

# Denver Activist Legal Trainings

by **Katya Komisaruk, Rahula Janowski and Butch Bowen**  
of the **Just Cause Law Collective**

Organized by the Dandelion Center, the American Indian  
Movement of Colorado  
and End the Politics of Cruelty

Co-sponsored by Denver Copwatch, Left Hand Books, Rocky Mountain Peace  
and Justice Center and Southern Utes Grassroots Organization.

Supported through a generous grant from the Sisters of Lorretto.

---

In order to better prepare the trainings and have sufficient materials on hand we are asking people to pre-register for the workshops they are interested. You may still attend even if you do not pre-register.

A donation to cover the cost of materials, travel and other expenses will be requested at each workshop but is not required. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

---

## Training for legal professionals

Friday August 17th, 2001 ~ 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
University of Colorado at Denver, North Classroom, Room  
1535

Presenters will provide an overview of recent police and prosecutorial tactics and charges that have been used against political activists nationally as well as solidarity tactics that have been successfully employed by activists in several actions around the country.

Must be a lawyer, paralegal or law student and must pre-register to attend.

## Legal Rights and Solidarity Tactics for Demonstrators

Saturday August 18th ~ 10:00am - 4:30pm  
University of Colorado at Denver, North Classroom, Room  
1535

DPD.American Friends  
17069

Through a series of comprehensive role-plays, participants practice using solidarity tactics to protect each other in mass arrests, jail and court. Participants also work on handling media questions and police interrogation.

Includes an overview of facilitation skills, meeting tools, and consensus process. Presenters also discuss tools for addressing sexism, racism and classism during meetings. Participants practice using consensus process quickly in three high-pressure scenarios: evaluating police threats of felony charges during a simple blockade; handling messaging upon the sudden arrival of TV camera crews; and responding to a police raid on large meeting.

There will be a lunch break during this training. Please bring a sack lunch with you so we can all eat together and minimize time lost.

**Legal Observing**

Sunday August 19th ~ 10:00am -11:30am  
University of Colorado at Denver, North Classroom, Room  
1535

Presenters provide an overview of procedures and equipment for legal observing at demonstrations. Participants view a videotaped incident of police misconduct, and practice reporting it and collecting physical evidence. Presenters show examples of effective use of videotape, photographs, and audiotape. Presenters summarize "free speech and free assembly" law, as well as and other defenses to charges against protesters.

Please plan to attend this workshop if you want to be a legal observer during Transform Columbus Day.

**Know Your Rights**

Sunday August 19th ~ 1:00pm -3:30pm  
University of Colorado at Denver, North Classroom, Room  
1535

This "beat the heat" material is designed for people who are concerned about police harassment or who are contemplating direct action in groups too small to use solidarity tactics. Presenters enact ten role-plays with participants, to drill effective responses to police encounters involving detention, arrest, search and interrogation. Presenters provide an overview of the rights of suspects and arrestees, including information on entrapment.