

In Memoriam

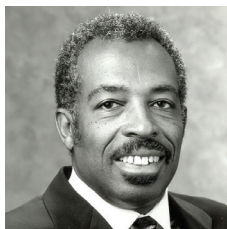
Judge Wiley Young Daniel
September 10, 1946—May 10, 2019

Judge Richard Paul Matsch
June 8, 1930—May 26, 2019

Christopher J. Kulish
April 19, 1957—May 27, 2019

Richard S. Vermeire
August 15, 1944—March 2, 2019

Judge Wiley Young Daniel



Esteemed Federal District Judge Wiley Y. Daniel passed away on May 10, 2019. He was 72.

Judge Daniel was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. In 1995, when Judge Daniel was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado by President Clinton, he became the first African American to serve on the court. He became chief judge in 2008 and held that role for more than four years. Judge Daniel assumed senior judge status in 2013 and continued to preside over a demanding caseload.

From May 2009 to April 2011, Judge Daniel served as president of the Federal Judges Association, a national organization of over 1,100 Article III federal judges. From August 2013 to April 2015, Judge Daniel was appointed as a special mediator for the City of Detroit's bankruptcy proceeding. From 2013 until his passing, Judge Daniel sat by designation with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He also taught courses in trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado Law School and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and he served as a mentor for law students and young attorneys. Additionally, he gave CLE presentations throughout the country.

Before his judgeship, Judge Daniel practiced law for 24 years with a specialty in civil litigation.

He served as president of the Colorado Bar Association in 1992-93 (thus far the only African American to serve in that capacity), and he was a past president of the Sam Cary Bar Association and vice president of the Denver Bar Association. He was also a member of the Supreme Court Grievance Committee and a Trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

Judge Daniel was the 2006 recipient of the American Inns of Court Foundation Professionalism Award for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was honored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Nu Omega Chapter as a 2011 M.O.D.E.L. Award Honoree. In February 2012, he was inducted into the "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame for his pioneering professional achievements. In June 2013, his law clerks established the Judge Wiley Y. Daniel Endowed Scholarship Fund at his alma mater, Howard University School of Law. In October 2013, he was awarded the King Trimble Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sam Cary Bar Association. In February 2016, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to diversity and inclusiveness within the legal profession, he was selected as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Center for Legal Inclusiveness. And in July 2018, the National Black Prosecutors Association presented Judge Daniel with the Trailblazer Award.

Contributions in Judge Daniel's name may be made to The Daniel Family Fund of The Denver Foundation, 55 Madison St., 8th floor, Denver, CO 80206, or www.denverfoundation.org/donate (select Daniel Family Fund).

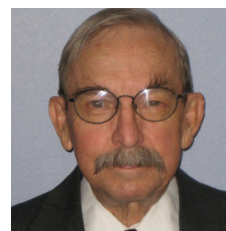
Christopher J. Kulish



Christopher Kulish, 62, died shortly after summiting Mount Everest and achieving his dream of scaling the highest peak on each continent. Kulish

was a graduate of the University of Colorado Law School and was a partner in Holland and Hart's patent group in the Boulder office from 2002 to 2009. He maintained a solo practice in Boulder until his death. He is survived by his mother Betty ("Timmie") Kulish, younger sister Claudia, and younger brother Mark.

Judge Richard Paul Matsch



Judge Richard P. Matsch died on May 26, in Louisville, Colorado. He was 88.

Judge Matsch was born in Burlington, Iowa, on June 8, 1930.

He attended the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for both undergraduate studies and law school, receiving his JD in 1953. Judge Matsch enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1953 and served until 1955, when he was honorably discharged.

After working in private practice in Denver, Judge Matsch served as an assistant U.S. attorney of the District of Colorado, a deputy city attorney for the City and County of Denver, and a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Colorado. He was nominated by President Richard Nixon to the U.S. District Court for the District of

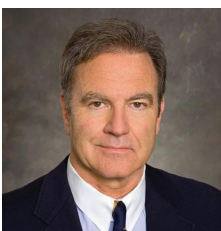
Colorado in 1974. He served as the chief judge of the court from 1994 to 2000, and assumed senior judge status in 2003.

During his more than 40 years on the bench, Judge Matsch presided over some of the most controversial cases in Colorado. For two decades, he resisted repeated attempts to eliminate mandatory busing intended to enforce school integration in Denver schools.¹ In 1979, he ordered a nativity scene removed from the holiday display at Denver's City and County Building. And in 1992, he ruled that the Ku Klux Klan had a right to march in Denver on Martin Luther King Day, a decision that came down to First Amendment freedom of expression.²

But he is perhaps best known for presiding over the 1996 trials of Oklahoma City bombing defendants Timothy J. McVeigh and Terry Nichols, for which he was credited with "reaffirming the public's faith in our judicial system through his firmness, fairness and dignity during a particularly wrenching episode in our nation's history."³ He also presided over the high-profile trial of Terry Barton, a U.S. Forest worker who started what was then the biggest wildfire in the state's history, and he was assigned to preside over the civil suit filed against NBA star Kobe Bryant by a Colorado hotel employee accusing him of sexual assault (which ultimately settled).

Judge Matsch is survived by his daughters Katherine Daley, Molly Briggs, and Marti Matsch; a son, Dan; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth Murdock "Lib" Matsch, and their youngest daughter, Elizabeth Ann Matsch.

Richard S. Vermeire



Veteran Denver trial lawyer Richard Vermeire died unexpectedly on March 2, 2019, at age 74. Rich was a longtime partner of the former Denver law firm of Moye, Giles, O'Keefe, Vermeire and Gorrell LLP.

Early in his career, Rich served as an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington, D.C., where he was involved in the Watergate prosecution.

In 1976, Rich transferred to the Denver office of the U.S. Attorney and became chief of the Fraud Section. He left the U.S. Attorney's office in 1980 to become chief trial counsel for the Central Regional Office of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Rich later moved to the defense side of the courtroom and joined Moye, Giles, O'Keefe, Vermeire and Gorrell.

Rich was a superb trial lawyer. He specialized in white-collar criminal defense and securities litigation.

Rich leaves sons Adam and Luke, daughter Gabrielle, three grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues.

—Submitted by Ned Giles

NOTES

1. Judge Matsch cancelled the busing order in 1995, ruling that its original purpose had been largely achieved.

2. See Roberts, "Richard P. Matsch, 88, Judge in Oklahoma Bombing Case, Is Dead" *N.Y. Times* (May 29, 2019).

3. Paulson, "Oklahoma City bombing trial judge Richard Matsch dies at 88," Associated Press (May 28, 2019) (quoting remarks by Philip A. Brimmer, chief judge of Colorado's federal court).

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. Print-quality photographs (300 dpi or greater) are encouraged.

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