

Short Biographies and Overview of JAG

Richard W. “Dick” Dana received both his undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Colorado in Boulder, completing his education in 1966. He began his legal career in Tucumcari, New Mexico, where he also served as a part-time prosecutor. Upon returning to Colorado, Dana was employed as a Deputy District Attorney in Arapahoe County and as the Assistant District Attorney in Boulder County before becoming a Boulder County Court Judge in 1972. He was appointed to the Boulder County District Court bench in 1975 and served primarily in a civil division until his resignation in 1984. From January of 1983 he had been the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial District. Dana has three times attended the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Colorado Bar Association, and the State Bar of New Mexico. Since co-founding JAG in 1984, Dana has established a national reputation in the resolution of complex CERCLA related environmental litigation and professional malpractice cases. In 2000, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Colorado School of Law.

Heather Coogan received a bachelors degree in law enforcement from Denver’s Metropolitan State College and a masters degree in communications from the University of Colorado at Denver. She served as the first female deputy chief of the Denver Police Department, a position she held for 25 years. In 2000, she retired from the Denver Police Department. She became the first female chief of the Auraria Campus Police Department in 2002 and continues to serve in that position.

John E. “Jack” Dahlberg received a bachelors degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota and a masters degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. His career began in 1979 as a counselor in patient and family services at Craig Hospital in Englewood, where he later served as supervisor until 1983. In 1981, he founded Dahlberg & Associates, a private rehabilitation consultant service. Dahlberg has served on numerous local and national committees and advisory boards related to health and rehabilitation. He is a member of the Case Management Society of America and the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. He has written and lectured on a variety of issues related to catastrophic disabilities.

Judicial Arbiters Group, Inc. or JAG, is one of the nation's oldest private judicial groups. Founded in Colorado in 1984 by former Chief District Judge Richard W. Dana and 20th Judicial District Administrator Jerry D. Lockwood, JAG now boasts a professional staff of twenty arbiters, all former trial and appellate judges, who serve as third- party mediators in disputes around the country. JAG has helped to mediate disputes of 10 of thousands of litigants nationwide and in 2005 alone the arbiter group mediated 1800 new cases.