

## In Memoriam

### John David Keen

June 27, 1972–June 28, 2019



John David Keen was born on June 27, 1972 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He and his twin brother, Aaron, were the only children of their parents, Jim and Anita Keen. John lived the first 18 years of his life in Wyoming, and he took great pride in his heritage. The friends he made in Kemmerer,

Powell, and Cheyenne remained a part of his life into adulthood.

John grew up passionate about sports and competition. He started wrestling at age 5, and in 1990, he won the state championship as a heavyweight wrestler at Cheyenne East High School. In addition, John was an all-state football player in high school as a tight end and defensive end. John continued his athletic career at Washington University in St. Louis. He was a four-year letterman in football and the only player in school history to be named

all-conference as an offensive and defensive player.

John graduated from Washington University in 1994, and went on to teach and coach at Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Missouri for five years. In 2000, John decided to go back to school and pursue a law career, earning his law degree from the University of Missouri in 2002. John was an associate at Lashly & Baer, P.C. in St. Louis for six years. In 2008, he moved with his family to the Denver area and joined Gordon & Rees, Scully Mansukhani, LLP as senior counsel. John's career thrived as an employment counselor and litigator, fueling his path to partnership.

John married the love of his life, Carrie Andert, on August 3, 2002. The couple enjoyed spending time with friends, taking "sunset walks," and raising their three beautiful daughters. John loved watching/talking sports, gardening, visiting local breweries, and making



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his family “Swedish pancakes” while watching College Game Day; but his favorite hobby was watching his girls play sports.

John was truly a great son, husband, father, and friend. Genuine and loyal, he gave of himself freely, putting the needs of others before his own. John got the most out of life by being present in every moment, cherishing time with his family and close friends, and enjoying the diverse experiences of life. He never turned down an opportunity to meet up with a friend, catch a concert, watch a game, or explore something new. John’s life was filled with joy and laughter. He was loved and respected by everyone who knew him.

—Submitted by Gordon & Rees,  
Scully Mansukhani, LLP

### Joseph Harold Skinner

March 25, 1948–June 10, 2019

Grand Junction attorney Joseph H. Skinner



passed away suddenly at home on June 10, 2019. Born in Denver on March 25, 1948, Joe was raised by his mother, a registered nurse, and his father,

the executive administrator for the Boy Scouts in Colorado. In his words, Joe was “born to fish” and as soon as Joe could walk, his father cultivated in him a love for hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. After his father’s retirement and while he was in middle school, Joe moved to Cedaredge, where he explored the streams, lakes, and wilderness throughout and around the Grand Mesa. He graduated from Cedaredge High School in 1966, lettering in four sports, before attending the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he met his future wife, Linda.

Following his undergraduate studies, Joe worked as a juvenile probation officer for Colorado in Grand Junction, which inspired his interest in the law. In 1976, he earned his law degree at CU. After passing the bar, Joe worked for the Mesa County District Attorney’s office as a trial deputy before opening a private practice focused on land use and zoning issues, and water policy issues. In 1993, he left private practice to manage the trust and financial

services departments for Central Bank, which merged with Norwest to become Wells Fargo bank in Grand Junction. When he retired from Wells Fargo in 2005, he was managing all private client services for the Western Slope. After his retirement from Wells Fargo, Joe reentered private practice with James Robb. Most recently, Joe focused on estate, trust, and probate matters as of counsel for Dufford Waldeck Milburn and Krohn.

Joe was a certified mediator and dedicated many hours pro bono to public service and community betterment, including serving as a soccer coach for all three of his children. The local Chamber of Commerce recognized his community service by naming him Citizen of the Year in 2008. In his later years, he also taught business law at Colorado Mesa University, served as a University trustee, and was a co-columnist with his wife for eight years for the Grand Junction Free Press.

Joe believed deeply in the importance of family, nature, community, education, and equality. With his certified therapy dog Ziva, Joe visited many Grand Junction elder care centers. He loved storytelling and creative writing, recently finishing a book about his life-long love affair with the Gunnison Gorge. Most mornings he could be found practicing Tai Chi religiously. He loved to travel and had caught fish on three continents.

Joe and Linda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7. Joe was a dedicated and loving father to his children Amber, Jessica, and Tobias, granddaughter Raina, and sons-in-law Himanshu Sharma and Denis Jozefson.

Donations in Joe’s name may be made to the Eureka Math and Science Center, Colorado Riverfront Commission, Riverside Education Center, Colorado West Land Trust, or the Western Colorado Writers’ Forum. 



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