



# RUSSEL W. KEMP

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STAPLETON

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EXPERTISE Business · Estate Planning · Real Estate

Russell Kemp is a business attorney and strategist who helps clients prevent legal issues and resolve complex challenges. He represents business owners, executives, and real estate investors, and is widely recognized for his work with owners of large ranches in Colorado and neighboring states. His intentionally broad practice includes advising on policy matters before state and local agencies, business structuring, and commercial agreements. He also counsels clients on succession planning, including estate planning and estate and trust administration.

Throughout his career, Russell has handled large and consequential matters. He led the legal team that challenged the expansion of an electric transmission line into one of Colorado's most scenic regions, helping transform a development threat into a landmark conservation success for wildlife habitat. He has advised one of the largest estates in Colorado, guiding fiduciaries through complex probate and trust issues. Russell has also represented landowners in addressing policy disputes and defending against actions by public and private entities, including leading the legal team that protected private property owners in a highly publicized attempt to condemn valuable development land for alleged urban renewal. His experience includes appearances before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Colorado Secretary of State, and the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission.

Before joining Ireland Stapleton, Russell worked in television news in Denver. He joined the firm in 1998 and later served for many years on the firm's Executive Committee. Active in the Denver community, Russell devotes his time and resources to numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Colorado Gives Foundation, WorldDenver, Habitat for Humanity of Metropolitan Denver, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and the Women's Foundation of Colorado. He was named WorldDenver's first Citizen Diplomat and has been honored by the United States State Department for his work on international exchange. Russell is most proud of his two daughters, who are growing up as citizens of the world.

## EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

### Education

- J.D., University of Denver Sturm College of Law Order of St. Ives, Thompson Marsh Scholar, 1998
- A.B., Dartmouth College, 1988, Magna cum laude

### Admissions

- Colorado

## HONORS & AWARDS

- Selected to The Best Lawyers in America® for Real Estate and Corporate Law, 2016-2025
- Selected by Colorado Super Lawyers® for Real Estate Law, 2009-2025
- WorldDenver Volunteer of the Year Award, 2012, Citizen Diplomat, 2019
- State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs IVLP Volunteer Certificate, 2014
- Ray Cushman Award for Volunteer Service from Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, 2006
- Volunteer of the Year Award for Downtown Denver YMCA, 2003

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Representation of buyers of hundreds of thousands of acres of real estate in Colorado and neighboring states
- Counsel to several of the largest ranches in Colorado
- Representation of developers of mixed-use commercial buildings, golf course projects, and residential communities
- Commercial loan documentation, workouts and foreclosure
- State regulatory, lobbying, and policy work, including before Colorado General Assembly, Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Colorado Secretary of State, Colorado Department of Revenue, and the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
- Successful resolution of complex issues in large probate estates

## INVOLVEMENT & PUBLICATIONS

### Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Colorado Bar Association, Fellow, 2007-Present
- Colorado Bar Association, Real Estate Section Council, 2006-2009
- Denver Bar Association
- University of Denver, Law School Alumni Council, Chair 2017-2018 and Emeritus Member
- Colorado Gives Foundation, Chair of Board of Directors (2021)
- WorldDenver, Former Founding Board Member and Chair of Board of Directors
- Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, Board President (2013)
- Rocky Mountain Regional Board of Advisors of the Institute of International Education (2007-2012)
- Downtown Denver YMCA, Board of Advisors and Chairman (2000-2011)
- Metro Denver YMCA, Former Trustee
- The Women's Foundation of Colorado, PEP Club & Dads for Daughters

### Publications

- "Strategies in Acquiring and Managing Large Properties," The Land Report 2015 at Aspen Summit, October 17, 2015
- "Practical Title Insurance and Survey Tips," at Real Estate CLE, February 2004

### Media

- Quoted in, "Digital estate planning vital for data assets," Denver Business Journal, January 16, 2015

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