

Colorado Legal Services mourns the loss of our beloved colleague, Ellen Alires-Trujillo, who was an exemplary attorney for the clients she served, a mentor to generations of legal aid attorneys, and a cherished friend. Her spirit of dedication, service, and generosity will live on at Colorado Legal Services.

While a single parent of her daughter, Kristina, Ellen earned a BA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. On July 20, 1987, Ellen began her legal career as an attorney with CLS' predecessor, the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver (LASMD), working in the Family and Children's Unit, the Housing Unit, and finally in the Health and Elder Law Unit (HELU), where she fought to establish or maintain government benefits for deserving individuals, and worked to establish CLS' first Medical-Legal Partnership at Children's Hospital. Thirty-two years later, on September 30, 2019, Ellen retired from CLS, after ensuring the legal rights for hundreds, if not thousands, of low-income, senior, and vulnerable individuals, particularly those who were faced with the challenge of a physical and/or mental impairment.

Not long after her retirement from CLS, Ellen was diagnosed with ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease). Ellen faced ALS with courage and never lost her sense of humor or failed to express her own particular kind of sass.

Ellen was a wise, kind, generous and supportive co-worker, mentor, and friend. She did amazing legal work and always focused on the clients. Ellen exuded a warmth of spirit and she made everyone around her shine. We at CLS are grateful to have known her, and we will all miss her. In addition to her amazing commitment and kindness to CLS clients, she was also a dedicated mentor to new Latinx attorneys at CLS, as well as law students, college students, and high school students in the Denver metro area. She went out of her way to make all of these individuals feel supported and welcomed. Ellen was devoted to all of her colleagues at CLS; she took care of many like family. She made CLS better inside and out. Ellen embodied the term "social justice."

The CLS staff who had the honor of working with her were made better by knowing her. Ellen was also a devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, aunt, grandmother, and great grandmother. She had many close friends and admirers. Our hearts go out to Lorenzo Trujillo, her beloved husband of decades, Ellen's family, and so many who were close to Ellen. She will be deeply missed by all.

The Colorado Hispanic Bar Association established a scholarship in the name of Ellen and her devoted husband Lorenzo. Contributions may be made to the Alires-Trujillo Scholarship of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, <https://chba.net/donate/donate-to-the-chba-foundation> to the Rocky Mountain ALS Association, <https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/Donation2> or to Colorado Legal Services, <https://www.legalaidfoundation.org/get-involved/make-a-donation-star>