

**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER BEGINS NEW CHAPTER  
IN LONG-HISTORY OF FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN**  
**Stephanie Villafuerte joins Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center as Executive Director**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (Denver, CO) Wednesday, July 7. After three and a half years as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Bill Ritter, **Stephanie Villafuerte joins the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center as Executive Director.** The [Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center](#) is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit agency that protects and saves the lives of abused and neglected children through zealous legal advocacy, innovative programs and public policy reform. Each year, the Children's Law Center represents more than 500 maltreated children and trains private attorneys who donate nearly one million dollars in volunteer legal services to at-risk families, child victims of domestic violence, and foster parents.

The Children's Law Center was founded in 1981 by Villafuerte's predecessor Shari F. Shink, Esq. Shink will take on a new role at the Children's Law Center as Founder and President, effective July 7. **"I am excited about my new role. It will give me the opportunity to focus more on systemic reform. Over the last year we have made great improvements with the creation of the Child Protection Ombudsman Office, but there is so much more to do"** said **Shari F. Shink, Founder and President of the Children's Law Center.** "I am also inspired by the energy and passion Stephanie brings to our work. Her management and leadership experience will be invaluable as we strive to expand our reach and save more lives" said Shink.

Stephanie Villafuerte, Esq. comes to the Children's Law Center with a wealth of experience working with child victims in the system. She is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and former Chief Deputy District Attorney in the Office of the Denver District Attorney. At the District Attorney's office, she managed the Crimes against Children Unit and built a reputation for herself as a prosecutorial advocate for molested children and battered women. In 2005, the Colorado District Attorney's Council named her "Prosecutor of the Year". Villafuerte has also been a long-time supporter of the Children's Law Center. She has assisted with attorney training and taught at the University of Denver Sturm College Of Law, even riding the Triple Bypass as **a member of the Champions for Children Cycling Team** for the past two years to raise awareness and funds for the abused and neglected children served by the Children's Law Center.

**"I have dedicated myself to child protection and public safety issues for the last 20 years. As a former state and federal prosecutor, as well as in my policy work with the Governor's Office, I have had the opportunity to work on issues which impact Colorado's most vulnerable population--its children."**, said **Stephanie Villafuerte, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center.** "I am eager to work at the Children's Law Center's and looking forward to building our capacity to serve more children and increasing the public awareness of the plight of this voiceless population" said Villafuerte.

**The Colorado Bar Association**, a long-time supporter and partner of the Children's Law Center's volunteer programs, will host a welcome reception for Villafuerte on **Wednesday, July 21, from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm** for Children's Law Center supporters and child advocates. For more information about the reception contact the Children's Law Center at (303) 692-1165. The Colorado Women's Bar Association will honor Shari F. Shink this fall at the Fifth Annual Raising the Bar dinner, honoring women lawyers who have made a difference in the community.

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