

**LESLIE WIRPSA**  
**Co-owner, Rampart Professional Solutions, LLC**  
**leslie@rampartprosolutions.com**

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

- Non-profit development professional, dynamic fundraiser, writer, editor, coach and teacher.
- Excellent skills in communications, donor relationships and project evaluation.
- Fluent in Spanish (written and spoken) – lived and worked in Latin America for 12 years.
- Skilled at facilitating teamwork and organizational problem solving.
- Committed to excellence, integrity, empowerment and service to the community.

### **PROFESSIONAL HISTORY**

**Co-owner - Rampart Professional Solutions, Colorado Springs** **July 2012 - Present**

- Coached dissertation students in the fields of environmental management, ethnic studies, education and international political economy, assisting with design, content and editing.
- Provided Spanish translation and editing services for local political candidate.
- Developing curriculum for children's movement class in Spanish.
- Organized a donated gourmet Sustainable Smorgasbord for Pikes Peak Reads Gala Reception.

**Grant Writer – TESSA, Colorado Springs** **July 2012 – Oct 2012**

- Maintained complex government and private grant portfolio.
- Researched and received two new sources of funds.
- Researched, wrote or laid groundwork for four new or revived grant sources.

**Development Director - Catamount Institute, Colorado Springs** **March 2011 - July 2012**

- Increased revenue streams and diversified contributions from grants and individual donors – 77% success rate with grants/ major donors, adding over \$50,000 in revenue in first nine months.
- Coordinated and doubled donations from the *Indy's Give!* campaign aimed at younger donors.
- Managed sensitive donor, foundation and community relations during major transition: assisted new Executive Director in budget development, revenue projections and financial reporting.
- Established tracking systems for grant application and reporting deadlines.
- Retained and enhanced fund-raising event in cooperation with community and business partners.
- Organized a donated Sustainable Smorgasbord & silent auction - Greenie Awards/Fashion Show

**Client Services Director - Southern Colorado AIDS Project, Colorado Springs Dec 2009 – Feb 2011**

- Managed a staff of six Medical Case Managers, one MSW intern and several volunteers.
- Oversaw satellite office in Pueblo and led outreach in a 25-county area of southern Colorado.
- Wrote grants and received funding through Project COPE and The Children's Hospital (CHIP).
- Developed tracking system and provided data to demonstrate compliance with federal grants.
- Supervised disbursement of direct financial assistance to clients under Ryan White Care Act.
- Directed the development of workshops to assist clients with following medical protocols.
- Helped case managers address unusual client grievances and obstacles to care.
- Improved annual review process for evaluating case manager performance.
- Conducted hiring process to replace case management vacancies.
- Organized HIV testing in El Paso County and Southern Colorado; reported test results and procedures to Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment.
- Served on state committee overseeing federal medication and insurance assistance programs and developing new insurance procedures under federal and state health care reform.
- Contributed to monthly client services newsletter sent to 320 clients.

**Development Director - Pikes Peak Community Action Agency, Colorado Springs 2007 - 2009**

- Increased revenue stream from grants, events, individual donors, and the Board of Directors.
- Achieved a 65% success rate with grant requests from government and private agencies.
- Doubled revenues from agency's annual fundraiser, maintaining revenues into the second year.
- Broadened individual donor base, receiving record donations; formed Planned Giving Committee
- Helped Board match \$27,500 in grants – a 400% increase from traditional board fundraising.
- Upgraded agency's public profile in media and community forums through extensive networking.
- Improved written and visual content of agency newsletter and website.
- Advised Chief Executive Officer on hiring, board development, and executive policy.

**Assistant Professor of International Studies - DePaul University, Chicago 2006 - 2007**

- Developed and taught 5 courses in global and environmental politics and social movements.
- Advised 10 undergraduate and 15 M.A. students in writing, research design, and grant proposals.
- Raised \$12,000 in grants for travel to the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Postdoctoral Fellow - University of California, Berkeley 2004 - 2006**

- Researched and published book chapter and peer-reviewed journal articles on Colombia.
- Co-taught course on global environmental politics.

**Ph.D. Candidate - University of Southern California and Stanford University 2001 - 2004**

- Completed doctorate with a 3.97 GPA; received distinction on oral and written qualifying exams.
- Best dissertation award, American Political Science Association's Human Rights Section
- Conducted two years of field research in Colombia, Ecuador and the U.S., honing in-depth ethnographic, participant observation, archival, and qualitative data processing and analysis skills.
- Worked as an intern at the Bogotá-based Colombian Commission of Jurists organizing archives.

**Co-Director - U'wa Defense Project, Bogotá, Colombia, and California 1999 - 2002**

- Organized structures and projects to help U'wa indigenous community protect its land rights.
- Raised over \$250,000 for community development and institutional maintenance.
- Developed legal strategies for local courts and appeals to international organizations
- Built future leadership capacity through young leaders' university scholarship program.
- Served as liaison between the U'wa community and governance council, Colombian staff, and local and international non-profits, environmental and human rights organizations.

**Coordinator - Teaching International Relations Program, Univ. of Southern Cal. 1997 - 1999**

- Supervised five staff, one consultant, faculty, and volunteers in high school outreach program that helped high school teachers globalize curricula through case studies and innovative pedagogy.
- Revived program: expanded volunteer corps from 16 to 90 in one year; recognized by *Newsweek*.
- Organized and coordinated fundraising for high school conferences with over 250 attendees.
- Increased commitment of faculty, administration and graduate students to the program.
- Sustained relationship through 2005 as a case writer and research consultant for the program.

**Editor, West Coast Bureau Director, Staff Writer - National Catholic Reporter 1989 - 1998**

- Organized and ran Los Angeles office to enhance geographic scope and community coverage.
- Edited Latin America stories, worked with reporters; reported from Latin America and the U.S.
- Later consulted on outreach strategy with Los Angeles Archdiocesan Spanish language weekly.

**Freelance reporter and photo-journalist based in Bogotá, Colombia 1984 - 1994**

- Covered Colombia extensively and wrote articles from 14 other Latin American countries.
- Published hundreds of articles in American and European newspapers and magazines.
- Broadcast hundreds of radio stories on *National Public Radio* and other networks.
- Television editorial consultant for *PBS*, *CBS*, and the *Australian Broadcasting Company*.

**Education:** Ph.D. International Relations, University of Southern California  
M.A. International Journalism, Annenberg School, University of Southern California  
B.A. English, Kalamazoo College

**Skills/ Service:** Former Board Member, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Colorado Springs