



EDWIN L. FELTER JR.

Edwin L. Felter Jr. is the Senior Administrative Law Judge in the Colorado Office of Administrative Courts, 1998–present, as well as a respected advisor, professor, author, speaker, and leader in the legal profession. Besides handling a full caseload, he is responsible for the office’s law clerk program and for in-house judicial training, including ethics training. He is also the regional supervisory judge, in charge of the Colorado Springs and Grand Junction Regional Offices. Previously (1983–1998), Judge Felter was the office’s Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge. As the head of an independent central panel of administrative law judges (one of about 28 in the United States), he oversaw an organization that furnished statewide adjudications on most state administrative law cases. This involved administering an annual budget of \$3.2 million and a staff of 42, including 18 administrative law judges (ALJs) in four offices statewide.

As Director and Chief Judge, Judge Felter established Colorado’s central panel as a “judicial model” organization, as opposed to a hierarchical governmental structure. He computerized the office in 1983, overseeing acquisition of all hardware and software for the word processing, billing, case tracking, and case indexing systems. He also launched a total quality management (TQM) approach to adjudication services, helping the office earn a Total Quality Award from the Governor in 1994. In 1991, he managed the acquisition of new office space, including the construction of five courtrooms and development of an adequate law library. He also developed extensive in-house training programs for ALJs, support staff, and user agency personnel. In the early 1990s, Judge Felter developed a “settlement week” program for workers’ compensation cases, which attained a 40 percent settlement rate for the 1,000 cases targeted. He has assisted the states of Hawaii, Wyoming, Alaska, and Pennsylvania in their efforts to establish their own central panels.

Judge Felter has an extensive record of service beyond his normal duties. He was a judicial administration consultant for the Republic of Panama in 1992 and has consulted with the workers’ compensation judges in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is Past Chair of the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges (NCALJ), part of the American Bar Association (ABA) Judicial Division, and has also chaired three NCALJ committees—alternative dispute resolution, international law, and judicial independence. Judge Felter is currently on the Council of the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers’ Division as the Judicial Division’s representative, and he belongs to both the Dispute Resolution and the Administrative and Regulatory Practice sections of the ABA. He is also a member of the International Law Section of the ABA; the Judges’ Forum of the International Bar Association (headquartered in the United Kingdom); and the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals.

As Chair of NCALJ, Judge Felter successfully guided a resolution on ALJs’ judicial independence and accountability through the ABA House of Delegates in 2001. Earlier, he drafted the *Model Act Creating a State Central Hearing Agency*, which he also guided through its successful passage; the House of Delegates unanimously adopted it in 1997. In 1995 the NCALJ adopted the *Model Code of Judicial Conduct for State Administrative Law Judges*, which he had developed and authored.

Judge Felter has taught, lectured, and published widely. He has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law since 2006, teaching administrative law, and has been on

the faculty of the National Judicial College in Nevada since 1999. He has been an ABA-certified mediator since 2000. Earlier in his career, Judge Felter served as an ALJ; a state Assistant Attorney General, primarily handling complex civil litigation; the Deputy Colorado State Public Defender in Charge of the Fort Collins Regional Office; and a Deputy Colorado State Public Defender, trying over 100 felony jury trials. Judge Felter is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the World*. He is fluent in Spanish and has a basic knowledge of Portuguese.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Office of Administrative Courts, Denver, Colorado (1998–present)

Hears a full caseload; responsible for the office's law clerk program and for in-house judicial training, including ethics training. Also, he is the regional supervisory judge in charge of the Colorado Springs and Grand Junction Regional Offices. Has served as a faculty member at the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, 1999–present, and as Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2006–present.

Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Office of Administrative Courts (1983–1998)

Oversaw organization providing statewide adjudications on most state administrative law cases. Administered an annual budget of \$3.2 million and a staff of 42 employees, including 18 administrative law judges (ALJs) in four offices statewide. Established Colorado's central panel as a "judicial model" organization, computerized the office, launched a TQM approach to adjudication services, managed the acquisition of new office space (including construction of five courtrooms and development of law library), developed extensive in-house training programs. In the early 1990s, developed a "settlement week" program for workers' compensation cases, which resulted in a 40 percent settlement rate for the 1,000 cases targeted. Assisted the states of Hawaii, Wyoming, Alaska, and Pennsylvania in their efforts to establish central panels. Served as a judicial administration consultant for the Republic of Panama in 1992; consulted with the workers' compensation judges in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Administrative Law Judge, Colorado Office of Administrative Courts (1980–1983)

Handled medical board and workers' compensation cases.

Assistant Attorney General for Colorado, Denver, Colorado (1975–1980)

Primarily handled complex civil litigation, including the defense of the State Court Administrator and the State Supreme Court in federal court, as well as state district judges, district attorneys, and other state officials. Also served as disciplinary prosecutor for the Supreme Court Grievance Committee, 1975–1978.

Deputy Colorado State Public Defender in Charge of the Fort Collins Regional Office (1972–1975)

Duties covered Larimer and Jackson counties.

Deputy Colorado State Public Defender, Fort Collins, Colorado (1971–1972)

Tried over 100 felony jury trials, including several first-degree murder trials and sanity trials.

Legal Editor and Research Director, Continental Reports, Inc., Denver, Colorado (1968–1971)

Edited and directed research for a franchise consulting firm.

Law Clerk, New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Merle E. Noble (1967–1968)

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Past Chair, National Conference of Administrative Law Judges (NCALJ), Judicial Division, American Bar Association (2000–2001). Successfully guided Resolution 101B (concerning the judicial independence and accountability of ALJs) through the ABA House of Delegates in August 2001.

Past Chair, NCALJ's Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Law, and Judicial Independence Committees (2003–04).

Judicial Division Representative, Council of the Government and Public Sector Lawyers' Division, ABA (2002 to present).

Member, ABA Dispute Resolution Section; International Law Section; ABA Administrative and Regulatory Practice Section; Judges' Forum of the International Bar Association (headquartered in the United Kingdom).

Member, Colorado Bar Association (CBA), Denver Bar Association, and Arapahoe County Bar Association. Member of CBA Ethics Committee 1974–1986; Chair of CBA Grievance Policy Committee, 1991–1994; member of CBA Inter-Professional Committee, 1995–present.

Member, National Association of Administrative Law Judges (NAALJ); program chair for NAALJ Annual Meeting in Denver, 1997; chair of the NAALJ Fellowship Committee 1996–2006. In 2002, successfully brokered an agreement between NAALJ, NCALJ (ABA), and the National Judicial College, whereby the College added the NAALJ/ABA Mediation Training Program (for ALJs) to its curriculum and put the NAALJ/ABA trainers through its Faculty Development Program in June 2002.

Member, Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals; was on planning committee for 2004 international administrative law conference in Toronto, co-sponsored by NAALJ and the ABA.

President-Elect, Rhone-Brackett Inn of the American Inns of Court, 2006–present; pupillage leader, Master Level, Rhone-Brackett Inn, 1996–present.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Civic Activities

President of the Board of Directors of the Denver International Program, an affiliate of the Council of International Programs and the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver (1989–1990). The program brings 10–15 human services professionals from all over the world to Denver for four months each year to be placed in agencies and to live with host families.

Served on the Executive Advisory Committee of the Emily Griffith Opportunity School (1994–1995), the premier public vocational school in Denver.

Significant ABA Accomplishments

In addition to Resolution 101B, noted earlier, drafted the *Model Act Creating a State Central Hearing Agency*; guided it through unanimous adoption by the ABA House of Delegates in 1997.

Developed and authored the *Model Code of Judicial Conduct for State Administrative Law Judges*, adopted by NCALJ in 1995. In 2006, ABA President Karen Mathis appointed Judge Felter to a three-year term on the Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Distinctions

Won the NCALJ's 1994 Fellowship in Administrative Law for his paper "Adjudication Quality: The Only Way to Reduce Costs and Delays," 15 *Journal of NAALJ* 5 (1995). Is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. In June 2003, was elected a Fellow of the ABA, an honor bestowed on 1/3rd of 1% of lawyers in the United States.

EDUCATION

J.D., Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., 1967

B.A., Political Science, English and Psychology, University of Texas, Austin, 1964

Additional Training

Intermediate faculty development program (adult learning theory, effective presentation planning, and effective judicial teaching skills), National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, June 2002; basic faculty development program (effective use of Power Point in teaching, adult learning theory), National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada, December 2000

Certified Mediator, ABA, Boston, Massachusetts, 2000

Colorado State Management Certificate, University of Denver Graduate School of Business (1/4 of the credit toward an M.B.A., or 1/3 of the credit toward an M.P.A.), 1983

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent); Portuguese (basic)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"Workers' Compensation Claims for Heart Attack and Mental Illness," 33 *Medical Trial Technique Quarterly* 308 (1987); "Work-Related Heart Attacks and Mental Illness: Medico-Legal Implications," 31 *Trauma* 23 (1989); "An ALJ's View: The New Unified Hearings in Workers' Compensation Cases," 18 *The Colorado Lawyer* 2327 (December 1989); "Colorado's Central Panel of Administrative Law Judges: The Hidden Executive Branch Judiciary," 19 *The Colorado Lawyer* 1307 (July 1990), updated in 14 *Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges* 95 (Spring 1994) [hereinafter *Journal of NAALJ*]; "Workers' Compensation Fraud: Trashing the System," 20 *The Colorado Lawyer* 95 (June 1991); "Salvaging the Impaired Physician: Before and During the Disciplinary Proceedings," 34 *Trauma* 55 (1992); "The Physician's Duty to Assist Patients in the Legal Process," 35 *Trauma* 81 (1994); "The Physician's Duty to Testify," 36 *Trauma* 69 (1995); "Life After S.B. 218," 21 *The Colorado Lawyer* 1425 (July 1992); "Administrative Law Adjudication for the Twenty-First Century," 24 *The Colorado Lawyer* 1993 (May 1995); "Litigants Without Lawyers," 25 *The Colorado Lawyer* 23 (June 1996); "Maintaining the Balance Between Judicial Independence and Accountability in Administrative Law," 36 *The Judges' Journal* 22 (1997), modified and reprinted in 17 *Journal of NAALJ* 89 (1997); "Special Problems of State Administrative Law Judges," 53 *Administrative Law Review* 403 (2001) [Republished in 8-10 *Law and*

Justice 41 (2001–2003, United Lawyers Association, New Delhi, India]; “Erosion of the Exclusive Remedy in Workers’ Compensation,” 31 *The Colorado Lawyer* 83 (December 2002), co-authored with former law clerk Sarah A. Hubbard.

Editor-in-chief and contributing author of a 650-page reference work, *International Franchising* (Denver: Continental Reports, 1970). Lawyers and law professors from the United States, Italy, France, and Germany contributed to the book.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A keynote speaker at the international conference “In Search of Universal Values in Administrative Justice,” sponsored by the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals, in Quebec, Canada, June 2001, along with Soli Sorabjee, Attorney General of India, Rafael Benitez from the Council of Europe, and Professor Errol Mendes of the University of Ottawa Law School.

Keynote speaker at the 1990 and 1995 annual meetings of the American College of Legal Medicine.

On many other occasions, Judge Felter has spoken and taught in the areas of lawyer ethics, judicial ethics, administrative law, evidence, workers’ compensation, medico-legal matters, quality management, alternative dispute resolution, and trial advocacy.