



CHARLES F. LUCE, JR.

Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, Charles let his imagination fly. Years later, Charles' life is still soaring – literally and figuratively – as an accomplished pilot, musician, and as an intellectual property and ethics attorney.

A tenacious advocate, Charles counsels clients of every size on trademarks, copyrights, computer technology, Internet law, licensing, contracts, and other areas of intellectual property.

Merging passions for music, theatre, technology, literature, and law, Charles is uniquely suited to help technology companies, artists, and entertainers protect and defend their technology and artistic assets. While still in law school, his article, "Look What They've Done to My Song!," an analysis of the Copyright Act's compulsory license for audio recordings from a composer's point of view, won ASCAP's copyright law writing competition at the University of Oregon. The same year, "Scuttling the Air Pirates: Theories of Pay Television Signal Theft Liability," became the first published comprehensive analysis of legal remedies available for the misappropriation of cable and satellite television transmissions.

Years and dozens of publication credits later, Charles continues to mix legal insight and humor in pieces for The Colorado Lawyer, such as "Spam and Cookies: How to Avoid Indigestion While Binging at the World Wide Automat" and "The Matrix Unloaded: Coping with Computer Spyware."

Charles is also a recognized authority in the "law of lawyering" and an expert witness in legal ethics. With more than 36 years of experience, he advises and assists both attorneys and law firms with risk and law firm management strategies, professional responsibility issues, client relationships, and ethics issues arising in litigation. A frequent lecturer and author on legal ethics, Charles provides creative counsel on:

- Law firm formation
- Mergers and dissolutions
- Business structure
- Advertising

- Client issues
- Ethics
- Bar admissions
- Hiring scenarios
- Malpractice standards
- Partnership disputes
- Risk management assessments to ensure compliance and enhance profitability

Combining his interests in technology and the law of lawyering, in the 1990's Charles launched Charles Luce on Legal Ethics and the Practice of Law, the first website devoted to Colorado legal ethics, now hosted at ColoradoLegalEthics.com.

When not working, Charles may be found piloting his 1964 Cessna Skylane through the Rockies, courtside at the University of Colorado women's basketball games, researching Colorado's early aviation history, or playing half a dozen musical instruments. Charles and his wife, Jean, live in rural east Boulder County with Raggs the dog, Harriet the bearded dragon, and an African grey parrot named "Sherlock." Charles enjoys playing and listening to jazz and classical music, and the works of Charles Dickens, Jasper Fforde, Kurt Vonnegut, and Bill Bryson.

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, Order of the Coif

B.A., University of Colorado, With distinction

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Intellectual Property

Cannabis Business

AWARDS AND HONORS

5280 Magazine Top Communications and Technology Lawyer, 2018 – 2020

Best Lawyers in America®, Copyright Law, 2014 – 2027; Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law, 2023 – 2027; Trademark Law, 2023 – 2027; Trade Secrets Law, 2024-2027

Frequent lecturer for CLE, CBA, CBI, NBI, and other entities

Martindale-Hubbell Rating: AV® Preeminent™ (highest)

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Co-Author, "Business Contracts in 2025: Straightforward Answers for Nuanced Situations," Fennemore Blog, August 14, 2025

Quoted, "Keywords in Google lawyer ads spark lawsuits, ethics concerns," Reuters, September 27, 2024

Charles F. Luce, Jr. on Legal Ethics and the Practice of Law blog

Co-Author, "Point/Counterpoint on Competitive Keyword Advertising," 53 *The Colorado Lawyer* 32, March, 2024

Presenter, "I Am Not Your Attorney: Ethics Issues in the Representation of Organizations," Colorado Rural Electric Association, October, 2022

Presenter, "The Five Most Dangerous Rules of Professional Conduct," Pueblo County Bar Association, May, 2022

Presenter, "Cheezo: Aged to Perfection (The Joy of Pretext under Rule 8.4(c))," 1st Judicial District Bar Association, October, 2021

Presenter, "Ethics Lessons from the Cockpit," Mile High Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators' (ALA) Annual Law Firm Management Luncheon, October, 2021

Author, "It's Open Season on Soliciting Business Owners," *Law Week Colorado*, August, 2021

Co-Presenter, "Revised Rule 8.4 (c): Everything You Wanted to Know About Pretext, but Were Afraid to Ask," CBA-CLE Ethics 7.0, November, 2019

Presenter, "Attorney Ethics of E-mail and Texting: Essential Do's and Don'ts," National Business Institute Webinar CLE, August, 2019

Presenter, "Legal Ethics of Handling Digital Documents," National Business Institute Webinar CLE, October, 2018

Presenter, "Ethics: Opinion Letters," CLE International, Public Financing – Infrastructure for New Development and Redevelopment, April, 2018

Quoted, "Ethics Rule Change Proves Divisive," *Law Week Colorado*, October, 2017

Author, "Cheezo Unit Prompts Potential Rules Change," *Law Week Colorado*, September, 2017

Quoted, "The Return of Cheezo," *Law Week Colorado*, February, 2017

Author, "Making Molehills Out of Mountains," *Law Week Colorado*, March, 2016

Author, "The Biggest Social Media Mistakes Made by Lawyers," *Law Week Colorado*, September, 2015

Author, "Would You Like Some Garnish on that Retainer?," *Law Week Colorado*, October, 2014

Presenter, "Ethics of Social Media," CLE in Colorado program entitled "Hanging Your Shingle: Your Future Begins Now", August, 2014

Presenter, "Cloud-y, with a Chance of Data Leakage: Practical Advice for Protecting Client Data and Your License," CLE, Colorado's Real Estate Symposium, July, 2014

Presenter, "Ethics and Technology: Hot Mouse Button Issues," CLE in Colorado, April, 2014

Presenter, "Ethics: Staying out of Trouble," CLE International program entitled "Public Financing: The Next Generation in Colorado," April, 2014

Quoted, "Marijuana Companies Try to Protect the Intellectual Property of Their Pot Brands," *com*, March, 2014

Presenter, "Ethics and the Use of Technology in a Transactional Practice – Social Media, Cloud Computing, Email, Protecting Client Data," Colorado Bar Association CLE live program and webcast entitled "Preventing Legal Malpractice 2014," January, 2014

Presenter, "Ethics and Social Media: What Attorneys Need to Know," NBI Seminar, December, 2013

Presenter, "Legal Ethics for Paralegals: The Impact of Social Media," NBI Audio Webinar, December, 2013

Presenter, "Prospective Clients: Avoiding the Rule 1.18 Trap," CLE International program entitled "ETHICS: Keeping Up in Changing Times," December, 2013

Author, "Make sure you know when (and how) to fire a client," *Denver Business Journal*, July, 2013

Quoted, "5 Tips for Lawyers Representing Lawyers," *com*, June, 2013

Quoted, "How to avoid copyright infringement," *com*, February, 2013

Quoted, "Law of Lawyering: A Burgeoning Field," *Law Week Colorado*, February, 2013

Presenter, "Professional Liability with the Use of Social Media," CLE in Colorado program entitled "Preventing Legal Malpractice 2013: Protecting Yourself and Your Clients," February, 2013

Presenter, "Hot Intellectual Property Issues for the Business Law Attorney," CLE, Colorado's Business Law Institute, November, 2009

Author, "What the Matter with Metadata?," 36 *The Colorado Lawyer* 13, November, 2007

Author, "The Matrix Unloaded: Coping with Computer Spyware," 34 *The Colorado Lawyer* 25, September, 2005

Author, "Internet Privacy: Spam and Cookies – How to Avoid Indigestion While Binging at the World Wide Automat," 27 *The Colorado Lawyer*, October, 1998

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Colorado Bar Association, Ethics Committee

Denver Bar Association

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

U.S. District Court – District of Arizona

U.S. District Court – District of Colorado

U.S. District Court – Northern District of Illinois

U.S. Supreme Court