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## Lawyer displays firm, charity flags on mountain

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When Kimball R. Anderson recently climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, he carried two lightweight items to display.

Anderson, 59, a Winston & Strawn LLP partner and chairman of the firm's pro bono committee, made the climb last month. Two of his daughters and his son-in-law joined him on the adventure.

The climb marked Anderson's second ascent to the 19,341-foot summit in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa. He last did the climb with three others in 1988.

This time, Anderson carried with him flags bearing the names of the Chicago Bar Foundation and Winston & Strawn. The party then took photographs of Anderson holding those flags on the summit.

"I wanted to help the foundation increase awareness about its mission," said Anderson, a past foundation president and current chairman of its Lincoln Circle Program, a vehicle for large donations to the foundation.

Robert A. Graves, the Chicago Bar Foundation's executive director, said it was impressive that Anderson climbed the mountain.

"It's pretty cool that he had the idea to bring the Chicago Bar Foundation flag with him," Graves said. "In our experience, it's a unique way to spread the message about access to justice and it's an example of (Anderson's) extraordinary commitment to the cause."

As for taking the flag with the law firm's name on it, Anderson said it "was just to show the Winston & Strawn colors back to my colleagues at the firm."

Anderson and his party, also including guides and porters, spent six nights and seven days on the mountain.

"It basically took us five days to get up and two to get down," Anderson said.

The final ascent began at a camp at a 15,600-foot elevation, Anderson said. The climbers woke up at 11 p.m., ate a light meal and started heading toward the summit at midnight climbing in the dark and using headlights.

The party reached the summit at about 7 a.m., Anderson said. The nocturnal climb occurred because storms often blow across the summit later in the day, he said.

Breathing on the summit proved difficult and



Kimball R. Anderson (right) and his son-in-law, Ray Lavko, chief paralegal for Richard J. Prendergast Ltd., stood at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro last month.

the temperature was close to zero degrees with wind blowing, Anderson said.

"It's not a very hospitable place," Anderson said.

After spending about 20 minutes on the summit, the party began the descent to a camp at 12,800 feet, Anderson said.

The descent from the summit over broken rocks and snow put a strain on his legs, Anderson said.

"I found that much more physically challenging than going up," Anderson said.

Anderson was joined on the recent climb by his daughters, Melissa Anderson and Alexis Lavko, and son-in-law, Ray Lavko.

When Anderson climbed the mountain in Tanzania in 1988, the party went up in three days, Anderson said. The ascent was done far too quickly, he said.

During the recent climb, "we devoted more time to acclimation and accordingly the climb was easier than in 1988 (in terms of) acclimating to the altitude," Anderson said.

During the 1988 climb, the top of Kilimanjaro was covered with snow fields and glaciers, Anderson said.

"This year, I noticed that the permanent snow fields and glaciers have retreated and shrunken markedly," Anderson said.

James M. Sulzer, a shareholder with Sulzer & Shopiro Ltd., who accompanied Anderson on the 1988 climb, said Anderson's recent climb "shows that he's in pretty good shape."

Sulzer said, "I'd be more impressed when he climbs it with his grandchildren in about 15 years. I think he will be able to do it. He's very driven."

Anderson said he exercises every day for an hour to 90 minutes. He enjoys skiing in the winter and mountain hiking in the summer.

In the summer of 2010, Anderson and his wife, Karen, climbed Half Dome, a granite peak in Yosemite National Park in California.

In 2009, the couple climbed Mount Whitney in California, which is about 14,500 feet at its peak, Anderson said.

As for future climbs, Anderson said he does not have firm plans.

"But I'm looking at Aconcagua," Anderson said referring to the highest mountain in the Americas at 22,841 feet. It is located in Argentina.