

United States District Court  
District of Colorado

Contact: Jeffrey P. Colwell  
Clerk of Court (303-844-5420)  
<http://www.cod.uscourts.gov/>

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 13, 2019**

### **The District of Colorado Mourns the Death of Senior United States District Judge Wiley Y. Daniel**

It is with great sadness that the United States District Court for the District of Colorado announces the death of Senior United States District Judge Wiley Y. Daniel. Judge Daniel died on May 10, 2019. Judge Daniel was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Before his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Daniel practiced law for 24 years, specializing in civil litigation. Judge Daniel was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado by President William J. Clinton in 1995, becoming the first African American to serve on the Court. In 2008, Judge Daniel became Chief Judge, in which capacity he served until he assumed Senior Judge status in 2013. From May 2009 to April 2011, Judge Daniel served as President of the Federal Judges Association, a national organization of over 950 federal judges. From August 2013 to April 2015, Judge Daniel was appointed as a special mediator for the City of Detroit's bankruptcy proceeding. From 2013 through 2017, Judge Daniel sat by designation with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Daniel was also a mentor to many law students, both through hiring many students as interns and by teaching courses in trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado Law School and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

“Judge Daniel was a champion for greater diversity in the legal profession. He leaves a legacy of distinguished service to our Court, to Denver, and to the State of Colorado,” stated Chief Judge Philip A. Brimmer. “He was also our dear friend and a respected colleague. It is hard to imagine him not being at the courthouse. The Court extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to Judge Daniel's family.”

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