



Laura Granier

Partner

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Laura delivers pragmatic counsel to help mining, energy, and natural resources clients navigate litigation and regulatory challenges.

Laura's clients, including large energy users, mining companies, and water purveyors, benefit from both her extensive litigation and regulatory experience, and her experience as Vice President and U.S. General Counsel for a large utility provider.

Regulatory Practice

Laura represents clients before numerous regulatory agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the Nevada Division of Water Resources, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. She has served as lead counsel in numerous regulatory proceedings including general rate cases, integrated resource planning and on complex water, resource and environmental agency issues. Laura also assists clients through the permitting process for projects on public and forest system lands.

Agency Litigation & Judicial Review

Laura has served as lead counsel in numerous court cases involving agency decisions and rule-making managing large client groups and complex issues. She has frequently and successfully handled cases involving key industry issues, complex matters and high stakes litigation. Laura also has successful defended agency decisions authorizing resource projects on public lands.

Water Rights & Government Affairs

Laura also works closely with clients in the areas of municipal law and government affairs, water rights acquisitions and permitting, and related policy issues.

EXPERIENCE

- Public utilities and energy
- Water rights and policy
- Environmental permitting
- Mining and natural resources
- Land use and governmental affairs
- Agency litigation and judicial review

CLIENT RESULTS

PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources
Litigation
Environmental and Natural Resources
Public Utilities Regulation
Water Law

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Mining
Electric Power

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, J.D., 2000
UC Davis Law Review, Executive Editor

University of Nevada, B.A., 1996

BAR ADMISSIONS

Nevada

Successfully represented the American Mining and Exploration Association before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in *Earthworks et al. vs. U.S. Department of the Interior et al.*. The case represented a significant victory for the mining industry and pre-discovery rights under the Mining Law.

Before joining Holland & Hart, some of Laura's cases included:

- Successfully challenged Bureau of Land Management's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage Grouse in Nevada on behalf of multiple Nevada counties and several private entities. US District Court – District of Nevada found the BLM violated NEPA and remanded, requiring the BLM to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
- Successfully handled several issues of first impression involving mineral resources in Nevada including a 2011 case ruling a state tax imposed on mining claims unconstitutional as well as cases involving complex land tenure issues.
- Successfully defended one of the largest qui tam actions brought in Nevada challenging the constitutionality of an initial public offering.

PUBLICATIONS

"Water Rights: Reconciling Priorities Under the Public Trust and Prior Appropriation Doctrines," *36 Natural Resources & Environment* 3, Co-Author, Winter 2022

"Bureau of Land Management Initiates NEPA Scoping Process for Potential Changes to the Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments and Issues Notice of Cancellation of Withdrawal Application/Proposal," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 10/13/2017

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Mining Law Congressional Committee Hearings, Mining Provisions, and Mining Regulations," *Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition, 11th Annual Mineral Exploration Summit, Panelist*, 10/12/2021

"Hot Topics in Water Law: PFAS and WOTUS and Walker, Oh My," *Nevada Water Resources Association Annual Conference*, January 2021

"States Join the Federal Government on Tribal Consultation," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"2020 BLM Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Plan Supplement Release – Where Are We Now," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"Protecting Pre-Discovery Rights & Ancillary Use under the Mining Law," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"2019 BLM Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Land Use Plan Enjoined: Are we Back to 2015 Again," *American Exploration and Mining*

Association, Annual Conference, December 2019

"Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: Overview and Discussion of Regulations," *Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition Annual Conference*, November 12-13, 2019

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Water Law, 2023
- *Chambers USA, Environment*, 2018-2022
- Reno Tahoe Young Professionals Network in conjunction with the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 20 Under 40 Award, Recipient, 2007
- *Legal Elite, Top 35 Attorneys in Northern Nevada*, *Nevada Business Magazine*, 2011
- *AV Preeminent*® *Peer Review Rating*™ from *Martindale-Hubbell*®

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law, Trustees Council
- Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association, Member and Past President
- Nevada Public Education Foundation, Board of Trustees, Past Chair
- American Bar Association, Member
- State Bar of Nevada, Member
- Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, Past Chair
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE), Publications Committee, Past Member
- Washoe County Bar Association, Member
- Mountain States Legal Foundation, Board of Litigation, Member
- American Inns of Court, Former Barrister
- United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra, Board of Directors
- Nevada Public Education Foundation, Past Chair
- Washoe "Ready for Life," Executive Board and Steering Committee, Member