtained her law degree from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago and then moved to Denver in 2003 to begin her legal career. After several years in private practice with Winzenburg, Leff, Purvis and Payne, Alli then worked with CLE International until 2009, when CBA-CLE sought her out to work with them. In 2011, Alli made the critical, pivotal decision that blazed her trail to the Mary Lathrop Award: She joined the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver, where, under the leadership of and in collaboration with

former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis, she spearheaded two pathbreaking, innovative studies that reconceived the approach to legal education and the practice of law in the United States.

In her initial investigation and report, “Foundations for Practice”, launched in 2014, Alli led a first-of-its-kind national study quantifying the gaps between how law students are selected and first-time lawyers are hired. Supervising a national survey of attorneys, law firms, and law firm managing partners, Alli shepherded a nationwide survey of attorneys, law firms, and law firm managing partners, obtaining responses from more than 24,000 attorneys in 37 states, covering a wide range of topics relating to the real skills attorneys need to perform capably, serve clients effectively, and to advance in their field.

A successor study Alli is spearheading, entitled “Think Like a Client,” focuses on the traits, behaviors, and skills that clients value in their attorneys. Using client comments regarding attorneys through Avvo, the online legal services marketplace, IAALS staffers under Alli’s leadership will study comments and ratings clients provide about the attorneys representing them. Covering a decade’s worth of client reviews across a wide range of practice areas and over numerous states, the reviews provide empirical foundations for proposals to improve the legal system by providing for the first-time information about what clients value in their attorneys.

In a new project Alli is leading, IAALS is building on lessons from “Foundations for Practice”, “Think Like a Client”, and other studies to redefine the standard of minimum competency for lawyers. Alli hopes results of this project will challenge how we currently think about the bar examination and pave the way to entrance requirements that are both more inclusive and better aligned with knowledge and skills that lawyers must have.



*Alli at the 5th Annual Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Conference in Denver, CO (2016)*

In addition to these comprehensive and pathbreaking nationwide investigations and reports, Alli has been a longstanding contributor to the Colorado and national legal communities. She has served as an active member of the CWBA Board of Directors, co-chairing its Professional Advancement, Public Policy, and Convention Committees. She serves in Colorado as a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Providers of Alternative Legal Services, and nationally as a member of the Law School Transparency National Advisory Council. Merging her research at IAALS with practical applications of her findings, Alli served as Chair of the New Lawyer Working Group of the Chief Justice’s Commission on the Legal Profession, and was previously a member of Colorado’s Mandatory Continuing Legal and Judicial Education Rules Committee. She was also selected for the Colorado Bar Association’s Leadership Training (COBALT) Program.

Alli is also a regular speaker at national conferences, and in recent years presented at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, the National Association of Bar Executives mid-year meeting, and the New York Judicial Institute on Professionalism in the law conference. In 2014 she addressed the deans of 17 schools of education, and in 2017 participated in a roundtable of leaders in professional education at a conference held at Columbia University. In Colorado, her work has been featured in the *Denver Business Journal*, on Colorado Public Radio, and nationally in the *National Law Journals*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *U.S. News and World Report*.



*Alli at Zion National Park*

Alli's commitment to professional growth and enrichment also extends to her continuing involvement in community service and pro bono legal work. She spent six years on the Board of Directors of Colorado Common Cause, promoting transparency in government, adding four years of service on the group's executive committee. Her efforts contributed to passage of a

statewide ballot measure intended to restore government officials' authority to monitor, disclose, and limit campaign contributions and spending throughout Colorado, passing in all counties with a 74 percent approval vote statewide.

Alli's tireless and continuing contributions to the legal profession, nationally and in Colorado, carries a companion commitment to others arising from her diagnosis, treatment for, and experience with cancer. From her 2015 diagnosis with a rare type of cancer, she has committed with the same energy, compassion, and insight to assisting and encouraging others facing the challenge and fears of such a diagnosis. She has become a frequent and visible spokesperson for Ignite forums, including a sold-out presentation to Ignite Boulder, the world's largest Ignite forum. With humor, compassion, and an unflinching commitment to others suffering a cancer diagnosis, the painful and frequent treatments, and the uncertainty of outcomes, Alli has comforted, enriched, motivated, and inspired many who share the same journey she is experiencing.

In all respects, and in the spirit of Mary Lathrop, Alli Gerkman is an innovator and a pathbreaking leader for improvements in the legal profession, the State of Colorado, and the entire nation.

*We are privileged to honor  
Alli Gerkman with  
the 2019 Mary Lathrop  
Trailblazer Award.*

*We know her story will  
continue to inspire legions  
of women for years to come.*



*Alli with her mom, Betsy Alles, in South Africa (2017)*

## The Legacy of Mary Lathrop



*Mary Lathrop was the first woman to: (i) open a law firm in Colorado, (ii) practice before the U.S. District Court in Colorado, (iii) argue before the Colorado Supreme Court, and (iv) join the Denver and Colorado Bar Associations. The Colorado Women's Bar Association first presented the Mary Lathrop Award in 1991 and has made an annual presentation each year since, in order to preserve and foster the memory of this woman who has left a legacy for us all.*



to a Foundation of IAALS

*on the*

**Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award**



Alli Gerkman,  
*Senior Director*

*A dear friend,  
a treasured colleague*

---

Alli is always building, learning,  
dreaming, reaching – and we  
are proud to be her devoted  
colleagues and biggest fans.



INSTITUTE *for the* ADVANCEMENT *of the*  
AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

**You know who's taking credit for tonight's award, right?**



**Yup, you got it! The Bitches were there the whole time! Cheers Alli!!**



**CBA-CLE Congratulates  
Alli Gerkman on receiving  
the 2019 Mary Lathrop  
Trailblazer Award ...**



Thank you Alli for your dedication to education and the Colorado Legal Community!

*Your friends at Colorado Bar Association CLE*



**Colorado Bar Association CLE** ■ 1290 Broadway, Suite 1700 ■ Denver, CO  
[www.cba-cle.org](http://www.cba-cle.org)

# Congratulations Alli! You are a true trailblazer.

We honor Alli Gerkman for fervently inspiring change within the legal profession and in the community at large. Our sincerest congratulations, Alli, for receiving the 2019 Mary Lathrop award!



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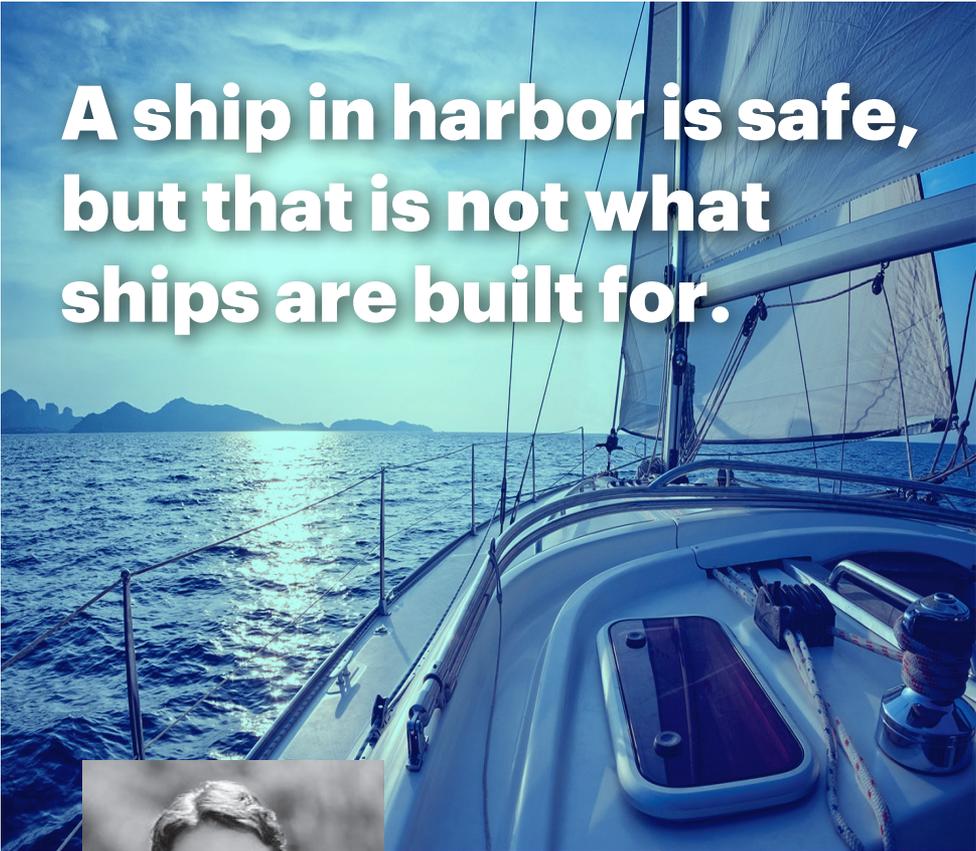
The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made based solely upon advertisements. Lathrop Gage LLP, 1515 Wynkoop Street, Suite 600, Denver, CO 80202. For more information, contact Patrick McRorie at 720.931.3200.



Cheers to the next generation of strong, smart, thoughtful women like Alli!

Alli is the ultimate role model!

— The Kemps

A photograph of a sailboat on the water, viewed from the deck looking forward. The sky is blue with some clouds, and the water is a deep blue. The text is overlaid in white with a slight shadow.

**A ship in harbor is safe,  
but that is not what  
ships are built for.**



Alli Gerkman

**Alli, you are a luminous  
trailblazer and we  
could not be more  
proud of all that you  
have accomplished.**

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**Congratulations! With Love and Admiration,**

Alison Zinn, Cat Shea, Jessica Brown,  
Kim Sporrer, Nancy Rodgers,  
Sarah Chase-McRorie, Sarah Parady,  
and Wendy Weigler

Enthusiasm is common.  
Endurance is  
rare.

- Angela Duckworth, Grit

Alli,  
Your work has inspired a new way of practice &  
your friendship has inspired a new way of being.  
Much love,  
Corina



*A fresh and modern take on  
attorney-provided estate planning.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

**“You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”**

Shirley Chisolm

Alli, You are such an inspiration to all of us in so many ways. So happy you are being recognized for the marks you are making on the world. You are so loved.

Chris, Erika, Jaynee and Leah Gerkman



“

If you don't know  
where you're  
going, any road  
will take you there.

”

— *George Harrison*

***Thank you, Alli,***  
for always inspiring us.  
Congratulations!

**CBA**<sup>®</sup>

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COLORADO WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

RAISING THE BAR

Save the date for the 14th Annual Raising the Bar Dinner

"Risk Takers: Women Lawyers Who Raise the Bar by  
Overcoming Fear to Take on New Challenges"

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center  
Reception 5:30 pm; Dinner 6:30 pm

Please consider becoming a member of the Circle of Minerva.

Circle of Minerva members donate \$150 a year for five years in support of the CWBA Foundation and its charitable works. Among other benefits, Circle of Minerva members are invited to a private reception from 5-5:30 pm before the Raising the Bar dinner to meet the honorees.

Please visit [www.CWBAFoundation.org](http://www.CWBAFoundation.org) for more details.

**Cheers to Alli!**

*Herding cats  
since 1978  
and always  
looking up.*

We are so proud!

Love,

*Your  
Family*



*Congratulations, Alli!*

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO TO ADVANCE AND IMPROVE  
THE LEGAL SYSTEM... AND ALL OF US.

LEN & LISA



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congratulates

**Alli Gerkman**

for her groundbreaking work at IAALS  
that is changing the landscape of education  
and mentoring for new lawyers

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**Kristen M. Frost**  
**RIDLEY MCGREEVY & WINOCUR P.C.**



**Congratulates Alli Gerkman**  
**For Her Outstanding Achievements**

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**Congratulations To Trailblazer Alli Gerkman**  
**From The Five Chelmsford Mews Crew**



**You've Come A Long Way**  
**Sláinte!**



**C**OURAGE IS LOOKING FEAR RIGHT  
IN THE EYE AND SAYING, “GET  
THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY, I’VE GOT  
THINGS TO DO.” *Author Unknown*

***Congratulations Alli. We love you!***

*Aunt Cindy, Uncle Marvin, Aunt Leslie,  
Uncle Keith, Uncle Don & Aunt Cheryl*



*Alli, it is an honor and a  
privilege to walk (or run)  
through the fire with you.*

*We love you!  
– Annie & Emma*

**CONGRATULATIONS, ALLI!**

**JUDICIAL ARBITER GROUP IS  
PROUD TO SUPPORT THE CWBA**



**AND CELEBRATES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF ALLI GERKMAN AS THE CWBA 2019  
MARY LATHROP AWARD RECIPIENT.**

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Let the wine of  
friendship never  
run dry

CONGRATULATIONS, ALLI!

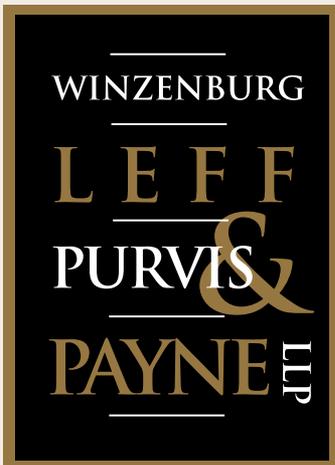
KATHY DALBY



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Congratulations Alli! Thank you for inspiring us to new heights by bike, on hikes, and through your incredible example of personal and professional leadership. You are truly a trailblazer and we love you! - Emma, Kristi, & Suzanne

---



is proud to support the



and congratulates our friend  
and former colleague,

**Alli Gerkman,**  
on receiving the

**Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award!**

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***Congratulations to  
Alli Gerkman  
on her selection as the  
2019 Mary Lathrop Award  
winner.***

**From Epstein Patierno, LLP**

Steven B. Epstein  
Wendy J. Smock  
John H. Tatlock  
Eric M. Herr

Christina H. Patierno  
Courtney J. Leathers Allen  
Lauren W. Gempel  
Chandra N. Zdenek

[www.epfamilylawattorneys.com](http://www.epfamilylawattorneys.com)



Congratulations to an inspiring soul and great friend on this well-deserved honor. The world and our community is a better place because of you, Alli!

Sincerely,  
Ilene Lin Bloom

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**SHERMAN & HOWARD**

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[www.shermanhoward.com](http://www.shermanhoward.com)

## **WTO CONGRATULATES ALLI GERKMAN** 2019 CWBA Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award



Contact:  
Katie Reilly, Partner

303.244.1800 | [wtotrial.com](http://wtotrial.com)

 **Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell** LLP

**TRIAL TESTED**

## ***The Professional Advancement Committee***

The CWBA's Professional Advancement Committee focuses on advancing women through recognition and mentorship. We all know numerous qualified women who deserve recognition. We encourage you all to pass along the names of these deserving women to the Professional Advancement Committee. We also encourage each of you to review the CWBA's new LIFT mentorship curriculum and to sign up as a mentor or mentee.

### **A few awards we nominate members for include:**

The CWBA's Mary Lathrop Award

The Davis Award

*Denver Business Journal* 40 Under 40

5280's Top Lawyers

CBA and DBA Awards

Colorado Judicial Institute Judicial Excellence Awards

And more!

*Please email CWBA Executive Director  
Kim Sporrer [execdir@cwba.org](mailto:execdir@cwba.org) with  
names of deserving women.*



***Enjoy the rest of the 2019 Convention!***

**SAVE THE DATE**

*2020 Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award Reception*

**May 15, 2020**