



Joseph Pierzchala

Shareholder

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Licensed in Colorado

Overview

Joe represents clients in regulatory matters before the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission, operational matters associated with energy exploration, production, and development, and in complex commercial and civil litigation before state and federal courts across a wide array of disputes involving oil & gas, mineral and leasehold rights, real estate, corporate law, and securities.

Experience & Results

- Great Northern Properties, LLLP v. Extraction Oil and Gas, Inc., et al., 2024 CO 28, 547 P.3d 1110 (Colo. 2024). Affirmed summary judgment in favor of client on novel question of the application of the centerline presumption to the mineral rights under a dedicated street in Weld County, Colorado.
- Briefed successful motion for summary judgment dismissing claims of quiet title, breach of contract, tortious interference with contract, civil conspiracy, unjust enrichment, and constructive fraud totaling more than \$40 million. Additional details [here](#).
- Represented publicly traded oil and gas company before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to secure approval of comprehensive development plan covering more than 12,500 acres.
- Represented privately owned oil and gas company in environmental cleanup action.
- Represented privately owned oil company in action concerning breach of contract and performance of drilling operation.
- Represented a private surface owner challenging a Bureau of Land Management – Resource Management Plan which opens lands to oil and gas development.
- Successfully represented broker-dealer clients through arbitration before FINRA defending claims of fraud, selling away, and unsuitability.
- Defended creditor special guaranty agency through trial in adversary proceeding to discharge debts before the United States Bankruptcy Court and obtained favorable judgment.

Experience & Results (cont'd)

- Successfully obtained resolution of several employment disputes involving non-compete and non-solicitation agreements.

Practice Areas

- Complex Commercial Litigation
- Oil & Gas Conservation Commission and Regulatory
- Oil & Gas Litigation
- Natural Resources
- Employment Law
- Eminent Domain
- Appeals
- Mediation & Arbitration
- Trial

Honors

- Listed by Lawdragon as one of the “500 Leading U.S. Energy Lawyers” in 2023
- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® in the fields of Administrative/Regulatory Law 2022–2024; Energy Regulatory Law, 2022–2027; and Oil & Gas Law, 2023–2027
- Selected for Inclusion in Colorado Super Lawyers “Rising Stars” List, 2014–2018

Insights

- Presentation: Permitting and Regulatory Compliance, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Special Institute on Due Diligence in Oil & Gas and Mining Transactions, September 27–28, 2018.
- Publication and Presentation: Surface Use Law: Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Oil & Gas Agreements: Surface Use in the 21st Century 2D-1(Rocky Mt. Min. L. Fdn. 2017).
- Presentation: Force Pooling, Horizontal Drilling, and the Law of Trespass, AAPL 2015 Rocky Mountain Land Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 26–27, 2015.

Education

- J.D., University of Denver, 2008
- Denver University Law Review, Staff Editor
- B.A., Political Science, Colorado State University, 1998

Bar Admissions/Qualifications

- Colorado, 2008
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Colorado Bar Association
- Denver Bar Association
- Past Board of Directors Member, Denver Petroleum Club
- Past Board of Advisors Member, Western Energy Alliance