

In Memoriam

Alli Gerkman

July 25, 1978–August 31, 2019

James Robert Gerler

February 19, 1950–August 4, 2019

Thomas J. Harshman

February 16, 1928–August 12, 2019

William L. Hunnicutt

August 23, 1948–August 19, 2019

James Rider Krendl

April 2, 1941–August 21, 2019

Christopher J. Kulish

April 19, 1957–May 27, 2019

Alli Gerkman



Alli Gerkman, the Michigan-born lawyer who settled in Colorado to make legal education more accessible to women and people of color, improve the skills

of young lawyers, and restore honor and grace to the profession, won a prestigious honor in May from the Colorado Women's Bar Association. The Mary Lathrop Trailblazer Award memorializes an early 20th century probate lawyer much like Alli, a woman and a leader who surpassed conventional expectations to become an agent of change for a profession that needed to be stirred.

As a senior director of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), Alli worked to modernize the system of legal education and practice to make it less cumbersome, less dispiriting, and less expensive. During her eight years at IAALS, she launched a national movement that identified strength of character, integrity, and willingness to work hard as virtues in new lawyers that are every bit as important to hiring and practice as expert knowledge of the law. She directed a national program, Foundations for Practice, that worked with law schools and a select group of law firms to develop a curriculum for teaching students what she called the "character quotient."

Alli's work was cut short, however, by a rare form of cancer. She died in Michigan on August 31, 2019. She was 41 years old.

But in the four years of her illness, Alli challenged the tumor with the same grit, tenacity, and grace that encompassed all of her life. She cultivated the furrows of her relationships with friends, family, and colleagues with more depth and urgency. She was determined to keep her characteristic optimism, her ready laugh, and her sense of fun. She climbed 14,000-foot Rocky Mountain peaks, covered miles of trails on her mountain bike, ran marathons, and practiced yoga. She read widely and voraciously. A talented writer, her prose became more assured.

Her attention to her work also grew more intense. At IAALS, Alli led the program to improve delivery of legal services to more people, enliven legal education, and make the profession perform better. Her work was embraced by law schools, law firms, and bar associations across the country, and in 2017 she was awarded the Colorado Women's Bar Foundation Raising the Bar Award for systemic improvements in legal education and the legal system. In 2018, she was honored as one of Denver's 40 Under 40.

Alli was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 25, 1978, the only daughter and oldest of three children. As a kid, she played the saxophone and piano, and trained for two summers at the Interlochen Summer Camp in Northern Michigan. At Portland High School she ran cross country and at Mason High School, she

played on the tennis team. At both schools she was known for her mastery of spoken language and her slicing sense of humor.

Alli earned her law degree from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago in 2003 after spending much of 2002 in Ireland studying at University College in Dublin. She landed her first job and spent three years as an associate attorney and manager at Winzenburg, Leff, Purvis and Payne in Littleton. She spent the next three years with CLE International in nearby Englewood. In January 2009, Alli made a directional change when she was hired by the Colorado Bar Association CLE to manage content on its website, which she helped launch. Her work was honored by the Association of Continuing Legal Education in 2011 for "use of technology in education."

In 2011 she joined IAALS, starting as communications manager, then as director of communications, and later as director of Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers. In 2018, she was promoted to senior director. Before her death Alli was working on a new project and report, "Think Like a Client," to identify traits and behaviors clients value most in their attorneys. She worked with Avvo to collect a decade's worth of client reviews and insights on how people think about their lawyers. Alli's goal was to teach lawyers how to be more attentive to the needs and expectations of their clients. Making those changes, she said, would help establish new norms and standards for admission to law schools, legal education, and hiring at law firms that are more inclusive and align more closely to contemporary conditions in society, culture, and the law.

Her work gained strong momentum in the profession, in large part because Alli was excellent at motivating people. She was a masterful debater, and she inspired those around her to think big and never be intimidated. But even more important, she had a way of helping others see things more clearly, challenging them to do and be their best, and convincing them to explore things further before cementing their opinions.

Alli is survived by her mother Betsy Alles; father Ernest Gerkman; stepfather Eric Pekrul; brothers Chris Gerkman and Jake Silas; nieces

Jayne and Leah Gerkman; and sisters-in-law Erika Gerkman and Carissa Silas. And Demi, her dog.

James Robert Gerler

James Robert Gerler passed away on August 4, 2019. Jim was born and raised in Pueblo, graduating from Central High School in 1968 and Southern Colorado State College in 1972. He served his country in the Army for two years and later earned his JD from Valparaiso Law School in 1977. Jim went on to a distinguished legal career of 42 years in Pueblo, where he raised his family and became a fixture in the community. He was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church and served on its Board of Education and Board of Elders, and as chair of the congregation. Jim will be remembered as a loving and faithful husband, a devoted father, and a beloved brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He was a businessman, scholar, athlete, coach, Rockies fan, fisherman, wood-worker, pianist, and poet.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Edwin, and his mother, Agnes (McMeekan). He is survived by his cherished wife, Carol (Christensen); son and best friend, Bradley; brother, Edwin (Muffin); sister, Margaret Ann (Jim Whitmire); longest friend and brother-in-law, Robert (Margaret) Arnot; many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and several wonderful and loyal friends.

Donations in his memory may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 701 W. Evans Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004.

William L. Hunnicutt



Bill Hunnicutt passed away peacefully in his sleep, of natural causes, on August 19, 2019, his beloved dog, Bentley (Humma Humma), by his side.

Affectionately called "Number Three" by his mother, Bill was the third of four sons born to Joseph and Ethel Hunnicutt. He was the former husband and cherished friend of Jody, and the exceedingly proud father of Hannah and Will. Bill is also survived by his brother Jack and his

wife, Val, and his brother Bob and his wife, Marsha. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews and countless friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Roy, and his adored niece, Tiffany.

Bill attended Fort Worth Public Schools and graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he was president of the Student Association and a member of Blue Key. Bill joined ROTC while at Trinity and became a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves. He received an MA in philosophy from the University of Texas, and his JD from Yale Law School, where he was director of the Barristers' Union.

Bill always loved John Denver's music, so he decided to give Colorado a try, starting off as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Richard Matsch in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Following his clerkship, he joined Sherman & Howard, where he became a partner, and later, manager of litigation. In 1992, he left to form his own family law practice, now Hunnicutt & Appelmann, P.C.

Even though he often threatened to leave the practice of law and start his own fishing show on cable TV, Bill enjoyed a long and distinguished career in trial law, family law, and alternative dispute resolution. He was a member of the American and Colorado Bar Associations, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a Diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. He served on several Colorado Supreme Court Commissions and lectured at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Bill was proud of his Texas heritage but never grew tired of the outdoors and the beauty of his adopted state of Colorado. In his earlier years, he took extended backpacking trips and fished many streams and lakes across the state. Fishing was a lifelong love and a favorite way to spend time with family and friends. Golf was a more recent passion that he shared with his son, and his dear friends Jim, Lee, and Brian. Bill enjoyed his yearly trips with his daughter and any time spent with his children. He loved watching the Denver Nuggets, The Rachel Maddow Show, and just about any old war movie. He was loved, respected, and simply enjoyed by his many colleagues, clients, and friends.

Donations in his memory may be made to a charity of your choice or any of those listed at williamhunnicuttmemorial.com.

James Rider Krendl



James Rider Krendl died peacefully on August 21, 2019 after a long and courageous battle, his family at his bedside.

Jim was born on April 2, 1941 to Karl and Mary Krendl of Spencerville, Ohio. At a young age, he developed a curiosity and a love of books and public libraries. From the time he was 10 years old, he worked diligently raising tomatoes on his family farm to save money for college. Jim graduated as the valedictorian of his senior class at Spencerville High School and studied political science at Harvard College, graduating magna cum laude in 1963. Jim was especially proud that he earned a summa minus on his senior thesis on anti-guerilla combat in Laos from Dr. Henry Kissinger.

After college, Jim served four years in the U.S. Army, including tours in Korea and Vietnam. He volunteered for Vietnam because he wanted to stay with the men he had trained when they had to face combat. Jim ended his army duties in 1967, having been promoted to Captain and Commander of an artillery unit in Vietnam. He received a Bronze Star while in Vietnam for flying over enemy territory to direct artillery fire. Jim chose this risky task because he wanted to ensure his unit did not fire on nearby civilians.

Jim then went to Harvard Law School, where he met his future wife and partner, Cathy Stricklin. They were married in 1969. Jim bragged that his marriage was his life's greatest accomplishment. After they married, Jim and Cathy graduated from Harvard Law School in 1970. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Jim always wanted to start his own firm and turned down a job at a prestigious New York law firm to move with Cathy to Alaska. After practicing business law for almost two years, Jim and Cathy moved to Denver, seeking sunshine and warmth. After a few years of practicing with other Denver firms, Jim pursued his dream

of starting a Denver law firm that focused on business issues. The firm evolved into Krendl Krendl Sachnoff & Way.

Jim loved to solve complex business problems and draft documents that clearly reflected the transaction without undue legal jargon. He was also a legal scholar, and with Cathy, Jim wrote law review articles, including a widely quoted article on piercing the corporate veil and covenants not to compete. For over 30 years, he also co-authored a book on Colorado business organizations and the Colorado Business Corporations Act and Article 90, published by West Publishing Company. Jim's chapter on mergers and acquisitions was carefully researched and designed to help attorneys at all levels serve their clients to the highest standard.

Jim believed in equality for women long before that practice became widespread and encouraged his five sisters, his wife, and his three daughters to be the best they could be. In his spare time, Jim loved long walks, cheering the Denver Broncos (especially in the preseason), playing in the snow with his daughters, telling his daughters stories where the hero was a woman who devised a way to escape villains, and reading Uncle Scrooge comics and Curious George books to his grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his wife, Cathy Stricklin Krendl; daughters Margaret (Peggy) Elizabeth Krendl, Susan Krendl Armstrong, and Anne Catherine Krendl; sons-in-law, Ergin Aydin, Kraig Armstrong, and Gavin Barnard; beloved grandchildren, James Christian Barnard, Reese Catherine Armstrong, Jennifer Catherine Barnard, and Jack Salim Aydin-Krendl; sisters, Karla Baatz, Cynthia Krendl, Dr. Kathy Krendl, Kristina Krendl, and Dr. Karri Krendl; and brothers-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

The family requests that donations in Jim's memory be made to your local public library to inspire curiosity and support other book lovers.



Christopher J. Kulish

Christopher Jon Kulish, Denver native and longtime Boulder resident, hardworking and respected patent

attorney, and inveterate outdoorsman and mountain climber, passed away in Nepal on May 27, 2019, after descending to the South Col (Camp Four) on the southeast ridge of Mount Everest. He and his climbing teammates, including eight Nepali Sherpas, two residents of Argentina, two residents of Kosovo, and another American, had scaled the summit of Everest shortly after sunrise that morning. The team made their ascent in nighttime and in near perfect weather, after the notorious crowds of the prior week had cleared away. Chris was 62 years old.

The exact cause of death is unknown. An Argentinian guide found Chris unresponsive in his tent at Camp Four after speaking to and joking with him less than an hour before. The guide immediately commenced CPR, but in spite of his valiant efforts for Chris, whom he had befriended over the prior two months, Chris could not be revived.

Chris was born in Denver on April 19, 1957, the first of three children born to James W. Kulish (d. 1995) and Betty Timm (Timmie) Kulish, who survives him. Chris is also survived by his younger sister, Claudia Kulish, and his younger brother, Mark Kulish.

Chris earned the distinction of Eagle Scout in 1972. In 1975, he graduated from Denver's South High School, where he excelled both in academics and as a gymnast. He graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins in 1979, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. As a teen in the 1970s, Chris embarked in earnest on his mountaineering career. He conquered all of Colorado's peaks above 14,000 feet. He expanded his avocation by climbing peaks and hiking in national and state parks throughout the American West, Western Canada, and Alaska. In the early 1980s, Chris worked as an electrical engineer for Motorola's Government Electronics Division in Arizona; for Auto-trol, a software company in Denver; and for Storage Technology Corporation in Louisville, Colorado.


Chris then decided to pursue a legal career, earning his JD from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1987. He was admitted to the Colorado bar in 1987 and to the bar of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 1988. As

a patent lawyer, Chris worked in succession for Sheridan, Ross, & McIntosh from 1987 to 1997, where he rose to partner; Holme Roberts & Owen, from 1997 to 2002, again as a partner; and at Holland & Hart, where he also served as a partner, from 2002 until 2009.

In 2009, Chris founded his own solo practice, which he maintained with furiously hard and painstaking work for his clients for the full decade until his passing. His clients found his dedication, effectiveness, and expertise to be unsurpassed. Chris insisted on making lengthy site visits to many of his clients' facilities, to best grasp their work and needs. One client characterized him shortly after his passing as, simply, an "awesome patent lawyer."

Over the past few decades, Chris scaled the highest peaks on each continent: Denali in North America (Alaska); Kilimanjaro in Africa (Tanzania); Elbrus in Europe (southern Russia); Mount Kosciuszko in Australia; Aconcagua in South America (Argentina); and Vinson Massif in Antarctica. Mount Everest, on the last morning of his life, was his seventh peak on the seventh continent, Asia.

Friends and fellow Coloradans valued Chris as a companion in the outdoors, a fellow bird-watcher, and a mentor, including in the business of patent law. Chris was humorous, soft-spoken, and modest about his accomplishments. He was thoughtful of those he came across in life and strove to be helpful. His family finds consolation that his teammates in Nepal recall both these traits and Chris's happiness in doing what he loved during the two months of acclimatization and training before his ascent to Everest's summit.

Donations in his name may be made to the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, 4869 North Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304-0523. 

In Memoriam lists the birth and death dates of recently deceased members, including obituaries and tributes as received. The CBA relies on correspondence from members for this information. To help us pay tribute to as many members as possible, please send notices to Susie Klein at sklein@cobar.org.