



## Law Office of DAVID LIBERMAN, LLC

1099 Main Avenue, Suite 312 Durango, CO 81301

Telephone: (970)375-6265 Fax: (970)375-2350 E-Mail: dliberman@animas.net

### LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**Admitted To Practice:** U.S. District Court, District of Colorado; January 24, 1994; Supreme Court State of Colorado; October 21, 1993; Ute Mountain Court of Indian Offenses, October 15, 1999; Southern Ute Tribal Court, April 2002.

**Reported Case:** Application of Turkey Canon Ranch Ltd. 937 P. 2d 739 (Colo.1997).

**Martindale Hubbell Law Directory:** BV (Highly Competent, Ethical) rating since 1998.

**Membership/Volunteer:** Southwest Colorado Bar Association President 2007-2008, Vice President 2006-2007, Treasurer 2005-2006, Colorado Bar Association Board of Governors 2007-2011; Colorado Bar Foundation Bar Fellow 2007-present, Colorado Municipal League, Mountain Middle School, Founding Board of Directors (2010).

**Manager:** Law Office of David Liberman, LLC, Durango, Colorado. Manager of law office practicing municipal and local government law, real estate, civil litigation, contracts, water rights, personal injury, business, housing, Indian law. 2002 -Present. Town Attorney for Mancos, Colorado. Town Attorney for Ignacio, Colorado. Municipal prosecutor for City of Durango, Colorado. General Counsel for Southwest Colorado Council of Governments. General Counsel for Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County. Attorney for Ignacio Library District. General Counsel for Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority. Special counsel to Indian tribes (Ute Mountain Ute, San Carlos Apache) and organizations (Gaming Commission/ Election Board).

**General Counsel:** Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah; Towaoc, Colorado. Lead attorney, to a federally-recognized Indian tribe with over 1000 employees, casino, construction company, travel centers, irrigated farm, cattle company, pottery company, tribal park, tribal fee ranches, oil and gas leases, and federal reserved rights water settlement. Advised tribal council, tribal departments, boards, committees, commissions and enterprises. Supervised tribal justice department staff, administered budget, coordinated with special counsel, lobbyists, federal agencies, state agencies, other Indian tribes. Drafted ordinances, codes, contracts and council resolutions. Appeared in proceedings for Tribe; 1999 - 2002

**Assistant City Attorney:** City of Thornton; Denver, Colorado. In-house water rights attorney for City of Thornton; June 1999 - September 1999

**Attorney:** MacDougall, Woldridge & Worley, P.C. f/k/a MacDougall Law Office; Colorado Springs, Colorado. Attorney in AV-rated law firm practicing general civil, water rights, litigation, municipal, special district, real estate and appellate practice; January 1994 - May 1999

**Law Clerk:** Native American Rights Fund; Boulder, Colorado. Performed legal research, assisted in case preparation and created a Tribal law database; September 1991 - April 1993

**Legal Assistant:** Natural Resources Law Center; Boulder, Colorado. Coordinated the 1991 *Innovations in Water Law Conference* and assisted in water law research; May - August 1991

### LEGAL EDUCATION

**Juris Doctor:** Class of 1993, University of Colorado School of Law; Boulder, Colorado. **Activities:** Environmental Law Society; National Wildlife Federation's Rocky Mountain Resource Clinic; Indian Law Clinic.

### COLLEGE EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts:** Political Science; Class of 1987, The Colorado College; Colorado Springs, Colorado. **Activities:** Volunteer Action Big Brother; Rugby Club; Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity; Spring Semester 1986 Abroad at American College of Switzerland in Leysin, Switzerland. **Honors:** Dean's List.

## BIO

To give a broad overview, I have more than twenty-three years of legal experience, much of which involves water law.

Since 2002, I have managed my own law firm in Durango, Colorado, where my main emphasis is in representation of governmental entities. I am the Town Attorney for the Town of Mancos (since 2005) and for the Town of Ignacio (since 2014). I am general counsel to the Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County (since 2014), general counsel to the Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (since 2011), and general counsel to the Ignacio Library District (since 2014). I am one of two municipal court prosecutors for the City of Durango (since 2013). I am general counsel duties to the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (since 2006). I have served as special counsel to the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe and to the San Carlos Apache Indian Tribe for various projects over the years. I also represent private clients in a wide variety of cases and matters, including water matters.

I am familiar with local government law and operations including TABOR, taxation, Colorado Open Meetings Law, Colorado Open Records requirements and Colorado Budget law. A large part of my practice is reviewing and drafting board policies, contracts, MOU's and IGA's. I have litigated numerous matters on behalf of my governmental entity clients. I also advise them in regard to claims and potential claims involving employment matters, and personnel policies.

I am a past President of the Southwest Colorado Bar Association. I served on the Board of Governors to the Colorado Bar Association. I am a member of the Colorado Bar Fellows, a part of the Colorado Bar Foundation. I am admitted to practice in state and federal courts in Colorado, as well as the Southern Ute Tribal Court and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Court. I am a member of the Colorado Municipal League.

Prior to opening my law office in Durango, CO, I was general counsel to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the largest employer in Montezuma County. That position brought me to Southwest Colorado from the Front Range. I worked in the position for approximately 3 years, from 1999-2001. There, I represented the Tribe through its Tribal Council on all matters, represented the Tribe's business entities, and directed the Tribe's legal department and special counsel.

Immediately prior to that, I was an assistant City Attorney for the City of Thornton focusing on water rights in the Platte River basin.

Prior to that, I worked for MacDougall Law Office, an AV rated law firm in Colorado Springs practicing water rights in the Arkansas River and Rio Grand River water basins. There, we represented water users including cities and towns (i.e. Castle Rock, Monument, Olney Springs, Victor), the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District (which manages the Trinidad Project), several special districts, unincorporated and incorporated water associations, municipalities, ditch companies, a well owners association (Colorado Water Protective and Development Association), and a broad spectrum of ranchers, farmers, developers, and individuals in both transactions and litigation matters. I orally argued before the Colorado Supreme Court in a water case, winning a

decision that allows owners of exempt wells standing to seek protection from injury in water rights applications, reversing the water court's decree. *See Application of Turkey Canon Ranch Ltd.*, 937 P.2d 739 (Colo. 1997). There, I also served as an El Paso County Land Use Planning Commissioner for several years.

I am a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law. During law school, I clerked at the Native American Rights Fund and at the National Indian Law Library. During law school, I also worked as a legal assistant at the Natural Resources Law Center. I also interned at the National Wildlife Federation's Rocky Mountain Resource Clinic. I am a graduate of Colorado College, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Sincerely,

David Liberman, Manager  
Law Office of David Liberman LLC  
1099 Main Avenue, Suite 312  
Durango, CO 81301  
Telephone Number (970)375-6265  
Fax Number (970) 375-2350  
E-mail [dliberman@animas.net](mailto:dliberman@animas.net)