



JAMES R. SILVESTRO

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EXPERTISE

Litigation · Land Use and Environmental Law · Real Estate ·
Special Districts

James Silvestro is a litigation and special districts attorney at Ireland Stapleton. His practice focuses on municipal law, land use, real estate, and complex commercial disputes.

In his litigation practice, James guides clients through all stages of state and federal court proceedings, including jury trials and appeals. He also regularly represents clients in municipal land use proceedings throughout Colorado and, when necessary, in subsequent appeals brought under Colorado Rule of Civil Procedure 106.

As part of his local government practice, James serves as outside counsel to many of the firm's special district and public authority clients. In this role, he advises on all aspects of municipal and special district law, including open meetings, open records, contracting, and election matters, and also serves as litigation counsel as needed.

Before joining Ireland Stapleton, James worked as an Honors Attorney with the United States Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Michael Bender, former Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

James earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado Law School, where he graduated first in his class and served as Managing Editor of the University of Colorado Law Review.

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

- J.D., University of Colorado, 2011, Order of the Coif
- B.A., Colby College, 2008, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions

- Colorado

HONORS & AWARDS

- Selected to The Best Lawyers in America® for Land Use and Zoning Law, 2023-2025
- Selected to Colorado Super Lawyers® for Land Use and Zoning, 2017-2025
- Quarterfinalist, National Environmental Moot Court Competition
- Recipient, University of Colorado Public Service Pledge Award

INVOLVEMENT & PUBLICATIONS

Involvement

- Colorado Bar Association
- Denver Bar Association

Publications

- Managing Editor, University of Colorado Law Review, 2010-2011

Media

- "Boulder County: Special-use permit for Martin Marietta gravel mine has lapsed", April 27, 2022
- "Arvada Rejects Rezone That Would Have Brought Amazon to Town," June 15, 2021
- "In rare case, Colorado judge says permit must be reheard because of contributions to county commissioner's campaign," August 22, 2019
- "Johnstown Residents Prevail Against Open Pit Gravel Mine," August 15, 2019
- Quoted in Law Week Colorado, "10th Circuit Revises Urban Renewal Decision," August 12, 2018

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