

REBECCA LOVE KOURLIS

HOME:

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PROFILE: Experienced judicial officer (trial court and Colorado Supreme Court); legal reform leader; expert in efficient dispute resolution; highly skilled in working with individuals with strongly held views and competing interests to forge collaborative outcomes.

EXPERIENCE: Principal

Decisioncraft ADR

2020 –

Providing alternative dispute resolution services, including arbitration, mediation and facilitating public policy dispute resolution.

Founder and Executive Director, IAALS, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver

2006 to 2019

Summary: Created and led IAALS from a start up to a nationally recognized think tank and leading national organization in the areas of court reform and legal system reform with 20 employees. Worked with attorney and business stakeholder groups around the country. Developed and mastered IAALS model to effect change: identifying a problem, collecting empirical research, convening stakeholders, developing recommended solutions and then pilot testing those solutions with evaluation.

Select Accomplishments:

- Led the recent Federal Rules Amendments efforts and companion state court rule amendments, designed to make the litigation process more ‘just, speedy and inexpensive’
- Propounded and embedded numerous case management reforms across the State and Federal Courts
- Developed legal education reforms, family court reforms and tools for self-represented litigants

Justice, Colorado Supreme Court

1995 to 2006

Select Accomplishments:

- Authored over 200 majority and dissenting opinions

- Led various court reform efforts, including Simplified Civil Procedure, Family Court Reform, Attorney Regulation Reform and Jury Reform
- 94% Attorney retention recommendation in Judicial Performance Evaluation process on grounds of critical reasoning, objectivity, sound judgment and strong communication skills.

Mediator and Arbitrator, Judicial Arbitrator Group, Inc 1995 to 1996

Handled mediations, arbitrations, mediation/arbitrations, special master work

Trial Court Judge, 14th Judicial District 1987 to 1995

General jurisdiction trial court judge, handling a complex and varied docket in a location that included a small agricultural town, a ski resort, coal mines, power plants, Federal lands and water issues.

Select accomplishments:

- Chief Judge of the District, 1990 – 1995
- Water Judge for Division 6, 1988 – 1995
- President, state-wide District Judges’ Association 1994 –1995
- Revised docketing procedures and case management to make the District more effective and efficient
- Revamped family law processes

Practicing Lawyer 1976 to 1987

Started legal career with Davis, Graham and Stubbs in Denver, Colorado. After two years, moved to Craig, Colorado and launched a solo ‘country’ law practice that eventually focused on natural resources, land use, mining and related litigation. Affiliated on a part-time basis with Denver, Colorado office of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher. AV rated lawyer 1982 – 1987.

Awards

- National Center for State Courts Award of Merit for contributions to the American Legal System, 2019
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Samuel E. Gates Litigation Award for contributions to the improvement of the litigation process 2016
- American Board of Trial Advocates, named Honorary Diplomate for work in furtherance of the American Justice System, 2012
- American Bar Association John Marshall Award for extraordinary improvements to the administration of justice, 2012
- Citizens of the West Award (with husband, Tom) from the National Western Stock Show 2010
- American Bar Association Yegge Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Judicial Administration, 2009
- Colorado Judicial Institute Judicial Excellence Award, 2006
- Williams Award for Service to the Community, Arthritis Foundation 2006
- Civis Princeps Award for Selfless Service, Regis University 2005
- Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Judicial Excellence Award 2002
- American Association of University Women Trailblazer Award, 1998

- Northwest Colorado Daily Press Woman of the Year, 1993
- Northwest Bar Association President's Award, 1993

Boards and Committees (current):

- **Colorado Forum**, member 2020 –
- **Federal Judicial Center Foundation Board**, Chief Justice appointment, 2017 – 2026
- **Boettcher Foundation Board of Trustees**, 2021 –
- **Graland Country Day School Foundation Board of Trustees**, 2022 -

Education:

- Stanford University, BA with distinction
- Stanford University Law School, J.D.
- University of Denver School of Law, Honorary LL.D.
- Masters in Dispute Resolution program, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law 2020 ff
- Certificate in Advanced Mediation, Harvard University 2020