

Industry attorney John W. Grund dies at 62

DENVER, Colo. — John W. Grund passed away suddenly on Dec. 24, 2012. He was 62.

A Denver native, John Grund grew up in Littleton, Colo., graduating from Littleton High School in 1968. He attended Pomona College, earned his Master's degree from the University of Washington, and his law degree from the University of Colorado Law School, where he would find his true avocation and a stellar career in insurance defense litigation.



Grund

Grund founded and served as managing shareholder of Grund and Dagner, P.C., a Colorado law firm specializing in amusement industry cases. He was also the current vice president of the International Amusement & Leisure Defense Association (IALDA). Earlier in his career, he was a partner in the Denver firms of Tilly & Graves, P.C.; Montgomery, Green, Jarvis, Kolodny & Markusson, P.C.; and Grund & Breslau, P.C. John sat on the Colorado Supreme Court Committee on Civil Pattern Jury Instructions (since 1987) as an appointed member and chaired the subcommittee responsible for Product Liability,

Professional Malpractice, and Insurance Bad Faith.

He co-authored the four-volume "Personal Injury Practice — Torts and Insurance" and contributed three chapters to "Colorado Courtroom Handbook for Civil Trials." Well-respected and admired by his peers, John was the first recipient of the John W. Grund Excellence in Leadership Award, 2001; first recipient, President's Professionalism Award, 2010; DRI Service Award Recipient, March 12, 1999; Colorado Super Lawyer, 2007-Present; and selected to The Best Lawyers in America, in the specialty of Insurance Law, 2007-Present.

John overcame many obstacles resulting from a trampoline injury in 1967 that left him a partially-recovered quadriplegic. He met these physical challenges head-on and enjoyed many years of skiing as part of the Winter Park program for skiers with disabilities.

Grund's many friends from IALDA commented on his sudden passing saying:

"John was the bravest, smartest and happiest person that I have ever known," said Lary I. Zucker, Esq., Marshall Dennehey.

"Despite John's 50 years of major disability from a trampoline incident, John never let his physical infirmities

get in the way of his active life and law profession. He was one of the top western mountain region Trial Attorneys defending the amusement and recreational industries for many years. He set the standards for exemplary legal ethics and love of the law. We at IALDA will miss John's brilliant mind, caring for others, and his constant optimism and cheerfulness for life," said Joe Brownlee, Brownlee law Firm.

"John loved the law. He was intrigued by the vast jurisprudence of the law, and loved to delve into the inner depths of both the history and development of the 'legal institution'. For many of us, practicing law is a profession; for John though, it was much more....it was his passion. His contributions to IALDA, both professionally, and personally, will be missed," said Michael L. Amaro, Esq. Prindle, Amaro, Goetz, Hillyard, Barnes & Reinholtz LLP.

Grund is survived by his wife, Kyle; three children, Brandon, Kelly, and Eric; grandson, Liam; his mother, Molly Grund; and siblings, Steve and Chery. John's family is in the process of establishing a scholarship fund in his honor. Please contact John's law firm, Grund Dagner, P.C., for additional details. A celebration of his life is pending.