



John S. Zakhem

Member

Denver Office

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John S. Zakhem is a Member in the Cannabis and Construction industry groups, focusing primarily on commercial litigation and real estate. He practices out of the Firm's office in Denver, Colorado.

John's practice centers on the representation of business and real estate owners in labor and commercial litigation, corporate and business law, real estate development and finance, government affairs, election law and campaign finance, mergers and acquisitions, and private-placement securities offerings.

He also provides construction counseling and litigation support to owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers. John is active in the legal and political communities and has been appointed to various committees and boards by two Colorado governors, the State Senate president, and two Denver mayors throughout the past 20 years.

John has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Government Relations since 2011, has been recognized as a Colorado *Super Lawyer*® since 2009, has a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating, and was included in the Colorado Statesman's inaugural class of *50 for the Future*.

Awards

- Rose Andom Center's Building Dignity Award
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Government Relations Practice and Real Estate Law (2011-2023)
- Colorado *Super Lawyers*® Business/Corporate Law (2015-2018, 2021)
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent Rating
- Named in Colorado *Super Lawyers*® (2012-2014)
- Named a Rising Star by Colorado *Super Lawyers*® (2009-2011)
- William Randolph Hearst Senate Youth Scholarship
- Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America



Notable Legal Experience

- Represented national developer in the financing, construction and optimization of multiple assisted living center projects
- Represented general contractor on a multi-million-dollar delay claim
- Represented nonprofit against Internal Revenue Service for unlawful taxpayer information disclosure
- Defended presidential staff volunteer in suit brought by the ACLU through appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court
- State and federal litigation on Colorado Open Records/Freedom of Information Acts; recent oral argument before Colorado Supreme Court
- Represented landowners in legal opposition to enclave annexation and associated nonprofit, grassroots lobbying activities
- Represented multi-family real estate investment firm in private placement securities offering and multiple portfolio acquisition transactions

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2014-Present)
- Zakhem Law LLC (2009-2014)
- Zakhem Atherton LLC (2007-2009)
- Doyle Zakhem Suhre & Lilly LLC (1998-2007)

Practices

- Business Law
- Class Action & Complex Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law
- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Government Relations

Industries

- Cannabis Law
- Construction

Education

- University of Denver Sturm College of Law (J.D., 1998)
- Georgetown University (B.S. in Foreign Service)

Admissions

- Colorado (1998)

- U.S. Tax Court (2010)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit (2005)
- U.S. Supreme Court (2005)
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado (1999)
- Colorado Supreme Court (1998)

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Adjunct Professor of Election Law and Campaign Finance, University of Denver, Sturm College of Law (2008-present)
- “Go it on Your Own,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Business Law Society, presented annually
- “Political Legal Practice Opportunities,” University of Colorado Law School (2006)
- “Election Law 101,” Continuing Legal Education Presentation (2006)
- “527s and the Future of Colorado Elections,” (2004-2009)

Writings and Publications

- Co-author, “Loss of legal services would threaten foundations of democracy,” *The Gazette* (May 30, 2017)

Community

- Boy Scouts of America
- Porchlight Family Justice Center
- South Jeffco Youth Sports - 8th Grade Outlaws Football
- Rose Andom Center
- Colorado Access to Justice Commission
- Colorado Lawyers Committee, Board of Directors