

Snell & Wilmer



John W. Andrews

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Main Bio

John has over 30 years of practice experience in public lands, real estate, mineral, environmental, and energy law matters. Before joining Snell & Wilmer in 2018, he was chief legal counsel and associate director for Utah's state land management agency, where he provided legal representation and management for a 3.4 million acre land portfolio. His current practice focuses on land and permitting issues associated with the ongoing energy transition, including utility scale hydrogen, solar and wind projects, geologic carbon sequestration, lithium extraction, and development of low carbon cement products. John continues to work with clients in traditional mining, oil and gas, ranching, and real estate development matters. John also works on complex land and mineral title and royalty issues, federal and state land exchanges, NEPA, tribal law, endangered species and wildlife, state legislative interaction, and other issues involving western lands.

Education

- University of Utah College of Law (J.D.)
 - Associate Editor, Journal of Energy Law & Policy
- Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (Exchange Student in Law)
 - Thesis Topic: "Commonwealth Natural Resources & Environmental Legislation and the Australian Constitution"
- Colby College (B.A., Economics and History)

Professional Memberships & Activities

- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Royalty Policy Committee (2017-2019)
- Western States Land Commissioners Association
 - Legal Committee Chair (2012-2016)
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
 - Trustee-at-Large (2007-2009, 2017-2019)
- Utah State Bar
 - Energy, Natural Resources and Environmental Law (ENREL)
 - Section Lawyer of the Year (1998)
 - Section Chair (2002-2003)

- Officer/Committee Chair (1997-2003)

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "Renewable Energy and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022," Presenter, Snell & Wilmer Webinar (September 9, 2022)
- "[New Bureau of Land Management Guidance on Geologic Carbon Sequestration on Federal Public Lands Answers Some Questions, But Uncertainty Remains for Split-Estate Lands](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (June 14, 2022)
- "[From Worse to Bad: New draft of 'Build Back Better' Legislation Reduces But Doesn't Eliminate New Financial Burdens on Hardrock Miners Operating on Federal Land](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (November 2, 2021)
- "[Who Owns Pore Space for Geologic Carbon Sequestration? Renewed Focus on Carbon Capture and Storage Likely to Bring Ownership Uncertainties on Western Split-Estate Lands Back into the Picture](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (January 19, 2021)
- "[Ninth Circuit Wetlands Ruling Muddies the Waters for Development Nationwide](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (May 29, 2020)
- "State Trust Lands: Emerging Goals and Constraints," Author, Proceedings of the 65th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute (2019)
- "[Voter Initiatives to Limit Mineral Development in Western States Fail](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (November 9, 2018)
- "[New BLM planning process for managing sage grouse may offer relief to Utah energy producers](#)," Author, The Enterprise (June 4, 2018)
- "[Spending Bill Includes Unique Path To Conservation Goals](#)," Author, Law360 (April 18, 2018)
- "Federal Land Exchanges and Land Sale Legislation – New Developments," American Association of Professional Landmen, Mining and Land Resources Institute (2018)
- "[Reauthorization of Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Offers Opportunities for Federal Land Users, Conservation](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (April 11, 2018)
- "Swapping with the Feds: An Updated Look at Federal Land Exchanges," Author, Proceedings of the 51st Annual Rocky Mtn. Mineral Law Institute (2005)
- "Special Institute on Severed Minerals, Split Estates, Rights of Access and Surface Use in Mineral Extraction Operations," Presenter, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (2005)
- "Wilderness and Roadless Issues," Presenter, ABA Section on Energy, Environmental and Resources (SEER) Annual Fall Meeting (2004)
- "Urban Sprawl, Resource Conflicts and Economic Development: A Case Study in Reconciling Conflict," Panelist, ABA SEER Conference on Resources Law – 21st Century Challenges of Access to Public Lands & Resources (2001)
- "State Trust Lands – Reconciling the Public Interest in Environmental Protection with Trust Management Principles," Presenter, Proceedings of the 44th Annual Rocky Mtn. Mineral Law Institute (1998)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Natural Resources Law (2020-2024), Environmental Law (2021-2024)
 - Salt Lake City Lawyer of the Year, Natural Resources Law (2023)
- Utah Legal Elite, Government Lawyers, Utah Business Magazine (2018)
- Utah Legal Elite, Energy and Natural Resources, Utah Business Magazine (2017, 2020)
- Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award, Utah Congress of Parents and Teachers (Utah PTA) (1998)

Community Involvement

- Utah Open Lands Conservation Ass'n.
 - Board of Directors (2022 - Present)
- Natural History Museum of Utah
 - Board of Advisors (2019 – present)
 - Associates Board (2001-2007)
 - Executive Committee Officer (2004-2006)
- Vision Dixie
 - Executive Committee/Steering Committee (2006-2008)

Previous Professional Experience

- State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Salt Lake City, Utah
 - Chief Legal Counsel (1995-2018)
 - Associate Director (2004-2018)
- Utah Attorney General's Office, Assistant Attorney General (1994-1995)
- Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy (1986-1993)
- Utah Supreme Court, Intern to Justice Christine Durham (1984)

Bar Admissions

- Utah

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Utah
- United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court