



# news

Colorado Judicial Branch  
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice  
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## **University of Colorado Law School honors Chief Justice Michael L. Bender** *Bender named recipient of 2013 William Lee Knous Award*

DENVER – The University of Colorado Law School has named Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender the 2013 recipient of the William Lee Knous Award, the school's highest honor for outstanding achievement and sustained service to the law school.

Dean Phil Weiser presented the award during a ceremony in Denver on March 13, 2013. He said Chief Justice Bender, who graduated from the school in 1967, has dedicated himself to service, professionalism, integrity and dedication to the community.

“Giving Mike Bender the Knous Award is a natural,” Weiser said. “He is a leader in the truest sense of the word. He’s a role model. He represents what’s best about Colorado Law.”

The award is named for a 1911 graduate of the school, the only person in Colorado history to have occupied the highest seats in each branch of government: President of the state Senate, Governor and Chief Justice. The award was established in 1960.

“It’s an enormous honor and very humbling to have been inducted into such an exclusive club of Colorado Law graduates,” Chief Justice Bender said.

Chief Justice Bender was appointed to the Colorado Supreme Court in 1997, and was selected by the Court to serve as Chief Justice in November 2010. He was in private practice

from 1979 to 1997. He also served in public defender offices in Denver, Jefferson County, and for the State of Colorado, and also worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in 1964. He is married to Helen H. Hand, Ph.D., and they have five children and five grandchildren.

To watch a University of Colorado Law School video on the selection of Chief Justice Bender as recipient of the award, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbOAFy5zgso>.