

CWBA 2022 Rock Star Mentors

Cristal Torres DeHerrera



Chief of Staff | Denver International Airport

Cristal DeHerrera is the Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Denver International Airport (DEN), one of the busiest airline hubs in the world's largest aviation market and the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado. Cristal manages the airport's External Affairs business unit where she leads the development of the airport's strategies, policies and plans related to legislative and regulatory activities at the local, state and federal level. She also leads the culture and strategy initiatives within DEN as well as the airport's efforts to increase the opportunity and capacity of the certified business community through contracting opportunities and educational programs via the DEN Commerce Hub.

Prior to joining DEN in 2018, Cristal served for 4 years as the Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of Denver. In the City Attorney's Office, she managed the day-to-day operations of more than 200 attorneys and staff in one of the largest public law offices in the western United States. There she led Denver's development of the governance structure and formation of the National Western Center Authority which will manage, operate and maintain a year-round urban hub for food and ag discovery in the heart of the American West. Cristal also led Mayor Hancock's efforts to partner with the Denver City Council on the Public Safety Priority Enforcement Act which promoted public safety through community trust and limited Denver's role in federal immigration enforcement. Cristal also led the development of Denver's Immigrant Legal Defense Fund.

Before joining the City Attorney's Office, Cristal was a Shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, where her practice focused on mergers and acquisitions, private equity, public and private securities offerings, capital formation and securities advice. Cristal holds a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and received her undergraduate degree in political studies from Pitzer College in Claremont, California. The Colorado Hispanic Bar Association honored Cristal with the Christopher A. Miranda Outstanding Hispanic Lawyer Award. In addition, she received the Denver Bar Association's Richard Marden Davis Award for leadership in Denver's civic, cultural, educational and charitable activities. She was recognized by the Colorado Women's Bar Association Foundation's Raising the Bar Award as Women to Watch: 5 Female Attorneys Who Will Make an Impact over the Next 10 Years. She also received the *Denver Business Journal's* 40 under 40 award. Cristal and her husband Jerome are parents to three children and spend their downtime on their family ranch in Southern Colorado.

Honorable Adam J. Espinosa



Honorable Adam J. Espinosa is a Denver District Court Judge assigned to the Criminal Division where he presides over felony criminal matters. Previously, he served as a Denver County Court Judge where he presided over the Civil, Municipal Criminal, and State Criminal Divisions of that court, presiding over two hundred and eighty trials. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Espinosa served as a senior trial attorney for the Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel and as a deputy district attorney in several Colorado counties. Judge Espinosa is active in the community, having served in leadership positions on numerous local, state, and national boards, including the Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission, the Colorado Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, the ABA Standing Committee on Client Protection, and the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. Judge Espinosa is a frequent lecturer and author for several bar associations, law schools, and other groups on various legal, ethical, and professional responsibility topics. He has taught over one hundred continuing legal education courses and published several articles in the area of legal ethics, access to justice, and unbundled legal services. Judge Espinosa has dedicated his legal career to public service, public safety, and access to justice. He is committed to serving the people of Denver and to the improvement of our courts.

Miranda Hawkins



CWBA Past President Miranda K. Hawkins is named partner of Goddard Hawkins. She has been practicing law since 1999. Miranda provides practical legal advice and counseling to families and individuals in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, probate, and estate and gift tax planning. Miranda advises a wide variety of clients, including individuals and families who want to plan for their children and families who need more sophisticated estate and gift tax planning advice.

Early in her career, Miranda practiced in the areas of fiduciary liability litigation, ERISA, and employee benefits. Miranda also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Timothy L. Fasing of the Arapahoe County District Court in 1999-2000.

Catherine Shea



Catherine Shea is Chief of Staff and the Ethics and Compliance Director at the University of Colorado Boulder. Catherine is a member of the chancellor's senior leadership team, serving as a point of contact for the chancellor in coordinating with the cabinet and executive committee, campus faculty and students, and other internal and external constituencies. In her role as ethics and compliance director, Catherine works with the Chancellor and the campus subject matter experts to develop and implement a campus-wide ethics and compliance management framework.

Previously, Catherine served as the University of Colorado's senior counsel for technology transfer and research compliance. Before joining CU in 2007, Shea served as chief of staff at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. She also has held legal positions with the University Center for Atmospheric Research, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Shea has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law.