

LAW WEEK COLORADO

Lawyers *of the* Decade



CALL US CRAZY. *Law Week* recently set out to recognize a handful of Colorado lawyers as “Lawyers of the Decade,” a fool’s errand, given the plethora of high-quality candidates to be considered. But we had help. After we gathered dozens of nominations from *Law Week* readers, we were aided by a selection panel that consisted of three current or past chairs of the Denver Bar Association’s Seniors Committee: **Don McMichael, Bob Fullerton and Jim Bayer.** McMichael practiced for many years as a trusts and estates lawyer. Fullerton, a former Denver District Court judge, received the DBA’s judicial excellence award in 1987. Bayer, a respected family law attorney, has practiced for decades with Bayer & Carey. With their help, and knowing that others could come up with a list of 10 different but equally deserving lawyers, we decided upon **Rich Baer, Michael Burg, Stacy Carpenter, Steve Farber, Cole Finegan, Jim Lyons, John Moye, Jim Mulligan, Michael O’Donnell and C. Jean Stewart.** Photo by **Jamie Cotten.**

Jim Mulligan

By **Ali McNally**
LAW WEEK COLORADO

DENVER — Everyone knows Jim Mulligan, or rather, Jim Mulligan knows everyone.

That’s what most people say about the longtime Denver real estate attorney. The legal community, politicians and business leaders alike have lauded Mulligan’s work in Denver over the past decade — first for Fairfield and Woods and now for Snell & Wilmer.

“He has a great reputation that if you’re going to be the governor in the state of Colorado, you’re going to wind up running into him,” said former Gov. Bill Ritter.

Mulligan initiated a platform for Ritter’s New Energy Economy and bringing jobs to Colorado through business.

“We talked a lot one Easter Sunday,” Ritter said. “Although it was a religious holiday, Jim and I were under the gun to think about what to do next with Pinnacle (Assurance, the state workers compensation insurer of last resort). And we talked for hours on a Sunday about that. He’s very diligent, and his advice was always sound.”

Of his most recent accomplishment was the acquisition of the old 432-acre StorageTek campus in Louisville for an alternative energy research and training center for Fortune 10 company ConocoPhillips. Much of the search and acquisition process, occurring in 2007 and 2008, required a high level of anonymity until the deal’s closing in 2008, said Perry Pearce, manager of state government affairs for ConocoPhillips.

“He understands the sensitivity and the complexity of significant real estate developments that contribute so much to Denver’s economic future and he is very adept at providing advice to his clients,” Pearce said. “He understands the needs of the communities, regulatory agencies,



the municipal regulators’ needs and he understands the needs of businesses. He’s able to coordinate them to guide companies through the complexities of real estate transactions.”

An opening date has not been set as ConocoPhillips is still in the planning process for the property’s development. But the center could employ about 7,000 people when finished.

“We believe it’ll be what we hope is a world-class addition to the Denver community when it’s done,” Pearce said.

Mulligan had a hand in much of the economic development of the Denver

metro area within the last decade particularly in the area of affordable housing. He lead a team in creating sustainable community governance for the proposed Horizon Uptown master planned community, a LEED-ND certified Pilot community to be located on the intersection of Interstate 70 and the E-470 tollway. His other projects include the Broadway Plaza Lofts in downtown Denver, several housing developments in Stapleton and the redevelopment of the Denver Dry and Mercantile Square buildings along the 16th St. Mall.

Mulligan is also active in the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Metro

Denver Economic Development Corp., and he is a past chair of the Aurora Economic Development Council. Members of the business community call him a “great door opener” for the business and political communities.

“From a personality standpoint, he has been able to create and maintain really strong relationships with a very broad section of the community,” said John Shaw, president of Denver real estate company McWhinney. “That goes from Gov. [John] Hickenlooper down to people who are just starting out in real estate.” •

— Ali McNally, AMcNally@CircuitMedia.com