

United States District Court  
District of Colorado

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

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 11, 2022**

### **The District of Colorado Mourns the Death of Senior United States District Judge Zita L. Weinshienk**

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 Zita L. Weinshienk.

Judge Weinshienk was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1933. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and her law degree from Harvard Law School. As a new lawyer, Judge Weinshienk served as a probation counselor, legal advisor, and referee in the Denver Juvenile Court for five years. She became the first female Denver Municipal Court Judge in 1964. She also served as a County Court Judge and District Court Judge in the City and County of Denver.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Weinshienk to fill a vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. Judge Weinshienk was appointed in September 1979. She remained an active judge for nearly 19 years before assuming Senior Judge status in 1998. In 2011, she took inactive status. Judge Weinshienk enjoyed the later years of her life in California. On Friday, October 7, 2022, Judge Weinshienk passed away at her home in California, surrounded by her loving family.

“As one of her former law clerks, Judge Weinshienk’s passing is particularly sad for me,” said Chief Judge Philip Brimmer. “She was a trail blazer throughout her career, whether as one of the first women to attend Harvard Law School, as the first female jurist in Denver, or as the first female judge on the United District Court for Colorado. She inspired generations of young attorneys.”