

JAMES A. BECKWITH
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

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CURRICULUM VITAE

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

BOUNDARY LAW; ROAD, EASEMENT AND ACCESS; COMPLEX CASE MANAGEMENT

SERVICES

SPECIAL COUNSEL; CASE MANAGER; EXPERT WITNESS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

James A. Beckwith, Attorney at Law

1979 – Present

Since 1991, my practice has increasingly focused upon access and road issues relating to public and private roadways in Colorado and Utah, requiring historical research into access routes developed by pioneers; in-field exploration to confirm location and current status of roads as “public highways” under governing state laws; photo documentation of field findings; assembly of historical data for presentation to court or commission. Selection and management of special teams of experts for monitoring NEPA protocols on environmental, archaeological and historic issues. Served as special counsel on both administrative and courtroom litigation to confirm access on those highways for oil/gas and timber development. Locations have included performing troubleshooting on large developments in rural Western Colorado locations.

Since 2004, I have developed a specialty in managing and directing complex civil litigation, including: analysis and selection of the claims and defenses; assembly of teams and team members; and oversight of all research, discovery, pre-trial briefing, and trial presentation. These skills have been applied to major case management in road and access issues.

Assistant Attorney General, Colorado Attorney General

1977 – 1979

Assigned to counsel Colorado State Patrol. Was also selected as one of four Assistant Attorney Generals assigned to the Attorney General’s Organized Crime Strike Force, where duties included commercial vehicle theft rings and commercial vice. Worked with the Colorado State Grand Jury and coordinated with administrative agencies dealing in motor vehicles, salvage vehicles, motor vehicle titling, and towing carrier operations.

Deputy District Attorney, San Bernardino County, California

1974 – 1977

Duties consisted of regular criminal prosecutions and investigative review. Developed a specialty in commercial vehicle theft prosecutions and investigations and performed complex

prosecutions of organized auto theft rings. As a Special Reserve Deputy Sheriff, Mounted Posse, performed riot control duties, search and rescue, and escaped convict work. Also trained police officers and deputy district attorneys in courtroom presentation and trial examination.

EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

Towing and abandoned vehicle processing, Denver and Arapahoe District Courts, CO.

Salvage vehicle processing, Arapahoe District Court, CO.

Conveyancing and Land Titling, United States District Court, CO, Bankruptcy Div.

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Claims;

United States District Court, CO; High Lonesome Ranch v. Garifeld Count

United States District Court, CO; Dole v. Greene

Ouray District Court; Westesen v. Rollans

PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS

California Supreme Court; United States District Court for Central California	1974
Colorado Supreme Court; United States District Court for District of Colorado	1973
Nebraska Supreme Court; United States District Court for District of Nebraska	1973
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Circuits	1973 – 1985

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, University of California, Hastings College of Law	1972
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Psychology, University of California, Davis	1969

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, California Bar Association (Inactive)

CERTIFICATIONS

Mediator, Colorado Bar Association (2020)

SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Road Claims; National Business Institute;
December, 2011

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Road Claims; National Business Institute;
December, 2012

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Road Claims; Western Slope Professional Land
Surveyors, September 2011; May, 2012

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Claims; National Business Institute; December,
2014

Evidentiary Issues in the Presentation of Public Highway Road Claims; National Business Institute; December, 2014.

Litigating Boundary Disputes; National Business Institute; 2014

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Claims in association with Mr. David W. Pehr, Esq.; Colorado Association of Professional Land Surveyors; March, 2015

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Claims; Public Land Access Association; 2016

PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Research and Presentation of Public Highway Road Claims; May, 2012; Sole Author

A Practitioner's Guide to Research and Presentation of Public Highway Claims in Colorado; in association with Mr. David W. Pehr, Esq.; March, 2015.

WEBSITE AND ARTICLES

www.historicroadlaw.com

The Necessity for Historic Road Research
Conflicting Presumptions: Adverse Use vs. Permissive Use
Alterations to the R.S. 2477 Easement
Conservation Easement vs. Profit a Prendre
The Pre-Emption Act of 1841
Colorado Toll Roads
Applying The Relation Back Rule to U.S. Patents
Colorado's Public Highway: The Railroad
Litigating The Historic Road Case

CASES LITIGATED OR RESEARCHED INVOLVING ROAD AND ACCESS ISSUES

Teepee Park / Garfield County CO / Intermountain Resources / Access / 1997-2000

Uintah Basin / Uintah County, UT / Target Trucking / R&F Tax / 1990-93

Uintah Basin / Uintah County, UT / Nebeker Trucking / R&F Tax / 1993-95

Rangely Basin / Rio Blanco County, CO / Target Trucking / R&F Tax / 1993-95

Leland Bench / Uintah County, UT / Smith-Coleman / Vacation of Roads / 2003-2005

Joe's Valley / Manti LaSal NF / UT / IM Resources / Timber Sale Access / 2003-2004

Upper Ladder Road / Mesa County, CO / Tipping / Vacation of Road / 2008-2010

Jewett Homestead / Mesa County / Notch Spring Ranch / Access & Tax Donation / 2016

Upper Go Boy Road / Mesa County / Fontanari Family Trust / Access / 2016-18

MCR V, Upper Plateau / Mesa County / RNI / Access, Development / 2008-2010

Alamosa Creek / Rio Grande County / Private Landowner / Access Mining / 2010

Victor-Cripple Creek / Teller County / IM Resources / Timber Sale Access / 2008

Gateway Mesa / Mesa County / Tipping / Vacation of Roads / 2017

GCR 200 / Garfield County / GarCo / Closure of Public Highway / 2016-Present

Dinosaur Monument / Moffat County / Chapman / Revoke Hntg Prmt / 2007
Aspen Mountain / Pitkin County, CO / Private landowner / Access / 2018
High Lonesome Ranch / Garfield County, CO / Public Entity / Access / 2016-2020

Cases Involving Assistance As Expert Witness and Road Consultant

Garfield County Road 200 / Garfield County / 2016-2020 / Expert Witness
Green Lake Road / Gunnison County / 2019-Present / Expert Witness
Rock Creek County Wagon Road / Pitkin County / 2021-Present / Expert Witness