# Tireless advocacy for justice earns CU Law professor Chase Faculty Community Service Award[1]

Professor Ann England[2] has been a driving force in Colorado's legal community for nearly two decades, championing the wrongfully convicted, training the next generation of lawyers and providing pro bono defense for those most in need. This year, her extraordinary service has been recognized with the University of Colorado's Chase Faculty Community Service Award[3].

England, the Schaden Chair for Experiential Learning and Clinical Law Professor at Colorado Law, directs the school's Criminal Defense Clinic. Her leadership and service extend far beyond campus, where her volunteer work has inspired colleagues, students, judges and attorneys across the state and nation.

In 2015, England founded the Korey Wise Innocence Project[4] (KWIP) at Colorado Law, thanks to a generous gift from Central Park Five exoneree Korey Wise. What began as years of reviewing handwritten letters from prisoners has become a nationally recognized program staffed with full-time attorneys, student advocates and policy leaders.

KWIP provides free legal and investigative services for incarcerated Coloradans with credible innocence claims, develops policy reform initiatives and delivers curricula on wrongful convictions to high school students. England continues to volunteer her time to the project, declining compensation for her role as faculty director.

**Strengthening death penalty defense**

England also co-leads the National College of Capital Voir Dire, a nonprofit that trains death penalty defense attorneys in effective jury selection. She organizes and hosts an annual three-day conference at CU Boulder, bringing in about 100 lawyers to learn the "Colorado Method" – a nationally recognized standard for capital jury selection. Her work has helped strengthen capital defense nationwide and contributed to the significant decline in death sentences over the last decade.

England's service began long before she joined CU's faculty, working nearly a decade as a public defender. She continues to represent indigent clients – including those experiencing homelessness – during summers when students are away. Colleagues describe her taking on dozens of cases each week with hardly any support, motivated purely by her commitment to justice.

She also has provided critical training and technical assistance to attorneys in municipal courts, elevating the quality of representation for low-income Coloradans. Judges and attorneys alike have praised her as an invaluable resource in efforts to improve fairness in local courts.

**Beyond the courtroom**

England's community service reaches far beyond the legal system. She serves on the board of ACLU Colorado, coaches high school mock trial teams, and even lends her creativity as a designer to the Boulder Valley Women's Health Center, crafting couture dresses from condoms for the nonprofit's fundraising events.

Her students, many of whom now serve as public defenders and advocates, describe her as a mentor whose influence has shaped not just their careers but their sense of civic responsibility.

In recognizing England, the selection committee highlighted the breadth and depth of her contributions, from exonerations and policy reforms to mentorship and grassroots advocacy. She will be honored Monday at a reception at CU Boulder.

"Professor Ann England's unwavering commitment to justice and tireless advocacy for the wrongfully convicted have transformed Colorado's legal landscape, making her so deserving of the Chase Faculty Community Service Award," said Joe Coleman, JPMorgan Chase business banking market manager. "Through founding the Korey Wise Innocence Project and leading national efforts in death penalty defense, she has inspired generations of lawyers and elevated the quality of representation for those most in need. JPMorgan Chase is proud to sponsor this award,

celebrating extraordinary service and leadership that strengthens our communities and advances the cause of justice."

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award – established in 1991 with a $100,000 donation – is funded annually by an endowment from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation through the CU Foundation. The endowment provides an annual award of $10,000 to a full-time faculty member at the University of Colorado who has rendered exceptional service in his or her community.

Donors surpass half a billion dollars in giving to CU[5]

Donors invested generously in CU last fiscal year, giving more than $522 million to mark the second-highest fundraising year in university history and only the second time CU has surpassed a half-billion dollars in philanthropy.

More than 46,000 donors contributed more than 78,000 gifts – both records for CU – across the university's four campuses to support a broad array of initiatives heading into CU's 150th anniversary next year. These priorities include student success and scholarships, groundbreaking research and discovery, vibrant arts and culture programs, talented faculty and transformative medicine and health care.

"We are tremendously grateful for our donors' generosity and passion. Their gifts are among our most important sources of support and help strengthen every part of our university community," said Todd Saliman, University of Colorado President. "These gifts ensure our students, faculty and broader community in Colorado and beyond can benefit from the impact and value that CU provides."

Last year, the $522 million total included:
$161 million to help unearth new discoveries through research $157 million to drive various academic priorities, including health care $63 million to support students with scholarships and fellowships $40 million to attract and retain bright faculty and researchers
When donors give, they signal their passion for what's personally meaningful to them at CU. That support is especially critical during a year in which challenges to state and federal budgets impact higher education. Importantly, donor philanthropy is directed where donors intend their gifts to go, and CU cannot redirect dollars elsewhere to cover funding shortfalls in other areas.

Last year, donors from all walks of life – alumni, friends, parents, students, staff, faculty, foundations and corporations – gave to improve lives in their local communities, across Colorado and around the world.

While donors from all backgrounds matter, so do gifts of every size: Gifts of $2,500 or less accounted for approximately 93% of all gifts, showing a broad base of support for CU. Donors also made transformational investments across all campuses, including two gifts of more than $15 million each and 104 gifts of at least $1 million each.

Each of CU's campuses benefited from significant gifts, including:
A $10 million endowed gift[6] from **CU Boulder** alumnus Spike Buckley established the Buckley Center for Sustainability Education. The investment provides $2 million annually over five years to advance sustainability education across the campus. The center will fund faculty development, curriculum innovation, experiential learning opportunities and student leadership programs that integrate sustainability into disciplines ranging from engineering to the arts. The gift aims to prepare future leaders with the knowledge and skills to address urgent environmental challenges while fostering a culture of responsibility and innovation at CU Boulder. At **UCCS**, the Kane Family Foundation's generosity made nearly $700,000 in scholarship funds[7] available in the last academic year to 50 Colorado students working toward a UCCS degree. The foundation's namesakes, Wanden and Andy Kane, were ranchers and philanthropists from Fountain, Colorado, who believed in independence through education. Celebrating 20 years, the Kane Family Foundation has been integral in the education of students at colleges and universities in southern Colorado, including UCCS. Donors to **CU Denver** gave $7.2 million last fiscal year to support student scholarships, increase access to higher education for a broader student population and alleviate financial burdens. This included a cornerstone $1 million anonymous gift[8] to provide scholarships for up to four students annually in the

Department of Sociology. A patient at the Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center at **CU Anschutz** made an anonymous $40 million gift[9] to the Department of Ophthalmology to treat and potentially cure eye diseases like macular degeneration and glaucoma, increase focus on basic science and harness artificial intelligence to revolutionize vision care in the years ahead. The gift will accelerate the campus's ophthalmology program that is already an innovative, national leader in the quest to treat and cure eye disease.
While most gifts to CU can be used immediately, donors also give to strengthen CU long into the future. Of last year's $522 million total, donors invested $104 million in endowed gifts while creating 133 new individual endowments. A total of 3,693 individual endowments benefit CU – all with distinct purposes established by the donor – with a collective value of $2.5 billion as of June 30.

A small percentage of each endowed gift is distributed to the university each year, while the remainder is invested prudently and expertly in a long-term investment portfolio to help grow the endowment so it can continue to support its intended purpose for decades to come.

Donors also gave a record $128 million in planned gifts by including CU in their wills and bequests, establishing their legacy and leaving CU with additional future support.

Omada combines technology, personalized support to build healthier habits – at no cost [10]

CU Anschutz receives $50M challenge gift to transform mental health care [11]

Global journalism leader Poynter visits Boulder to celebrate 50 years [12]

Responding to environmental crisis: Common methods and their efficacy [13]

Dragonflies survived asteroids – but wildfires and climate change may push them to extinction according to CU Denver study [14]

CU Anschutz launches brand alignment initiative [15]

Federal transition update: HHS RIF halt, more[16]

From Sept. 19, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on HHS RIF Halt, ED Funding Redirection, NASA Chinese National Ban, and UC Funding Freeze Lawsuit.

Click here to read the post.[17]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Transitions Updates[18] page.

Anseth receives National Academy of Engineering's Founders Award [19]

Nairn to retire later this year [20]

Renaming of residence hall honors legacy of Onizuka [21]

Colorado's housing shortfall shrank after pandemic emergency, but that could change[22]

What happens to your body when you jump[23]

Why being 'too committed' might just help your career[24]

**Links**
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/tireless-advocacy-justice-earns-cu-law-professor-chase-faculty-community-service-award[2] https://www.colorado.edu/law/ann-england-0[3] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/chase-faculty-community-service-award[4] https://www.colorado.edu/law/academics/public-service/korey-wise-innocence-project[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/donors-surpass-half-billion-dollars-giving-cu[6] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2025/08/05/10m-investment-invigorate-sustainability-education-cu-boulder[7] https://news.uccs.edu/2025/07/22/kane-family-foundation-continues-longstanding-scholarship-legacy-for-uccs-students/[8] https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/office-of-advancement/your-impact/impact-stories/advancement-news/department-of-sociology-receives-a--1-million-gift-for-scholarships[9] https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/historic-40-million-gift-to-cu-anschutz-dept.-of-ophthalmology-will-fuel-research-and-new-therapies[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/omada-combines-technology-personalized-support-build-healthier-habits-no-cost[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-anschutz-receives-50m-challenge-gift-transform-mental-health-care[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/global-journalism-leader-poynter-visits-boulder-celebrate-50-years[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/responding-environmental-crisis-common-methods-and-their-efficacy[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/dragonflies-survived-asteroids-wildfires-and-climate-change-may-push-them-extinction[15]

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