



GETCHES-WILKINSON CENTER

**for Natural Resources, Energy, and
the Environment at Colorado Law**

GWC Advisory Council



Peter Nichols

Partner

Berg, Hill, Greenleaf, and Ruscitti, LLP

Peter Nichols practices water law, water quality law, environmental law, and land and water conservation law. In addition to water law and water quality issues, Peter has particular expertise in the federal Clean Water Act and water rights, conservation easements involving water rights, and the temporary use of agricultural irrigation water rights to meet municipal needs.

Peter serves as special counsel to the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District on water and agricultural conservation, and as special counsel to the Lower Arkansas Valley Super Ditch Co., Inc., on water leasing for municipal use. He formerly served as general counsel to the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Ground Water Management District.

He has also handled water rights and environmental matters for numerous municipalities, including Woodland Park, Monte Vista, Saguache, Crestone, and Ouray, energy companies, such as Puckett Land Company and Thermo Power, industrial entities, such as Emerson Electric/Micro Motion, mining companies Gold Links Mining and the Revenue Virginius Mine, as well individual farmers and ranchers, among others.

Recent and present conservation clients of Peter's include Mesa Land Trust, Yampa Valley Land Trust, Colorado Open Lands, Aspen Valley Land Trust, Pitkin County, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and the Colorado Water Trust.

Peter served as special assistant attorney general to Colorado and New Mexico in national litigation involving the Clean Water Act, e.g., *Miccosukee Tribe of Indians v. So. Florida Water Mgmt. Dist.*, 541 US 95 (2004). He also represents western water users in these matters, including the National Water Resources Association, Western Urban Water Coalition, Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Boulder, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, East Bay Municipal Water District, Salt Lake & Sandy Metropolitan Water District, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority, among others.

Peter is an avid climber, skier and cyclist, as well as a former (and still occasional) international mountaineering guide.