

## PRESS RELEASE

### *Founder of Nonprofit Law Firm Speaks about Serving those in the Justice Gap*

#### *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

[Boulder, CO October 30, 2014] Bruce Wiener, Esq. founder of Bridge to Justice will speak today about access to justice issues at the general session of the Boulder Bench-Bar Retreat at the Wittemyer Courtroom at CU Law School. Registration begins at 12:15 p.m.

Half of those who apply for free legal aid in Colorado are turned away due to over income or type of service required. This creates a “justice gap” between those who qualify for free legal aid and those who can afford a market rate attorney. This gap has seen a dramatic increase in recent years due to the recession and rising costs of legal services.

Bridge to Justice is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides reduced-rate, customized legal services to low- and moderate-income individuals in domestic relations and civil matters. The firm has assisted more than 400 low- and moderate-income individuals across the Front Range since opening in April 2013.

Serving clients that fall in the justice gap helps Colorado courts by reducing the number of *pro se* litigants, those who represent themselves. In fiscal year 2013, 63% of domestic relations cases filed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, covering Boulder County, had no attorney and 58% of the parties in civil cases in the 20<sup>th</sup> JD had no representation.

Colorado courts have *pro se* litigant coordinators, family court facilitators and other staff available to provide general information to *pro se* litigants; however they cannot provide legal advice.

#### **For More information contact:**

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