

In Memoriam

Carol Georgina Guy

August 5, 1943–June 30, 2018



Gina Guy, former U.S. Department of the Interior Rocky Mountain Regional Solicitor (1984–2002), passed away at her Denver home on June 30, 2018, surrounded by her

family and dear companion, Terce Dines, after a five-month illness.

Gina was born and raised in Cheyenne, the only child of George and Lucille Guy. “My great-grandparents homesteaded in Wyoming in the 1880s,” Gina told *LAW360* in 2010. “Wyoming is such a huge landscape and it becomes part of your everyday life. It puts you in close touch with the land and with the water.”

After graduating from the University of Wyoming, earning an MA at the University of Colorado in 1971, and teaching in Breckenridge, Gina briefly joined the Women’s Army Corps. “It was unusual for someone from a small state, and I had no idea about diversity in the U.S. at that time.” Gina then attended law school in Wyoming, where she was one of three women graduates in a class of 1975. Gina began her practice of law in her father’s Cheyenne firm, Guy, Williams, White & Argeris, but left in 1982 to begin decades of service as a lawyer for the Interior Department.

She served for two years as regional solicitor in Portland, Oregon (1982–84) before coming to Denver as the regional solicitor in 1984. Gina described her job as “essentially that of a large-scale land manager,” and she relished the opportunity to work on Western federal land

and environmental issues. Gina played a key role in developing a 1982 amendment to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), providing for habitat conservation plans by private parties. In Colorado, she assisted the Fish and Wildlife Service with the listing of the Preble’s Jumping Mouse and the ESA § 7 consultation for the management of the Rocky Flats site as a National Wildlife Refuge. Gina also managed the CERCLA clean-up for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal as it too transitioned from military uses to a National Wildlife Refuge. Interior Secretary Gale Norton asked Gina to act personally on her behalf to resolve complex Middle Rio Grande water and Silvery Minnow ESA issues, which resulted in a successful settlement in 2001. As a manager, she served as a mentor to all the lawyers in the Solicitor’s Office, but was particularly supportive to the young women trying to balance career and home. In 2002, Gina took a position in the Pentagon with the Air Force as deputy general counsel (Installations and Environment) for two years.

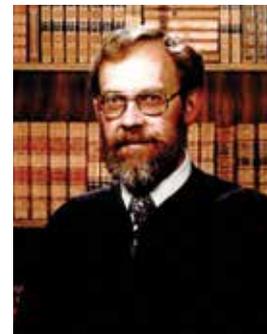
Gina retired from federal service in 2004, briefly taught at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, but in 2009 returned to the practice of law for several years at two national law firms in Denver. “Just because I retired from the U.S. government, that didn’t mean I wanted to *really* retire; I wasn’t ready to not be a lawyer anymore.” Throughout these years, Gina lived a cosmopolitan life open to the world around her. She was active in the International Bar Association, traveling to meetings in South America and Europe, and she was an officer in World Denver, where she was “well-informed and always brought a unique perspective to each and every conversation.” Gina’s love of the outdoors was reflected in her participation in the all-woman Denver hiking

group, the Lumpers; skiing at her mountain house in Breckenridge; and service as chair of the Mesa Verde Foundation (2007). Gina loved culture—enjoying the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Denver Chamber Orchestra, the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Public Library, the lectures and events at the University Club and opera, and in particular, the Central City Opera’s Young Singers program. But she always enjoyed time with a friend over a meal at her welcoming home or at an interesting new restaurant. Those who met her out and about Denver recalled that “her healthy skepticism, wry humor and bright intelligence always made for interesting and lively conversation.” Gina Guy will be missed by her family and her many friends and law colleagues.

—Submitted by Rebecca W. Watson, Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, a friend of 40 years

Judge Robert F. Kelley

December 21, 1926–July 7, 2018



The Honorable District Court Judge Robert F. Kelley (ret.) of Littleton, Colorado, passed away peacefully on July 7, 2018, at the age of 91. Judge Kelley was born in Denver

and graduated from Englewood High School. He held many interesting jobs, always supporting his family. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married the love of his life, Shirley Louise, in 1949 and had four children. He began his career in the insurance industry and completed his Juris Doctorate at the University of Denver in 1953. Judge Kelley entered private practice and was elected Englewood Municipal Judge in 1962. He served as a judge until 1968. After 16 years of private practice, Judge Kelley was appointed district court judge for the 18th Judicial District in 1969. He served in that position until being appointed chief district judge in 1980.

In addition to his duties as chief judge, he worked closely with the Arapahoe County

commissioners to relocate and consolidate the district court to its current location. Retiring in 1987, Judge Kelley continued to serve as a senior judge and acquired judicial conference mediators, and proudly continued settling and resolving legal matters for many years. Judge Kelley was a dedicated public servant and mentor to many young lawyers. He always felt it important to take time to talk with his law clerks, bailiffs, court reporters, staff, and fellow judges to ensure all people in the legal system are treated with respect and dignity. Simply put, he often said, people need help. Judge Kelley's many years of dedication to the legal profession and public were recognized and admired by his colleagues, friends, and family. He was voted Most Valuable Public Servant of the Year in 1983 by the *Littleton Independent* newspaper.

Judge Kelley was a charter and devoted member of the Arapahoe County Bar Association and served as its president in 1964–65, and was also a *Fellow Emeritus* of the Arapahoe County Bar Foundation. He had a lighter side, enjoying “Derby Days” with his wife at DU, being president of the Englewood Lyons Club, and playing with his grandchildren and the family dogs. He was quick-witted, a drummer, and a master craftsman, fixing almost anything and making beautiful woodwork creations in his home shop.

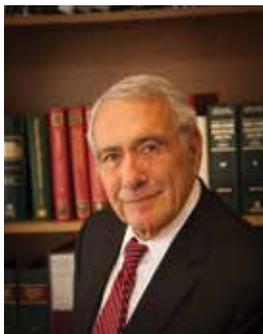
Although we mourn the passing of a loving father, husband, grandfather, and friend, we celebrate his time with us and the influence he had on the many people in his life. He loved his family deeply, his church of 86 years, taking care of his yard and home, and sharing the stories of the many experiences he had throughout his life. “Bob” Kelley was a respected judge who always offered words of encouragement and inspiration. He was highly valued by his colleagues and will be long remembered by all who knew him.

—Submitted by Jeffrey R. Kelley

John Kokish

March 12, 1935–August 10, 2018

Castle Rock attorney John Kokish passed away on Friday, August 10. John was born on March 12, 1935, in Vienna, Austria, to Malvina and Walter Kokish. After escaping Nazi Germany, he



was raised in New York City, where he earned a master's degree from New York University and a B.B.A. from City College of the City University of New York. In 1966, he left New York to pursue a career in journalism in Denver, where he worked for *The Denver Post* as an investigative reporter. He then decided to pursue a new career, graduating with honors from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He started his legal career in 1969 and eventually started his own law firm in downtown Castle Rock, representing clients in a variety of practice areas.

John served as president of the Douglas/Elbert County Bar Association and as a member of the board of governors of the Colorado Bar Association. He was a member of the Governor's Commission on Judicial Performance of the 18th Judicial District and the panel of arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association. He also authored a regular column on real estate and business law in the Douglas County News Press and its affiliate newspapers.

He is survived by his wife Ann; daughters Becky Goldmanis (Ben) and Jessica Kokish; sister Carolyn Kokish (Arthur White); brother-in-law Clarke Octigan (Jill); grandchildren Annie and Will Goldmanis; and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of his life was held on August 17.

Lester R. Woodward

May 24, 1932–September 5, 2018



their four children. Les was a beloved pillar of the DGS community, having been with the firm

since graduating from Harvard Law School in 1957. Those who knew Les would tell you that he brought joy to their lives with his compassion, kindness, grace, and humor.

Les also had the gift of a brilliant legal mind. He served as lead corporate counsel for a number of companies, from startup, through the early phases of public ownership, to operation as sizeable public companies. Les was regularly involved in counseling business enterprises on operational and securities law matters. He also had a robust asset management practice and represented several investment companies and investment advisers. Les loved the thrill of solving intellectually challenging legal problems and “retired” from DGS many times, but his love of the work kept bringing him back.

Les devoted much of his life to others. His lifelong passion for education, especially for our most vulnerable children, is shared by his wife, Marianne, a retired elementary school teacher who taught “English as a Second Language” classes on a volunteer basis for more than 30 years. Les served as a member of the Board of Education of the Denver Public Schools, a member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and a pioneering member of the Citizens for Quality Schools. He also served as a director of Bethany College, where he received an honorary degree, and as a director of the Public Education Coalition of Denver.

Please join us in remembering Les and his legacy to DGS and the Denver community. The halls of DGS will forever be changed as we will all miss his infectious laugh and love for life. **CL**

—Submitted by DGS

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