



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

October 12, 2022 | Speaker Biographies

BRENT BARTLETT, Esq. | Partner, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen, and Irby, P.C.

Mr. Bartlett is a native of Colorado. He has extensive experience in complex transactions involving land, water, and business interests. Through his services provided at Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen & Irby, P.C., he serves municipalities, developers, and ditch and reservoir companies in water acquisition, development, water planning and real estate matters. Mr. Bartlett also provides qualified intermediary services for tax deferred exchanges. Mr. Bartlett attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis on International Affairs and Latin America in 1990. Mr. Bartlett received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 1993. Mr. Bartlett was an editor for the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy and an assistant to the legal counsel to United States Senator Hank Brown. Mr. Bartlett has served as an adjunct professor at Colorado State University's College of Business. He also is a continuing legal education faculty member for the Colorado Bar Association. Mr. Bartlett is currently a member of the Water Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association and serves on the Colorado Water Congress. His advocacy includes providing testimony in front of congressional committees.

WHITNEY PHILLIPS, Esq. | Associate, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen, and Irby, P.C.

Ms. Coulter joined Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen & Irby, P.C. in the fall of 2018 after a year-long clerkship with Chief Judge Hartmann in Water Division One. Ms. Coulter obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism. Her first job at a newspaper – The Greeley Tribune – brought her to Colorado. After a few years reporting on crime, courts, and ultimately agriculture in Northern Colorado, Ms. Coulter decided to pursue a legal career and attended the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. During law school, Ms. Coulter served as an Articles Editor on the Water Law Review and competed as a member of the National Appellate Advocacy Competition Team. She also worked as a student attorney with the Environmental Law Clinic and as an intern with the 19th Judicial District and with the Weld County District Attorney's Office. She received her Juris Doctorate degree in 2017. Whitney's interest in water law stems from growing up on her family farm in southeastern Idaho. Her father, a fourth-generation farmer, grew potatoes, wheat, and beer.

JEAN LEVER | Thompson River Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Jean serves as the Big Thompson River Commissioner in District 4. Jean is responsible for the river's daily water distributions and maintaining water diversion records. Jean's work involves setting calls on the river, assuring diversions are in priority, assuring augmentation and return flows requirements are met, and compliance of decrees.

MICHAEL HEIN | Assistant Division Engineer, Water Division 1

Michael was born and raised in northern Colorado. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in 1998 and joined the Colorado Division of Water Resources in 2007. For the first four years he held the Groundwater Engineer position in the Division 1 Greeley office before becoming an Assistant Division Engineer in 2010 where he held that position for over eight years.

Mr. Hein was appointed as the Lead Assistant Division Engineer for Water Division 1 in September of 2018. As the Lead Assistant Division Engineer, Michael assists the Division Engineer in all matters related to water administration in Water Division 1 including ground and surface water, and compliance with the South Platte River Compact, Sand Creek Memorandum of Agreement between the states of Colorado and Wyoming and Sand Creek water users, and the Wyoming v. Colorado Supreme Court decision for the Laramie River and its tributaries.

MARK SIMPSON | Poudre River Commissioner, Colorado Division of Water Resources

Mark has been employed with the Division of Water Resources since 1999, working with various Water Commissioners in the South Platte Basin. He spent 11 years as the Deputy Water Commissioner for the Poudre River, and in 2012 became the lead Poudre River Water Commissioner. This position has the duties of distributing the water of the Poudre River on a daily basis pursuant to court water decrees, and compiling records of water diversion and use. Mark studied Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Science at Colorado State University, receiving a BS in Range Management in 1998.

JOHN KOLANZ, Esq. | Partner, Otis & Bedingfield, LLC

John Kolanz is a partner at Otis & Bedingfield, LLC in Loveland, Colorado. He has over 30 years of practice experience in environmental and natural resources law. John's practice has involved counseling clients on a broad range of regulatory compliance and permitting issues arising out of business operations, enforcement actions, real estate transactions, and large water infrastructure projects. John has worked as government in-house counsel, and as a private practitioner in both large and smaller firm settings. He has taught environmental law at the undergraduate level, and speaks and writes frequently on environmental and natural resource law topics.

AMY BEATIE | Deputy Attorney General, Natural Resources and Environment

Amy Beatie moved to Colorado immediately after college in 1993 and, with the exception of a detour to Alaska for a half-year and Wyoming for a year, has lived in Colorado ever since. From November 2007 until November 2017, she served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Water Trust. Prior to working at the Trust, Ms. Beatie practiced water law at two Front Range water law firms and clerked for the Honorable Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr. of the Colorado Supreme Court. Ms. Beatie is currently the Deputy Attorney General for Natural Resources and Environment at the Colorado Attorney General's Office, serving on Attorney General Phil Weiser's Leadership Team and overseeing the state's team of ~65 environmental and natural resources attorneys and ~12 paralegals and administrative professionals.

In April of 2019, Ms. Beatie was selected to serve on the Board of Directors for Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, an environmental stewardship organization. She also serves on the Advisory Board of InvestHER, a group that supports women running for office. Past volunteer activities have included serving on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Water Congress; the Advisory Council of the One World One Water Center of Metro State University; and the Advisory Board of the University of Denver Water Law Review, a law review that she helped launch when she was in law school. She has also served on and off as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, teaching a class on water rights transactions.