



EMILY J. POWELL

Associate

BIOGRAPHY

Emily J. Powell is a special districts attorney who works with the executive boards and executive directors of Colorado park and recreation districts and fire protection districts. On a daily basis, she provides legal advice to clients on issues relating to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act; the Colorado Open Records Act and Open Meetings Law; special district statutory compliance; budget and finance laws affecting special districts; all aspects of employment law and volunteerism, including hiring/appointment, development of handbooks and job descriptions, and corrective/disciplinary actions; development of district policies and procedures and board bylaws; TABOR and Gallagher Amendment issues; regular and special election rules and procedures; all aspects of negotiating and drafting contracts and intergovernmental agreements with vendors, contractors and other public entities; inclusions/exclusions of property and related boundary issues; all aspects of regular and special board meeting procedures; transactions involving the purchase, sale or lease of real property; and special district consolidations and authority formation.

In addition to her work with special districts, Ms. Powell assists employers and businesses with employment-related transactional matters, such as preparation of employee handbooks, employment agreements, job descriptions and identifying and preventing potential workplace disputes.

Ms. Powell regularly speaks at industry conferences including the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association annual conference, the Special District Association annual conference and the Colorado State Fire Chiefs annual conference on issues such as the Colorado Open Records Act and Open Meetings Law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, contract drafting for local governments, and the impacts of social media on employment law.

Ms. Powell graduated first in her class, with the highest honors from the College of William & Mary

ATTORNEY HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICE AREAS

- Special Districts
- Employment

EDUCATION

- College of William & Mary (J.D., First in Class, *Order of the Coif*, 2009); Managing Editor, *William & Mary Law Review*
- Colorado State University (B.S., Psychology and Foreign Languages and Literatures, *summa cum laude*, 2006)

CONTACT

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School of Law.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Co-Lecturer, Partners in the Outdoors: Legalities and Liabilities, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (February 2014)
- Co-Lecturer, Marijuana and Other News You Can Use, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (September 2013)
- Co-Lecturer, Employer Insurance Mandate Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (June 2013)
- Co-Lecturer, Diabetes, Food Allergies and Autism—Oh, My!: The Americans with Disabilities Act, Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference (March 2013)
- Co-Lecturer, The News You Can Use (or Legal News Through Which You Won't Snooze), Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference (March 2013)
- Lecturer, The Shifting Sands of Social Media, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (October 2012)
- Lecturer, Contract Drafting for Local Governments, Colorado Parks and Recreation Association (October 2012)
- Co-Lecturer, Real Property 101, Special District Association (September 2011)
- Co-Author, New Regulations Implementing Titles II and III of the ADA, Parts I, II, and III, SDA News (July, August, and November 2011)

AFFILIATIONS

- Colorado Bar Association
- Denver Bar Association
- Colorado State Fire Chiefs
- Special District Association
- Special District Association, Legislative Committee
- Special District Association, Leadership Academy