

JAG Briggs



Steve C. Briggs began his legal career at CU Law School in Boulder, where he was the faculty selection as Outstanding Freshman, and graduated second in his class in 1975. He served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Alfred Arraj of the Colorado U.S. District Court, then in the Antitrust Section of the Colorado Attorney General. In 1978 he joined Hutchinson Black & Cook. After initial involvement in commercial transactional work, he focused on litigation. Representing plaintiffs and defendants, his cases covered the field of complex civil litigation. During this time, Steve was actively involved in pro bono, civic, and bar activities. He served as President of the Boulder County Bar Association and Vice-President of the Colorado Bar Association.

Steve's interest in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) led him in the 1980's to basic and advanced training in mediation and arbitration. Over the next few years, he served as a volunteer mediator for non-profit organizations; Boulder's first

contract mediator with the Colorado Office of Dispute Resolution; and an Adjunct Professor at C.U. Law School, teaching a course in Negotiations and ADR. Steve was also an active member of the Arbitration and Mediation Panels of the American Arbitration Association, and one of its first mediator trainers.

As a judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals, Steve Briggs authored over 600 opinions concerning Colorado and federal law and, as a division member, decided over 1,200 more. During this time, Judge Briggs served as a trial judge for mock trials in regional training sessions of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, as well as for various school competitions. Maintaining his interest in ADR, he gave numerous presentations on mediation; acted as an appellate settlement judge; served on the ADR Coalition of the Colorado Judicial Institute and the Executive Council of the Colorado Bar ADR Committee; and authored the article for the Centennial Edition of the Colorado Lawyer on the history of ADR in the Colorado Bar.

In leaving the court to join JAG, Judge Briggs returned full-time to his ADR roots. Outside of JAG, he continues to present programs on topics such as mediation, arbitration, and professional responsibility. He has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from C.U. Law School for his work as a judge and in ADR. He was appointed by the Denver Mayor as the first auditor of Denver Police Intelligence files. He has also remained active in bar work. Steve has served as a Denver Bar representative on the CBA Board of Governors and more recently, as President of the Colorado Bar Association.