

JAG Kirshbaum



Howard M. Kirshbaum was admitted to practice in Colorado in 1965, having received his law degree from Harvard Law School that year. He received undergraduate degrees from Yale University and Cambridge University, and also received a Master's degree in literature from Cambridge University. After a judicial clerkship to then United States District Judge William E. Doyle and nine years of private practice, Kirshbaum was appointed a District Judge of the Second Judicial District, Denver. He served in the civil and criminal divisions from 1975 to 1980, then served as a Colorado Court of Appeals judge from 1980 to 1983, and served as a Colorado Supreme Court Justice from 1983 until his retirement in January 1997.

Kirshbaum was appointed an adjunct professor of law at the University of Denver College of Law in 1968 and since then has continuously presented various courses at that institution, including trial advocacy, federal courts, and legal history. He has presented courses in law and psychology and legal history at the University of Colorado, Denver Center, and Metropolitan State College of Denver and has participated in the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Kirshbaum was a founding member of the Colorado Trial Judges Council, the Colorado Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Colorado Judicial Institute, the Denver Arts Council, and the Denver Young Artists Orchestra. He has served as the chief executive officer of the Colorado Legal Care Society, as a trustee of the Denver Bar Association, and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association.

He also served as business manager, president and concertmaster of the Community Arts Symphony.

A long-time advocate of public education about the judicial process, he has served as ex officio chair of the Colorado Supreme Court Judicial Advisory Council and has chaired the Colorado Supreme Court Public Education Committee. He also served as the liaison justice to the Colorado Supreme Court Civil Rules Committee. He is a member of the American Law Institute, a director of the American Judicature Society, and a member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Public Education. Kirshbaum obtained mediation and negotiation training at CDR Associates in Boulder, Colorado and at Harvard Law School.