



## Beth Van Vurst

### Of Counsel

T: (303) 894-4488

[bvanvurst@fwlaw.com](mailto:bvanvurst@fwlaw.com)

Beth has specialized in water law since she began her legal career with the Colorado Attorney General's Office in 2005. During her tenure with that office, Beth represented the State and Division Engineers, Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Board of Water Well Examiners, and, towards the end of her tenure, served as lead water rights counsel for the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. Beth now works with clients from all over the State, including serving as general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District advising on all aspects of water rights as well as associated water quality, environmental, administrative law, and real estate matters.

Whether representing a governmental entity, business, ditch company or an individual land owner, Beth's focus is on helping her clients develop and pursue solutions that best fit their needs. Her pragmatic approach to water law matters helps clients understand the legal, technical, and policy components underlying each case. Beth has worked on interstate water issues raised by the Colorado River Compact, Arkansas River Compact, and Republican River Compact. She currently serves as a member of the Upper Colorado River Commission's legal committee.

Beth has also worked on routine intrastate water matters in each of Colorado's seven Water Court Divisions, including the adjudication of absolute and conditional water rights, changes of water rights, corrections to previously decreed points of diversion, exchanges, and augmentation plans. Beth has also worked on recreational in-channel diversion water rights, transbasin water rights, protests to the Division Engineer's abandonment list, quiet title actions, declaratory judgment actions, and enforcement actions against individuals diverting water without decreed water rights or without adequate measuring devices.

An avid rock climber and skier, Beth also helps clients navigate real estate and water transaction matters. She provides strategic counsel to clients regarding water supply planning, due diligence on water rights, evaluating and drafting proposed conservation easements, evaluating water right appraisals, drafting water storage contracts, preparing water right leases, and assisting in the preparation of multi-user coordinated reservoir

operation plans for projects valued at over \$10 million.

## Education

---

LL.M. in Taxation, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 2010

J.D., University of Colorado Law School, 2005

B.A. in Geology, University of Colorado, 2001

## Bar Admissions

---

Colorado

## Practice Areas

---

Corporate

Natural Resources and Environmental Law

Litigation

Real Estate

Tax

Water Rights and Water Law

Water Rights Litigation

## Sectors

---

Water

## Representative Experience

---

- Performed due diligence on water rights acquired in connection with the purchase of land, which included stand up title examination and an evaluation of historical use
- Served as lead water counsel for the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife on the \$186 million Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project
- Represented the State and Division Engineers in the prosecution of one of its most complex enforcement actions against an illegal water user

## Professional Affiliations

---

- Colorado Bar Association
  - Water Law Section
  - Agricultural & Rural Law Section
- Continental Divide Bar Association
  - Water Law Section

## Recognition

---

- Colorado Attorney General's Office Water Unit Attorney of the Year, 2006
- National Institute for Trial Advocacy, graduate, 2006

- University of Colorado Law School and the City of Boulder, Mediation Certification, 2004
- University of Wyoming, Geological Field Camp, 2001