

Mark Mills Tribute – In Memoriam

Administrative Law Judge John Mark Mills passed away on July 27, 2023. Judge Mills graduated from the University of Oregon in 1978, and earned his JD degree in 1981, also from the U of O. He was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1981. After six years in private practice, he was hired as a *pro tem* ALJ at the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987, followed by a permanent appointment there in 1990. In the ensuing years Judge Mills presided over workers' compensation and OSHA cases, was an officer in the Oregon Association of Workers' Compensation Judges, served on a number of advisory committees, taught CLE classes, and gave generously of his time to friends and colleagues whenever the opportunity arose. After more than 30 years of state service, he retired in December 2021. A veteran ALJ colleague described Judge Mills as "one of the hardest working people [she had] ever known."

Another long-time friend and colleague commented that "Mark always did more than he needed to, without taking himself too seriously." Others have remarked on his calm demeanor, his steady presence, and his thoughtful opinions. Consistently mentioned as well are his patience, honesty, decency and integrity. His many friends remember him as a devoted fan of the Oregon Ducks. Mark's wife Laurie Mills remembers him as "the most dedicated roadie" of her classic rock singing groups. In addition to Laurie, Mark is survived by their two adult children Alex and Rachel, Rachel's young sons Anders and James; and by Mark's sister Emily Dean, and his brothers Christopher Dean and Brett DeMilliano. Mark's legacy is secure, and his memory is a blessing to us all.