

## In Memoriam

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**Dennis John Jacobson***June 1, 1953–September 9, 2019*

Dennis John Jacobson died on September 9, 2019. He is survived by his wife Debbie; daughter Rebecca; brothers Dan, David, and Douglas; and their families.

Dennis was born on June 1, 1953 in Racine, Wisconsin to Don and Donna Jacobson. He was the third of four brothers. The family moved to Colorado when Dennis was a young child. Dennis attended Westminster High School, Class of 1971.

Dennis attended Western State College from 1971 to 1975. While at Western State, Dennis traveled with the debate team and was a semifinalist at the National Debate Competition at Harvard in 1973. Dennis also served as student government president for two years.

After college, Dennis attended the University of Denver College of Law and passed the Colorado State Bar in 1978. He worked as an assistant district attorney in Jefferson County for three years. He then joined the law firm currently known as Polidori, Franklin, Monahan and Beattie. In 2000, Dennis started his own law practice, The Law Firm of Dennis J. Jacobson.

Dennis was named Young Lawyer of the Year by the First Judicial District Bar Association in 1983. He served as president of the First JD Bar Association in 1987–88 and served as CBA vice president in 1990–91. In 1998, Dennis was presented with the Award of Merit by the First JD Bar Association. For 14 years, Dennis served as a part-time judge in the Arvada Teen Court. In 2018, he celebrated 40 years as a member of the Bar.

Dennis met his wife Debbie (Tully) through her brother with whom he worked at the DA's office. They were married in Central City on December 19, 1981. Rebecca, their daughter, was born on October 21, 1983. The family has

enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, Mexico, Prague, Fiji, and the Caribbean.

In 1997, Dennis discovered his life-long passion for SCUBA and earned his credential as a Dive Master in 2000. When Debbie became certified to dive in 2002, they began 14 years of great travel adventures. They shared many of these expeditions in their humorous books—*The Scuba Snobs' Guide to Diving Etiquette*, books one and two. Dennis memorialized his diving experiences with amazing underwater photographs and videos. One of his favorite SCUBA memories was certifying his nephew and namesake, Dennis, and spending time with him at Aurora Reservoir.

Dennis was a multifaceted, talented, brilliant, sarcastic, dry-witted, and kind-hearted original. He is irreplaceable. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

**Steven E. McBride***August 14, 1951–January 1, 2020*

Steven Edward McBride died January 1, 2020 at age 68. Steve practiced law for more than 40 years in Denver. In his colleagues' words, "He was one of the greats."

Steve was born in Dayton, Ohio to Robert Edward and Luella Kathleen McBride. He attended public schools in Indiana and Pennsylvania, where his father was a college professor and dean, then went to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where he majored in English and history, played varsity basketball, graduated with high honors, and was honored by Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. He attended the University of Denver College of Law, graduating in 1976. With partner Tommy D. Drinkwine, he formed the law firm of Drinkwine & McBride.

For the first 20 years of his professional life, Steve had a general practice; for the last 20 years, he specialized in family law. For the past year and a half, he was of counsel with Ciancio, Ciancio, Brown, P.C.

During his legal career, he served as president of the Arapahoe County Bar Association and held leadership roles in the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the CBA Family Law Section, and the Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary Council. He received many awards, including the CBA Professionalism Award, the Arapahoe County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, and the ACBA Lifetime Achievement Award.

An ardent golfer and Broncos fan, Steve engaged with children and youth by coaching baseball, soccer, and basketball. He was instrumental in founding and maintaining SungateKids, which has been helping child victims of assault since the 1990s.

He is survived by his daughter Alison Winn (Shawn); sons Ian McBride (significant other Alexandra Struzziero) and Mitchell Polutchko; grandchildren Braelyn and Harbour Winn; brother Ron McBride (Michele) of Indianapolis and sister Judith Bentley (Allen) of Seattle; niece Anne Bentley of Portland, Oregon; nephews Peter Bentley (Roseann) of Seattle and Michael McBride (Jennifer) of Indianapolis; and many cousins.

Please consider supporting the Fight Like a Bronco Cause by making a donation to the American Cancer Society in Steve's name and memory.

**Donald J. O'Connor***January 6, 1932–June 3, 2019*

Don O'Connor passed away on June 3, 2019 at the Brookdale Englewood Meridian from



complications of dementia and related health problems.


Don was born on January 6, 1932 in Staten Island, New York to John J. and Eileen O'Kelly O'Connor. Don married Susan Melvin in 1952. Sue preceded him in death in August 1997. Don is survived by their four children: Davis (Cathie), Peter (Kathy), Susan (Amos Miner), and Richard (Holly); seven grandchildren; and four great grandchildren. Don and his current wife Lenora were married in 2001. Don is also survived by his sister Jackey Davies of Rhode Island.

Don received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from Cornell University. From 1953 to 1955, he served as a lieutenant

in the U.S. Air Force. After graduating from law school in 1958, Don joined the law firm of Lewis, Grant & Davis, specializing in corporate income tax and merger and acquisition work. In January 1964, the firm name changed to Davis, Graham & Stubbs, and at that time Don became a partner. Don was with the firm for 39 years and served as its managing partner for 10 years; he retired in 1997.

Don's principal hobby in Colorado was foxhunting with the Arapahoe Hunt. He was also a member of the Roundup Riders of the Rockies for many years. Don always said the real rider was his wife, Sue, who had ridden and shown extensively in New York and Virginia. He went with Sue to the Arapahoe Hunt and the rest is history. He did get his wife Lenora to do some trail riding for a time but never did convince her to hunt.

Don made many friends at his law firm and the riding organizations. He treasured those relationships and times.

Donations in Don's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or charity of your choice. Please visit [OlingerHampdenMortuary.com](http://OlingerHampdenMortuary.com) and search for Donald O'Connor (or Donald John O'Connor) to leave condolences and share memories with the family. 

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 recognize as many members as possible, please send notices to Susie Klein at [sklein@cobar.org](mailto:sklein@cobar.org).



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**Questions?** Contact Susie Klein, [sklein@cobar.org](mailto:sklein@cobar.org), or Jodi Jennings, [jjennings@cobar.org](mailto:jjennings@cobar.org).