



Melissa Reynolds

Partner

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Melissa draws from her experience with government agencies to counsel clients on enforcement and compliance issues involving natural resources, with an emphasis on water quality and water rights.

Melissa works with a variety of clients to provide counsel on water quality and environmental compliance issues that may arise during project development, operation, and closure. Melissa also leverages her knowledge of key water legislation and state agencies to guide clients in obtaining, protecting, and using their water rights.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Melissa worked for the Utah Attorney General's Office: Natural Resources Division, where she acted as general counsel to the State Engineer, and developed a comprehensive understanding of Utah's water rights statutes. Melissa employs her first-hand knowledge of state statutes to provide excellent legal service to a variety of clients navigating complex water rights issues.

Clients navigating challenges associated with complex water rights, water quality, and other environmental compliance and enforcement issues will benefit from Melissa's in-depth experience.

PRACTICES

Environmental Litigation
Water Resources
Environmental
Climate Change
Site Remediation
Environmental Health and Safety
Environmental Transactions

INDUSTRIES

Conventional Power
Renewable Energy and Storage
Mining

EDUCATION

S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, J.D., 2015
Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law

University of Utah, B.A., 2011
Environmental Studies
summa cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Utah

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

EXPERIENCE

Water Rights

- General adjudications
- Title updates
- Enforcement actions

Water Quality

- NPDES/UPDES permitting
- Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act permitting and compliance issues

PUBLICATIONS

"Key Takeaways from the EPA and the Corps' New WOTUS Guidance Memo," *Environmental Update*, March 17, 2025

"Supreme Court Invalidates "End-Result" Provisions in Clean Water Act

Discharge Permits," *Environmental Update*, March 10, 2025

"Groundbreaking Lawsuit Challenges Utah's Management of Great Salt Lake," *Holland & Hart Legal Update*, September 7, 2023

"US Supreme Court Opens Wetlands Regulatory Regime ," *Holland & Hart Client Alert*, May 26, 2023

"Back to the Future: The Biden Administration Releases Final WOTUS Rule," *Holland & Hart Client Alert*, January 5, 2023

"The Colorado River in Utah: Past, Present, and Future," *Holland & Hart News Update*, 11/02/2022

"More Uncertainty Ahead – WOTUS, SCOTUS and What it Means for Your Project," *Holland & Hart News Update*, February 4, 2022

"Is Regulatory Limbo the New Normal For WOTUS? ," *Holland & Hart News Update*, 06/01/2021

"Practical Guide to Navigating Utah's Water Rights Adjudication Process," *Holland & Hart News Update*, 03/25/2021

"EPA Draft Guidance on *County of Maui, Hawaii v. Hawaii Wildlife Decision* ," *Holland & Hart News Update*, 12/10/2020

"Keep Calm and Carry On - Self-Audits Under UDEQ's Agreement with EPA," *Holland & Hart News Update*, 08/31/2020

"WOTUS Debacle Likely to Continue With New Rule," *Bloomberg Law*, 05/21/2020

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Environmental Issues in Solar Energy Projects," *Panelist, Strafford CLE Webinar*, March 27, 2025

"Great Salt Lake and Water Scarcity in the West," Moderator, *2023 Environment & Natural Resources Summit*, October 27, 2023

"Tips and Tricks for Navigating Water Right Adjudications," *Utah Water Law & Policy Seminar*, March 19, 2021

"Water Quality Update: Murky Waters Ahead," *Industrial Minerals Association – North America Webinar*, June 30, 2020

RECOGNITION

- Mountain States Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Environmental Litigation, 2023, 2024
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*®, Environmental Law, 2025
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah Legal Elite, Up & Coming, 2021; Environmental, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- S.J. Quinney College of Law, Adjunct Professor, Pace Moot Court Team, 2019-present
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy & Resources, Case Summary Editor, 2018-present
- S.J. Quinney College of Law, Young Alumni Association, Board Member, 2018-2019; Vice President, July 2019-June 2021; President, June 2021-present
- Young Lawyers Division, Social Activities Committee, 2017-2019; Fit2Practice Committee, July 2019-present
- Women Lawyers of Utah, Career Advancement Committee, 2016-present
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Pathfinder, 2024