



## Meghan Winokur

Partner

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**Meghan's clients rely on her diverse experience in water rights, real estate development and land use planning to find creative solutions to their problems and achieve their goals.**

She works with water service providers, municipalities, ski areas, agricultural producers, ranchers, real estate developers and private landowners on all aspects of water supply planning, water court litigation, real estate transactions, development activities and land use planning. Meghan's water and land use practices bring her in regular contact with the City of Aspen's and Pitkin County's review bodies and community development offices.

Meghan is a part of the water team and frequently works with [Mark Hamilton](#), [Bill Caile](#), [Kylie Crandall](#), and [Hayley Siltanen](#). She also works closely with [Tom Todd](#) on real estate and land use matters. Meghan has served as the administrative partner of the Aspen office since 2022.

### PRACTICES

Water Law  
Real Estate Development and Finance  
Zoning and Land Use  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Resorts, Lodging, and Leisure

### INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources  
Outdoor Recreation  
Cannabis

### EDUCATION

University of Colorado School of Law,  
J.D., 2004  
*University of Colorado Law Review*

Fort Lewis College, B.S., 1999  
Environmental Biology  
*summa cum laude*

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

### COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the District of  
Colorado

### EXPERIENCE

- Assists municipal and private clients with long-term water supply planning and development
- Represents clients in water court litigation, including adjudication of water rights, changes of water rights and plans for augmentation
- Handles water-related administrative proceedings, including substitute water supply plans and well permitting matters
- Negotiates issues associated with the evaluation, assessment, and conveyance of water rights
- Advises clients in residential and resort real estate transactions, including land and water rights title issues
- Guides clients through the land use planning process, including providing advice on local government master plans, strategizing on re-zoning and interfacing with local governing review bodies.

### CLIENT RESULTS

#### Water Supply Development

Diligently guiding a municipal water service provider through complex issues related to improving the reliability and quality of its water supply system, including addressing water treatment plant capacity limitations, physical and legal water supply challenges, water rate increases, and funding for infrastructure improvements.

Protecting and enhancing future water supplies for ski areas in the Roaring Fork Valley by protecting water rights through court action, successfully securing a long-term agreement with a municipality for the delivery of snowmaking water and assisting with federal permitting matters.

Working to improve a water supply to support an art-based glamping community in San Miguel County.

Coordinating the implementation of a collaborative plan to monitor stream conditions in Castle Creek and Maroon Creek through a negotiated agreement with Pitkin County.

Helped a client with the transfer of shares in the Bessemer Irrigating Ditch Company to municipal uses.

Prevailed in protecting the water rights of a municipality in the Colorado River Basin in two appeals to the Colorado Supreme Court.

### **Water Rights Due Diligence**

Assisted multiple clients to investigate and evaluate water rights associated with significant land purchases in the Colorado, Yampa and San Juan River Basins.

### **Real Estate and Land Use**

Worked with a team of lawyers to obtain county approval of an amended and restated ski area master plan, following a lengthy administrative process and multiple public hearings.

Assisting with an application to re-zone lands in Pitkin County to support ski area operations.

Successfully negotiated complex water rights issues on significant transactions involved residential real estate transfers in the Roaring Fork Valley.

### **Published Cases**

*Anderson v. Pursell*, 244 P.3d 1188 (Colo. 2010)

*Town of Minturn V. Tucker*, 293 P.3d 581 (Colo. 2013)

*Tucker v. Town of Minturn*, 359 P.3d 29 (Colo. 2015)

### **Recreational In-Channel Diversion**

Assisted a municipality to obtain a conditional recreational in-channel diversion water right on the Arkansas River, coordinated documentation of the use of the associated whitewater park, and obtained a water court decree making a portion of the water right absolute.

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Colorado Water Rights and Regulation: Agricultural Water Use," *Half*

*Moon Education, Inc., 02/09/2022*

"Water in Colorado: Understanding Risks, Building Resilience, and Planning for the Future," *Twin Peaks Rotary Club, 10/14/2021*

"Water Law in Real Estate Transactions," *Colorado Bar Association 38th Annual Real Estate Symposium, September 2020*

"Water Law Class – Staff Presentation," *Department of Regulatory Affairs, July 28, 2020*

"Water Law for Real Estate Lawyers," *Colorado Bar Association Real Estate Section, March 5, 2020*

"Water Rates: Legal and Technical Considerations in Colorado," *Co-Presenter, Colorado Government Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, Pueblo, CO, November 21, 2019*

### **PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**

- Colorado Bar Association, Water Law Section, Member, 2006-present
- American Bar Association, Member, 2004-present
- Pitkin County Bar Association, Member, 2013-present
- Alpine Legal Services, Hotline Volunteer, 2020-present
- Children's Rocky Mountain School, Board of Directors, President, 2014-2017