

# LAW WEEK COLORADO



**LEFT:** IAALS executive director Rebecca Love Kourlis thanked honorees Kyle and Bil Hybl and El Pomar Foundation for their support of the organization and its DIAALOGUES series.

**RIGHT:** A record number attended the 10th Annual Rebuilding Justice Award Dinner April 20 at the Cable Center. / **LAW WEEK, TONY FLESOR**

## IAALS Honors El Pomar Foundation

*Rebuilding Justice Award goes to nonprofit, Hybls*

BY **TONY FLESOR**  
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The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System held its 10th Annual Rebuilding Justice Award Dinner on Thursday at the Cable Center near the University of Denver.

This year's award was presented to honor El Pomar Foundation, Bill Hybl and Kyle Hybl for their partnership with the organization through its DIAALOGUES series of convenings. The event drew record turnout, according to IAALS, as a cap to the organization's 10th year. Speeches from IAALS executive director, former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis, and chief legal officer of Liberty Media, Rich Baer, highlighted the importance of El Pomar Foundation's involvement with the organization.

Kourlis said that El Pomar has supported IAALS since the organization's creation, when it assisted the organization in its work in judicial performance evaluations and gave IAALS a grant for education on rule of law issues for college students.

Since then, El Pomar has been closely involved with IAALS in its DIAALOGUES series, held at Penrose House in Colorado Springs.

The DIAALOGUES convenings are part of IAALS' process of bringing stakeholders and knowledgeable experts together to discuss key issues facing the legal system. The DIAALOGUES series,

specifically, brings together experts from around the country to discuss these issues.

One of the key products of the convenings is IAALS' Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers project, which focuses on how law schools educate their students in order to stay abreast of the changes in the legal profession.

IAALS and El Pomar Foundation have held six convenings since 2013 focused on expectations for judges, family law issues and recusal procedures, among other topics. The next convening will be focused on the role of dispositive motions in the expense and delay of litigation.

In addition to presenting El Pomar Foundation with an award, IAALS also recognized the organization's chairman and CEO, Bill Hybl, and COO and general counsel, Kyle Hybl.

Bill Hybl offers the organization's hospitality by serving as a host at the convenings and creating connections

with the participants. Kyle Hybl also provides his perspective on issues in the legal system, allowing IAALS to focus on areas he recognizes as problem areas.

Kourlis said that the convenings serve an important function in bringing together people from different areas of the legal profession to address key issues.

"The participants in the legal system have a tendency to operate within silos," Kourlis said. "Academics don't often talk to hiring partners at law firms. Plaintiffs' and defense

lawyers don't often sit down to work together on solutions to problems.

Family law practitioners and judges and litigants don't often sit down to craft a solution to a problem together. I see IAALS as capable of bringing those various interest groups together around the problem."

Baer, in his keynote speech, discussed the role of IAALS as a convenor of people with different viewpoints in a

world of differing viewpoints.

IAALS' dinner marked the close of the organization's 10th year, which was formally celebrated at its previous dinner in 2016. Within the past decade, IAALS has "created a pathway to change" at a time when the legal profession, legal education and the courts were all starting to change and were becoming aware of the necessity for change, Kourlis said.

At the dinner, Kourlis cited the success of the organization's programs that focus on access to justice, such as changes in family courts, adapting legal education to the requirements of the profession and civil justice reform.

"Access to justice is about encouraging attorneys to provide service in innovative ways," Kourlis said about the family courts program. That program involved an in-depth survey of family court litigants to determine why many end up representing themselves pro se.

The organization last year also launched its Rebuilding Justice Fund, which Kourlis said helped make it a bumper year for IAALS.

The organization has implemented empirical research methods to study those factors and develop practical tools to implement changes.

"The landscape was ready for IAALS," Kourlis said. "It has been able to serve the very important role of bringing people and data to problems and developing practical solutions."

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