



American Bar Association  
**News Release**



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## DENVER LAWYER JIM CARRIGAN RECEIVES PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AWARD

### *Award recognizes commitment to access to justice*

CHICAGO, March 24, 2009 — The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is honoring Jim Carrigan of Denver with its Pursuit of Justice Award, which recognizes lawyers and judges who have shown outstanding merit and who excel in providing access to justice for all.

The award will be presented to Carrigan during the section's Spring Leadership Meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the Welcome, Diversity & Pursuit of Justice Award Reception on Thursday, April 23, 6 p.m., at the Broadmoor Hotel.

Carrigan was selected by the section's Task Force on Plaintiff Involvement. The award is given quarterly at section meetings.

He is recognized for his *pro bono* service as mediator/arbitrator in resolving the claims of most of the families whose children were involved in the Columbine High School tragedy in Littleton, Colo. This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy – coming just prior to the presentation of the award. In the Columbine case, Judge Carrigan had the incredibly difficult task of dividing the funds available for settlement from various parties.

Carrigan served as a United States district judge for the District of Colorado from 1979-1995, where he sat by designation on the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Federal Circuit. He has been a general practitioner in North Dakota and a trial lawyer in Colorado. In addition, he has served as Colorado state court administrator, regent of the University of Colorado and justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. The chief justice of the United States appointed Carrigan to the U.S. Court of Foreign Surveillance and to the U.S. Judicial Conference Committee on Bankruptcy. His fellow judges elected him to the national board of directors of the Federal Judges Association, and as secretary, vice president and president (1994-95) of the Tenth Circuit District Judges Association.

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## **JIM CARRIGAN/Add One**

As a trial lawyer, Carrigan was elected a fellow of both the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (board of directors, 1995-present) and International Society of Barristers. He is an advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates and has been certified as an arbitrator/mediator by the national patent board. Carrigan serves on the board of the Metropolitan Football Stadium Commission, which is building the new Denver Broncos stadium.

He was also a full-time law teacher for nearly 20 years at the University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Washington and New York University, where he taught in the post-graduate tax program. While in practice, Carrigan was a charter faculty member for the National Judicial College, where he taught from 1964-1977. He is a co-founder and charter member of the board of trustees of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, where he served as chairman of the board. In recent years he has served on the TIPS Council and several ABA commissions and task forces. He is retained by the Boulder County District Attorneys' office, where he is mentor-in-residence, as well as trial trainer for the office.

Carrigan earned his Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Philosophy at the University of North Dakota and his Master of Laws (taxation) at New York University Law School. He holds honorary Doctors of Laws from the University of Colorado, Suffolk University and the University of North Dakota.

In naming Carrigan as a recipient of the Pursuit of Justice award, Section Chair Tim Bouch, Charleston, S.C., said "Jim is a familiar figure to members of the TIPS Section and many lawyers throughout the state of Colorado. He has served on the section council and provided a long and distinguished service on the bench. He has established himself as a leader in so many other ways. In addition, his contribution to making justice a reality over the course of his long career is well-documented and his dedication to the rule of law, impartial courts, and access to justice is legion. The section and our profession believes he is a very worthy recipient of the Pursuit of Justice Award."

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section unites plaintiff, defense, insurance and corporate counsel to advance the civil justice system. TIPS is a national source of expertise in tort, trial and insurance practice and brings lawyers together to share information and speak out on issues of importance. The section, with over 32,000 members, has 34 general committees that focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas across the broad spectrum of civil law and practice. For more information about the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section visit the TIPS Web site, [www.abanet.org/tips](http://www.abanet.org/tips).

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

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**Editors Note:** Reporters are welcome to attend the award presentation and reception at the TIPS Spring Leadership Meeting. Media credentials can be obtained at the main registration desk at the spring meeting or by contacting Debbie Weixl, ABA Division for Media Relations and Communication Services, at 312/988-6126 or e-mail [weixld@staff.abanet.org](mailto:weixld@staff.abanet.org). On site, call 847/902-9019.