

City and County of Denver



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** *Walter came from a Jewish working class family and was a dock worker in The Bronx, New York, was selected for the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program after enlisting at 17, attended the University of Denver College of Law, established the Walter L. Gerash Law Firm, P.C., and became one of the most highly respected criminal and civil trial attorneys of our time; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter has been a tireless advocate for the poor and disenfranchised of society, as well as a courageous defender of the United States Constitution, civil rights, free speech, and equality for all minority groups; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter has represented numerous pro bono clients including the Black Panther Party, La Crusada, Denver's Muslim community and Dominican Nun protesters; handled over 100 high profile homicide cases including those of Ron Lyle and James King; represented John Denver and Miss Colorado, among many others; and has obtained numerous seven-figure verdicts; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter is one of a handful of Colorado lawyers to successfully argue before the United States Supreme Court, whose holding in Walter's favor in 1973 in Test v. United States insured that people of all colors and creeds have a place on juries; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter was a founding member of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers in 1978, serving with distinction as its president in 1991, was selected for Best Lawyers of America every year since 2000, and is a member of the American and Colorado Trial Lawyers Associations, the National and Colorado Criminal Defense Lawyers Associations, and the National Lawyers Guild; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter is the loving and devoted father of Daniel and Douglass, grandfather of Halle and William, and husband of Joan Prugh; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Walter embodies the courage, tenacity, and strength under pressure to prevail against all odds, allowing him to vigorously practice law for nearly 50 years and counting, to participate in triathlons and chess competitions, and to become a true legend in the Colorado legal community.*
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, MAYOR** of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby officially proclaim March 3, 2005 to be known as:

"WALTER GERASH DAY IN DENVER"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City and County of Denver to be affixed this third day of March, 2005.

John W. Hickenlooper
MAYOR

