

THE JOHN J. CAMPBELL AWARD

The John J. Campbell Award is for outstanding contributions to the Elder Law and Probate practice areas in the State of Colorado. This Award is named in honor of John J. Campbell, an outstanding Elder Law Attorney who practiced law in Missouri, then Colorado for 21 years until his untimely death on April 1, 2017.

Regarded as the “dean” of elder law attorneys, John was an exceptional attorney, very knowledgeable in Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Probate, Special Needs Planning, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Guardianships and Conservatorships, and Special Consultations in Settlement of Personal Injury and Worker’s Compensation Claims Involving Public Benefits. Author of countless articles, he was especially known for his expertise with Medicare Set-Aside Trusts, where John pioneered the first set-aside trusts ever used. John taught classes for attorneys all over the country. He received the coveted designation of Medicare Set-Aside Certified Consultant (MSCC) and was granted the designation of Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA) by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. John was a brilliant Medicaid attorney, always volunteering his time and answering questions from his colleagues. He worked on many legislative committees, was the Chair of the Elder Law Section and chaired a sub-committee working on issues with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. He taught continuing legal education classes for many years, teaching Colorado attorneys how to best protect the assets and interests of the vulnerable-whether they were disabled, aging or people who had little in life. John also helped build bridges between Elder Law attorneys and agency leadership with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and served on a board advising a pooled disability trust to help retain the public benefits for its beneficiaries. He fought for those who could not fight for themselves to obtain health care, long-term care or retain their independence and dignity. John was widely-respected, and gave of himself with his time, his knowledge, advocacy and teaching and was always generous in helping a friend or colleague. He also loved to trout fish, SCUBA dive, paint, play poker and had a quick wit. Most of all, he was a friend and mentor to many.

Credentials: The Award is given to an individual who has contributed substantially to the furtherance of Colorado Elder Law, the education of others and the Elder Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association.

Criteria for Outstanding Contributions:

1. Significant years of contribution to the Elder Law Section and the legal profession;
2. Substantial work to benefit older adults and/or people with disabilities; Years of experience providing legal education to other attorneys, members of the public and providing pro-bono or low-cost representation to those in need;
3. Building and encouraging relationships among non-lawyers and attorneys working in elder law;
4. Work in public policy, forming relationship with government agencies and individuals to facilitate elder law policy in Colorado;
5. Advancing the legislative agenda of the Colorado Bar Association;
6. Mentoring new or less experienced attorneys in the area of Elder Law;
7. Participation in Professional Organizations;
8. A leader who leads by example.