



Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado

October 11, 2023 | 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 COULTER, 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, where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 2017. Ms. Coulter's interest in water law stems from growing up on her family farm in southeastern Idaho.

DAN BROWN, Esq. | Partner, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen, and Irby, P.C.

Mr. Brown has practiced with Fischer, Brown, Bartlett, Larsen & Irby, P.C. since 1999. Since joining the firm, he has worked extensively on water quantity, water quality and real property matters. He has successfully represented clients in all of these areas, but the focus of his practice is representing a varied clientele before the Division No. 1 Water Court (South Platte Basin). Mr. Brown serves on the South Platte Basin Roundtable and is also on the steering committee and is a founding member of the Poudre River Runs Through It Study/Action group in the Poudre River Basin. Mr. Brown has also participated for over 20 years on Colorado Water Congress State Affairs Committee, and in this capacity has worked on water related legislation. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Brown clerked for the Honorable Walter Stauffacher in the District Court of Washington State. In this capacity, he served as the lead clerk on the original adjudication of water rights on the Yakima River Basin in Washington State (which is the equivalent of the Water Referee in the Colorado court system). Mr. Brown also served as a member of "Dividing the Waters" an organization of judges, masters and referees involved in the adjudication of

water in the western United States. Mr. Brown received his Juris Doctorate, with an emphasis in Environmental Law, from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1997. He also received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1990, and his Masters of Science in Applied Economics, with an emphasis in Natural Resources, from Montana State University in 1994.

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.

JENI ARNDT | Mayor, City of Fort Collins

Fort Collins has been home since I was three weeks old. After attending Moore Elementary, Blevins Junior High School, and Poudre High School, I earned an undergraduate degree in Sociology at Colorado College. Soon afterwards I earned an MA in Geography from the University of Colorado followed by an MA in Special Education from Purdue University in Indiana. After teaching special education for a few years, I earned a Ph.D. in Literacy and Language from Purdue.

When I was away—in college, in the Peace Corps (Morocco), in graduate school, living and working in Mozambique, Africa— Fort Collins was always my home. When the opportunity arose to live anywhere, my husband, Channing, and I enthusiastically returned to Fort Collins with our three children. My work experience includes Congressional intern, ESL teacher, Peace Corps volunteer, secondary special education teacher, middle school principal, International Baccalaureate Coordinator, university faculty member and department head.

In addition to working, teaching and attending school, I have been an active volunteer. Serving in the Peace Corps in Morocco was an honor. I served on school boards in Lafayette, IN and in Mozambique. After moving back to Fort Collins, I served on the Commission on Disability as well as Childsafe before running for State Representative in 2014. As a State Representative I have focused on water, agriculture, small business and public education. After 3+ terms in the General Assembly I was elected Mayor of Fort Collins in April, 2021.

Personally, my husband of 33 years and I have three adult children. My mom, Libby James is my rock and role model. In my free time, I run, bike, swim, read and talk to people

JENNIFER GIMBEL | Retired, Senior Water Policy Scholar, Colorado Water Center

Jennifer Gimbel has a Juris Doctor from the University of Wyoming, a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming. She most recently was the senior water policy scholar for the Colorado Water Center, based at Colorado State University. In this position she taught graduate and undergraduates interested in water policy issues and developed published articles on the Colorado River and water issues facing Colorado.

She served as the principal deputy assistant secretary for water and science in the Department of the Interior and was deputy commissioner for external and intergovernmental affairs for the Bureau of Reclamation.

From 2008 to 2013, Gimbel was the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, a group within the Department of Natural Resources that works to protect and develop the state's water resources. As a water lawyer, she worked for the Attorney General's Offices in Wyoming and Colorado.

In August 2022, Gimbel was presented as the 2022 winner of the Aspinall Award by the Colorado Water Congress during its summer convention. She also became a Terry J. Stevenson Scholar for the Common Sense Institute and co-authored the study: Adapting Colorado's Water Systems for a 21st Century Economy and Water Supply.