



2014 Award Nomination Form

**See nomination instructions
for information on completing and submitting nominations**

NOMINEE (All fields are required):

Name: Bachus & Schanker, LLC Title (if applicable): _____

Organization (if applicable):
Bachus & Schanker, LLC

Address: 1899 Wynkoop St., Suite 700 Denver CO 80202
street city state zip

Phone: (303) 893-9800 email: kbachus@coloradolaw.net

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION (Please check **ONLY ONE**):

- Lifetime Achievement NEW
- Outstanding Business – Large (*Number of Colorado employees* _____)
- Outstanding Business – Small (*Number of Colorado employees* 70)
- Outstanding Foundation
- Outstanding Philanthropist
- Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy – Fundraising
- Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy – Grantmaking
- Outstanding Service Organization
- Outstanding Volunteer(s)
- Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- Outstanding Youth (18 and under)
- Outstanding Youth Group (18 and under)

SUBMITTED BY:

Name: Jill Buck Title (if applicable): Account Associate

Organization (if applicable): Cutter Communications

Address: 13049 W. Aqueduct Ave Littleton CO 80127
street city state zip

Phone: (303) 972-6275 email: jill@cuttercommunications.com

Relationship to Nominee:
public relations firm

How did you hear about NPD in Colorado?
Call for nominations email received from NPD Colorado

If your nominee is not selected, would you like them to be notified that they were nominated?
Yes X NO _____

**REFER TO THE NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS
FOR COMPLETE DIRECTIONS!**

Please remember:

- Each nomination **must** include:
 1. Nomination form
 2. Nomination narrative
 3. Two letters of support
- All nominations must be complete when submitted.
- Complete nominations must be submitted via email to deann@afpcc.org or via postal mail c/o AFP/CC, PO Box 21317, Denver, CO 80221.

The nomination deadline is Monday, July 21, 2014 at 5:00 PM. No exceptions!

Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado
www.npdcolorado.org



Bachus & Schanker, LLC - National Philanthropy Day
2014 Award Nominee

What are the nominee's specific achievements?

When Kyle Bachus and Darin Schanker founded their law firm, Bachus & Schanker, LLC, they had a vision to not only to rectify the injustices their clients faced, but to lend a helping hand to their neighbors in need. They each valued community connection, and wanted to invest their time and financial resources to make a difference.

Now well-known for creating a culture of philanthropy within the walls of the firm, Bachus & Schanker, LLC partners with many nonprofits and professional organizations to promote positive community changes and lead in industry professional development.

The firm's partners launched the Bachus & Schanker Cares Foundation in 2009 to streamline philanthropic efforts and make it easier for organizations to benefit from their resources. Since then, employees have volunteered an estimated 2,000 hours and donated about \$360,000 to support 20 organizations in need each year (per year numbers growing). In addition, they received recognition in 2013 as Partners in Philanthropy from the Denver Business Journal (<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/print-edition/2013/11/22/bachus-schanker-find-giving-a.html?page=all>). In addition, Bachus & Schanker attorneys, Maaren Johnson (Colorado Top Women Lawyers – Law Week Colorado) and Chris Elliot (DBJ, 40 Under 40) have received awards, for not only their professional leadership but for their consistent community support. In the legal community, Bachus & Schanker is recognized for its investment in the Denver-metro community and attracts high-caliber attorneys who share the desire to be part of a mission-based work environment.

What impact has the nominee had on volunteerism and/or financial contributions and/or the community?

From offering pro-bono legal services to families in desperate need of legal representation served by the Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic to serving breakfast as an award ceremony for at-risk youth from Urban Peak, to providing holiday gifts to underprivileged children in Dolls for Daughters and Toys for Boys, the firm has made a tangible difference to these recipients. They also organize walkers each year (78 friends and family in 2013) for Mothers Against Drunk Driving *Walk Like MADD* event, supply landscapers, electricians and

framers for Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver, sponsor events for Warren Village and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

The founders believe that although financial support is a primary need of most nonprofits, to simply give money does not create a connection with community.

What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

Building a Culture of Giving Begins at the Top

Kyle Bachus and Darin Schanker have always had a strong conviction when it comes to philanthropy and giving back to the community. Kyle and Darin were among the 1,100 trial lawyers who volunteered after the September 11th terrorist attacks to provide free legal services to any family who applied for help from the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The clients they helped are friends to this day, and that experience affected the firm a great deal, leading to a stronger desire to grow the philanthropic piece of Bachus & Schanker's identity. In 2013 alone, Bachus & Schanker contributed more than \$85,000 (the highest amount to date) to 19 organizations and the team of 77 attorneys and staff gave an estimated 600 hours of their time to run, walk, pack toys, pass out candy, swing hammers and bowl to support worthy nonprofits across the state.

Kyle Bachus and Darin Schanker understand the amount of support their community needs and how to lead by example. They make it a priority to participate in all of the events but let the employees take the lead in managing the Foundation. Currently 18 employees sit on the committee for Bachus & Schanker Cares Foundation and are involved in all Foundation decisions. They review all proposals for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities. Any employee can bring new opportunities to the table and given a chance to speak to the group to obtain support. It is truly a collaborative process and the firms Foundation work receives accolades as an example to other firms locally and regionally in industry publications.

We believe that Bachus & Schanker deserve this recognition not based on how much they give, although it is substantial but because the heart that is behind the giving. Those who are part of law firms know how much time (and overtime) it takes to perform the duties of law and Bachus & Schanker are a great example of how to bring people together for the greater good even if it takes going that extra mile to help wherever and whenever they are able.



**JUSTICE AND MERCY
LEGAL AID CLINIC**
A PROGRAM OF MILE HIGH MINISTRIES

DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY

July 18, 2014

Re: Bachus & Schanker Letter of Recommendation

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am pleased to provide a letter of recommendation on behalf of Bachus & Schanker Law Firm for exceptional philanthropic and volunteer contributions in Colorado. The Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic (JAMLAC) and our clients have greatly benefited from their generous business practices and commitment to the community.

JAMLAC is a non-profit legal clinic which provides legal services for the indigent population in Colorado, most of whom are victims of domestic abuse. Bachus & Schanker has not only assisted us with cases, but has gone above and beyond to help raise funds for our organizations. For the past four years, Bachus & Schanker has hosted an annual Joy of Giving Event to raise money and awareness for our program. The staff at Bachus & Schanker, together with the Bachus & Schanker Cares Foundation Board, has work tirelessly to organize all aspects of the Joy of Giving Event to benefit JAMLAC. They design and send out the invitations, get silent auction items, rent a photo booth, provide catering, and wonderfully decorate their office space for the event.

In addition to hosting the event, they invite hundreds of their contacts, expanding our network of potential donors while raising awareness about domestic abuse and celebrating stories of redemption and success. Over the four years, the event has raised \$29,000 for JAMLAC, which has allowed us to provide legal services to an additional 45 client that struggle with poverty and oppression.

Furthermore, in the month leading up to the Joy of Giving Event, the staff at Bachus & Schanker participates in "Jeans for JAMLAC". This activity allows the staff at Bachus & Schanker to *pay* to wear jeans to work. All of the staff contributions, raised by wearing jeans to work, is matched by Bachus & Schanker and donated to JAMLAC. This not only creates excitement leading up to the main Joy of Giving Event, but it generates over \$800 for JAMLAC each year.

At each Joy of Giving Event, we have one JAMLAC client share her story with the guests. I've attached Maria's story, which was shared at the 2011 Joy of Giving Event. Thanks to the generosity of Bachus & Schanker, we look forward to continuing this annual event and grow this event in the future.

**913 N. Wyandot Street
Denver, CO 80204
303.839.1008 (office)
303.595.5278 (fax)
JAMLAC@milehighmin.org**

Bachus & Schanker also financially supports JAMLAC. Recently, a generous donor agreed to match any donation that was made to JAMLAC during the last three days of our fiscal year. Graciously, The Bachus & Schanker Cares Foundation immediately pledged \$1,000 to support the matching gift drive, helping us reach our year-end financial goals.

On the legal front, Kyle Bachus and Darin Schanker and all staff at the firm demonstrate excellence and compassion for clients. I have personally worked closely with Kyle and Darin on cases and they have provided outstanding *pro bono* assistance and relevant professional advice. They are men of integrity and the culture within their firm emulates them. Bachus & Schanker is a firm that is respected by the community, by opposing counsel, and by court staff.

Not only does Bachus & Schanker support JAMLAC, but they are dedicated to many other philanthropic events and activities to empower other non-profit organizations including; Dolls for Daughters, Littleton Firefighters, MADD, and Habitat for Humanity.

I give Bachus & Schanker my strongest possible recommendation for the 2014 National Philanthropy Award. They are incredibly committed to serving the city through their law practice, and are a socially aware business that reinvests in non-profits to advance the social benefit of the community.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I can be reached on my cell phone, 303-229-8252, or email, sthompson@milehighmin.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Thompson
Executive Director of JAMLAC



Maria's Story (name changed due to client confidentiality):

Maria showed up at JAMLAC with bruises and was visibly shaken. She has been recently abused by her husband. But this wasn't the first time; she had been married to him for 15 years and was abused by him for most of her marriage. When Maria came to JAMLAC, she had not called the police and she was still living with her husband (and her 3 kids). Tina, JAMLAC's Immigration Attorney, explained the U-Visa process and explained her legal rights. With the help of Tina, Maria came up with a safety plan. But the sad thing is JAMLAC couldn't do anything for Maria until she had reported the abuse to the police. Maria was scared and feared going to the police. We had no choice but to send Maria back to home. The next time her husband abused her, she *did* have the courage to call the police and used her safety plan. She came back to JAMLAC and we were able to help her.

Several of the attorneys worked on her case. JAMLAC helped her with her divorce, child custody and her U-Visa. Jose, her oldest son, was her only child that wasn't a US citizen. Since Jose was under 18 and his mom was a victim of domestic violence, through the U-Visa process, Jose could apply for Legal Permanent Residence also. Both Maria and Jose got their visas. Her husband (ex-husband) did continue to stalk her and abused her again once early on in the process of her working with JAMLAC. We were able to get a restraining order against him and as far as we know hasn't laid a hand on her again.

The JAMLAC staff worked hard to get her and her 3 kids into Joshua Station, a transitional housing program. Their family thrived at Joshua Station and became natural leaders in the community. Before Maria got her Visa/work permit, she had to be creative in way to make money. She would cater lunches, sell tamales, and even started her own balloon arch making business. Maria made business cards to pass around for her balloon arch business. She was hardworking and a wonderful mom.

Once she was able to legally work, General Air (a partner of JAMLAC) hired her temporarily in order to get her some formal work experience. It was supposed to be a 3-6 month temporary position...over 2 years later she is still working for them. She was too good to let go, so they hired her on full time. And her son, Jose, works for General Air as well, as a mechanical apprentice. Maria and her kids are doing really well had have remained in the same stable permanent housing since they left Joshua Station. She often visits the JAMLAC staff and calls us her family!





Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Colorado State Office
www.madd.org/co

1355 S. Colorado Blvd
Suite C-602
Denver, CO 80222

303.425.5902 direct
877.MADD.HELP victim support
303-425-5674 fax

July 21st, 2014

To the members of the selection committee:

On behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation to recognize the law firm of Bachus & Schanker for outstanding philanthropic contributions as a small business in Colorado.

At MADD Colorado, we work hard to keep our communities safe and to support victims of drunk and drugged driving crashes. The partners and staff of Bachus & Schanker are committed to working with us to end these 100% preventable tragedies and to seek justice for families and individuals who have been impacted by impaired driving.

Our organization has been fortunate to partner with Bachus & Schanker since 2007. As our most dedicated corporate partner, Bachus & Schanker has contributed \$217,840 to fund MADD Colorado's mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of these violent crimes and to prevent underage drinking. This spirit of philanthropy has also carried over to the firm's staff; the employees of Bachus & Schanker have personally raised an additional \$7,412 as a team in our annual 5K walk event, Walk Like MADD.

These funds are crucial to making our mission happen. Since 2007, the law firm of Bachus & Schanker has made possible an incredible 6,088 hours of victim support—services that MADD provides at no charge to victims and survivors. We provide emotional support, guidance through the judicial process, connections to counseling and victim compensation, as well as our annual candlelight vigil to honor and remember loved ones. While the traumatic effects of a crash can last a lifetime, our victim advocates help families move forward in their lives. The support provided by Bachus & Schanker not only serves those who have suffered a grave injustice, it also helps victims and survivors become healthier and regain productivity as members of our Colorado communities.

As a law firm, Bachus & Schanker also works on cases for crash victims and survivors. I've personally seen the passion and dedication that they take in representing families affected by impaired driving. This compassion goes beyond the courtroom. In one case that stands out, Darin Schanker and Kyle Bachus even made arrangements for an injured crash survivor to attend a Broncos game and meet the players. These small touches make a difference to families.

With encouragement from the firm's partners, Bachus & Schanker employees have also volunteered with MADD to bring food to police officers at checkpoints and helped coordinate several of our community events. One of our most active volunteers is from Bachus & Schanker; with the firm's full support, she volunteers year-round to coordinate our Walk Like MADD 5K.

Beyond the firm's work with MADD Colorado, I know that Bachus & Schanker also supports Dolls for Daughters, the Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic, and Habitat for Humanity. Clearly, the firm is committed to philanthropy and community involvement.

I am excited to recommend Bachus & Schanker for a 2014 National Philanthropy Award. Please let me know if you have any questions—I would be glad to share more about our partnership with Bachus & Schanker. I can be reached at 303-425-5902 extension 6852 or francis.lanzer@madd.org.

Sincerely,

Fran Lanzer, State Executive Director