

In Memoriam

Ronald Clinton Hudgens

December 19, 1932–October 15, 2018

Joseph C. Jaudon, Jr.

November 27, 1937–February 12, 2019

Carrie Ann Lucas

November 18, 1971–February 24, 2019

Ronald Clinton Hudgens



Ronald (Ron) Clinton Hudgens was born on December 19, 1932, in Highland Park, Michigan, and passed away in Loveland, Colorado, on October 15, 2018, surrounded by family.

Ron was a proud graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a retired Navy officer. After active duty, he graduated from the University of Michigan Law School and practiced intellectual property law. He was the head of intellectual property law at Owens Corning Fiberglas for many years and retired from Agilent Technology. Following retirement, he was a mediator for small claims courts in Loveland, Longmont, and elsewhere. He loved the law and had a superb mind for all things legal.

Energetic and physically active, Ron was an undefeated boxer at the Naval Academy, ran 11 marathons, and took yoga classes. He proudly served our country as an officer in the Navy, and he served as a mentor to young attorneys and technical people while practicing law. Locally, he volunteered for the Loveland sculpture show. He was also a founder and creator of “Purrfectly Gigi,” calendars and cards that feature his companion cat, Gigi, and support lung cancer research in honor of his beloved late wife, Dorothy.

Ron was a family man, a friend, and a mentor known and loved for his genuine affection for

people, his warm and embracing personality, his generosity, his humility, his commitment to family, and his love of the arts. As a father, he taught the importance of character, honesty, work, personal ethics, and compassion, and he showed how to face challenges with strength, determination, and grace.

Ron was preceded in death by Dorothy, his wife of 57 years; his parents, Clinton and Dorothy Hudgens; his sister Kate Heikkinen; and his nephew Sven Heikkinen. He is survived by his daughters Meredith (Jeremiass) Perez, Reagan Hudgens, and Colby Hudgens; his brother Kim Hudgens; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his cats Gigi and Peach; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members.

Donations in Ron’s name made be made to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, www.netrf.org.

Joseph C. Jaudon, Jr.



Joseph (Joe) Cabell Jaudon, Jr. passed away on February 12, 2019. He spent his final two days surrounded by his loving family with his wife, Tami, by his side.

Joe was born on November 27, 1937, in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Dr. Joseph C. Jaudon, Sr. and Ruth Bulla Jaudon. He attended Westminster College and the University of Missouri School of Law. At

Westminster College, he was president and pledge master of Sigma Chi fraternity, where he changed “Hell” week to “Help” week. Even then, it was about the right thing to do.

Joe was the black sheep in his family. He was the son, grandson, and great-grandson of physicians, and he was meant to be one too. However, after one year of pre-med, he decided his path would be law. He spent his career defending doctors, hospitals, and nurses. If he felt there was negligence, he would settle. If not, he was a fierce, passionate, and brilliant advocate. Many of Joe’s best friends were plaintiff’s attorneys, which speaks to the kind of man he was.

Joe was a member of the Colorado and Missouri bars. As a young lawyer, he would go to court and observe the giants of the courtroom and seek advice from judges and their clerks. In due time, he became one of those giants. At a relatively young age, he was honored to receive invitations to become a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and an Advocate in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In 2015, ABOTA recognized Joe as a Living Legend.

Joe readily shared his courtroom skills and tactics with young lawyers through his trial advocacy, teaching at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA). He served on the NITA Board of Trustees for many years, co-founded a Denver-based trial skills program, and regularly taught at NITA programs

throughout the United States. Despite his busy schedule, he found time to tutor and mentor an at-risk child at the elementary school near his office. The mentoring continued through high school, college, and beyond. In 1999, the CBA bestowed on Joe its seldom-given award for professionalism, which he was very proud of.

When Joe developed painful rheumatoid arthritis at a young age, he met it head on with dignity and fortitude, as he did all of life's challenges. He took up SCUBA diving because the weightlessness of the underwater sport didn't affect his joints. He then became a master diver and enjoyed diving all over the world with friends and family. Later, when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, he never complained, but faced its ravages with his usual grace, determination, courage, and strength of character right to the end.

Joe's legacy lives on through his devoted wife and travel companion, Tami (Tamara Gebhardt Jaudon); children Jenifer Sandberg (Neil), Joseph C. Jaudon III, Holly McConnell, and Anthony Turner; grandchildren Ann-Elizabeth (Eli), Joshua, Joseph, Cameron, Ryun, Madison, Cab (Joe IV) and Carli; great-grandchildren Carson, Jack, and Beau, as well as through all of the young lawyers he taught and mentored through the years.

Donations in Joe's name may be made to Parkinson's Association of the Rockies, www.parkinsonsrockies.org, or Denver Botanic Gardens, www.botanicgardens.org.

Carrie Ann Lucas



Disability rights attorney Carrie Ann Lucas passed away on February 24, 2019, in Loveland, Colorado, at the age of 47. Carrie, who lived with a rare form of muscular dystrophy and relied on a power wheelchair and ventilator, is known around the country as a fierce advocate for the disability community and as a pioneer for representation for parents with disabilities.

Carrie was born in California on November 18, 1971, to Phil and Lee Lucas, and grew up

in Windsor, Colorado. She graduated from Whitworth College in 1994, traveled, taught in Saipan, and then returned to the states to attend the Iliff School of Theology, where she received a Master's of Divinity in 1999. While at Iliff, Carrie became increasingly involved in disability advocacy. After she graduated, she started working as an advocate and later a legal assistant for the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC), investigating, preparing, and monitoring disability rights cases and providing informal advocacy on a wide range of topics. While there, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law granted her a full scholarship as a Chancellor's Scholar.

Following her graduation from law school in 2005, Carrie was awarded a prestigious Equal Justice Works fellowship to create a program to combat discrimination that impacts parenting for parents with disabilities. This program, initially started within the CCDC, spun off to be Disabled Parents Rights, one of the only organizations in the country devoted to this issue. She also became a national expert and trainer on the rights of parents with disabilities and, through her legal advocacy, secured decisions upholding and promoting those rights in Colorado. Most recently, she was recruited by the Colorado Office of Respondent Parents Counsel to help set up a program to train other lawyers around the state to replicate the sort of impact she was making.


Carrie was an activist at heart. She graduated from EMERGE, which recruits and trains Democratic women to run for office, ran for Windsor City Council in 2017, and was planning on additional political activity. She was chair of Colorado Democrats with Disabilities for the past several years. She was a member of the ADAPT group that protested in Cory Gardner's office and got arrested to help save the Affordable Care Act in 2017, particularly Medicaid. She served on the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. She was active with Not Dead Yet and fought hard against physician assisted suicide and the notion that life with a disability is not worth living. She received the Intersectionality Award from the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center in 2016. She was a leader in passing HB 18-1104,

which changed Colorado law to make sure that disability was no longer a reason to remove a child from a parental home.

Carrie became a lawyer to practice family law after experiencing discrimination against parents with disabilities firsthand. In 1998, she fostered and later adopted her oldest daughter, Heather, who has significant developmental disabilities and was languishing in another state. She fostered and was preparing to adopt a second child, but that was disrupted due to prejudice against parents with disabilities. Carrie adopted three more children over the years, Adrianne, Azisa, and Anthony. All of her children have significant disabilities, and Carrie always made sure that they were not only educated and included in their communities, but that they were loved, respected, and supported in their individual hopes and dreams.

In addition to her four children, Carrie is survived by her parents, Phil and Lee Lucas; her aunt, Emily Rupert; her brother, Eric Gover; her sister, Courtney Lucas; a niece, Danielle Mann (Aaron Boone); her nephews, Cody Mann, Gavin Lucas (Kathleen), and Colin Lucas; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. She is predeceased by her grandparents and her sister, Kelli Mann. She is also survived by her partner, Dr. Kimberley Jackson, a CCDC Board member and activist in the disability community. She will also be missed by a wide circle of friends and colleagues throughout the country.

Carrie had hoped to spend a lot of time in 2019 using her tragedy to help fix the U.S. health care system. Her blog www.disabilitypride.com provides more details.

Memorial donations may be made CCDC/Coloradogives.org in care of the Carrie Lucas Fund. 

In Memoriam recognizes recently deceased members of the Colorado legal community. *Colorado Lawyer* relies on its readers for this information. Please send notices about recently deceased attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals to Susie Klein at sklein@cobar.org. Reader-submitted "tributes" highlighting the individual's legal career are welcomed.