



*State Representative*  
**MARK FERRANDINO**

2011 DALE TOOLEY  
DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR AWARD  
RECIPIENT

*About Dale Tooley*

A Denver native and avid Democrat, Dale Tooley was a Denver Committeeman, Treasurer and two-term Chair of the County Party. He was thrice elected Denver District Attorney beginning in 1973. By example and reputation, Dale established and maintained the highest standards of justice in the legal system—in Denver and throughout Colorado. He spearheaded reforms in Colorado's archaic sexual assault laws, and imposed mandatory sentencing for violent crimes involving use of a deadly weapon. He also established standards of treatment of victims and witnesses and created Denver's victim compensation program, leading to a statewide victim compensation law. He created programs for rape prevention, neighborhood watches, "juvenile diversion," and established Colorado's first Domestic Violence Unit. Dale believed that there was no higher calling or greater privilege than public service in pursuit of justice. Through his outstanding leadership and example, he dedicated his life to improving the public good, and set the bar for "justice for all." Mr. Tooley died April 1, 1985, of cancer, three months after finishing "I'd Rather Be in Denver," a first person, often humorous account of his many accomplishments. We still honor him with the Dale Tooley Cancer Research Support Fund, which supports research into cancer treatments and cures. It is in the spirit of Dale Tooley that we name our Denver Democrat of the Year.

Mark Ferrandino was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives through a vacancy committee in September 2007 to complete the term of Representative Mike Cerbo. Mark has a long history of working in Democratic politics and on important issues facing our State and Nation. Mark currently serves on the Joint Budget Committee, House Appropriations (Ranking Member), and Legislative Council. Most recently Mark served as the Treasurer of the Colorado Democratic Party from 2005 through 2007. In addition, he has served as Co-Captain for House District 2A, and Co-Chair of the Colorado Stonewall Democrats. In 2007 Mark was awarded the Colorado Young Democrat of the Year Award for his work on behalf of the Democratic Party and candidates across Colorado. In 2009, Mark was honored again by the Colorado Democratic Party when he was named the Rising Star.

Mark has served as a Senior Budget Analyst for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing which provides health care to over 10 percent of Colorado through Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health Plan. In addition, Mark has worked as a Program Analyst for the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, and as a Policy Analyst for the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Mark was born in Nyack, New York. He has a twin sister named Nicole and an older brother named Michael. Mark went to school at the University of Rochester. During school Mark was a collegiate Pole Vaulter and spent a semester in Washington DC interning for then Congressman Charles E. Schumer from New York. Mark graduated with a Masters in Public Policy Analysis in 2000, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics in 1999, both from the University of Rochester.

Mark lives in the Baker neighborhood of Denver with his partner Greg and their dog Dagny. Mark has been involved in the Baker Historic Neighborhood Association as a member. In addition, Mark has worked part-time for a Non-Profit mental health organization in Jefferson County and is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Metro State.