

KENNETH NORMAN KRIPKE AND DERRIL K. KRIPKE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Fund has been established by Derril K. Kripke to honor the memory of her husband Kenneth Norman Kripke, Esq. A graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law (class of 1948), Mr. Kripke focused his career representing consumers injured by torts, dedicating his career to supporting the downtrodden while fighting against injustice in any form.

In 1953, Mr. Kripke co-founded the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, an organization dedicated to educate and encourage trial attorneys to improve the tort system and to protect consumer rights. It is in his honor that Colorado Trial Lawyers Association's Annual Lifetime Achievement Award is named. In addition, he chaired the litigation section of the Colorado Bar Association, served as President of the Western Trial Lawyers Association, and served three terms on the Board of the American Trial Lawyers Association. He also served for fifteen years on the Colorado Supreme Court Rules Committee, was a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, the Roscoe Pound American Trial Lawyers Foundation, and President of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

As a member of the National Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee, in the hot summer of 1965, Mr. Kripke traveled to rural Louisiana helping blacks to register to vote and providing advice and legal assistance to civil rights organizations in that state. In Shreveport, he stood on a sidewalk and watched while his client, a black youth, entered a junior high school escorted by U.S. Marshals – the first black student ever to enter that school.

Mr. Kripke also fought anti-Semitism through his long association with and ardent support of the Anti-Defamation League, where he served as Chair of the Mountain States region and Chair of the ADL Civil Rights Committee for four years. Mr. Kripke also provided pro bono legal services in various counties in Colorado and served as a member of Denver's Public Safety Review Commission reviewing charges of police misconduct.

He partnered with several prominent attorneys throughout his career, holding as high a standard for his partners as for himself. He would only practice with lawyers who were as committed, as passionate, and as ethical as he was. Some of his partners went on to become judges, including the Honorable Jim R. Carrigan, a former U.S. District Court Judge and Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. In addition, two former partners served as Colorado State District Judges.

An article in the February, 1979 issue of Denver Magazine thus described his skills: "Kripke shapes a trial by the precise use of precedent, pleading and points of law. He uses them like a sculptor's tool, whacking off hunks of the opposing argument."

Kenneth Norman Kripke's career was significantly enhanced through his relationship with his wife Derril K. Kripke, a true partner far beyond the overused cliché of the relationship between spouses. For 20 years Ms. Kripke served as a legal secretary and administrative assistant in her husband's law practice. Ms. Kripke also served as secretary and ombudsman to the Lt. Governor of the State of Colorado and as legal secretary to the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

In addition to her professional career Derril Kripke joined her husband in a commitment to community service, serving as President of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Trial Lawyers Association, as Current Events Chairman on the Board of the Allied Jewish Federation Women's Division, and as President of the Colorado Gerontological Society. Perhaps her life is best summarized by a close friend who, in describing Derril and her work, stated, "she made things happen!"

Derril K. Kripke has established this Endowment to provide scholarship assistance to law students dedicated to following the example of Kenneth Norman Kripke in the practice of trial law by serving with passion for each client's cause while upholding the strictest ethical standards.