

Snell & Wilmer



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Main Bio

Bill Staudenmaier has been practicing water law and natural resources law for more than 30 years. He focuses on acquiring and protecting water rights for industrial, municipal and agricultural water users. Bill's water law practice involves representation of clients in general stream adjudications, negotiation of contracts for transfers of water rights, obtaining permits and approvals from state and federal regulatory agencies, and drafting, negotiating and lobbying concerning state and federal water resources legislation.

Bill represents large water users in both pending general stream adjudications in Arizona (Gila River and Little Colorado River), including appellate representation on issues relating to the rights of groundwater users and tribal water rights. Bill also represents clients holding contractual rights to Colorado River water, assisting those clients in securing, protecting and defending their rights in negotiations, administrative matters, and litigation. Bill also advises clients with interests arising under a number of interstate water compacts.

Bill represents private and public sector clients in negotiations to settle a variety of Indian water right claims, including the Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement, the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Agreement, The Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement, and ongoing negotiations to settle the claims of other Tribes in Arizona. In addition, he represents private and public entities in transactions to secure water supplies, including negotiation of long-term water supply contracts for major industrial facilities, water supply contracts for golf courses, and contracts to acquire water rights for municipal and private development purposes.

Representative Experience

- Representation of multiple groundwater users in trial court and appellate court proceedings regarding legal standards affecting the right to pump groundwater.
- Representation of multiple clients in negotiations to resolve the claims of Indian tribes and the federal government based on federal reserved water rights doctrine, and ongoing representation of clients regarding implementation of multiple settlements.
- Negotiations to secure water supply agreements for numerous large industrial facilities in multiple sectors.
- Representation of clients in permit acquisition from state agencies for underground water storage, assured water supply, well drilling, and groundwater withdrawal authorizations.

- Appellate representation of clients in federal court concerning Colorado River and other interstate water issues.
- Representation of clients in resolving enforcement proceedings before state regulatory agencies.
- Due diligence review of water rights and water supply agreements in transactions involving industrial, mining, ranch, and mixed use development properties in multiple states.
- Conducted due diligence regarding water rights and water supply agreements for resort and golf course properties across multiple western states.
- Secured water rights and water delivery agreement for private golf club located in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- Negotiated amended water supply agreement for resort and golf course in Phoenix, Arizona to secure more competitive water pricing.
- Conducted due diligence review of existing water and wastewater agreements for transaction involving multiple hotel properties across Arizona.

Education

- University of Michigan Law School (J.D., magna cum laude, 1987)
 - Order of the Coif
- University of Wisconsin (B.S., Forestry and Soil Science, with distinction, 1983)
 - Dean's List

Professional Memberships & Activities

- Western States Water Council
 - Representative for State of Arizona (2002-2020)
 - Legal Committee, Chair (2004-2010)
- American Bar Association
 - Section of Environment, Energy and Resources,
 - Water Resources Committee
- State Bar of Arizona
 - Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section
 - Executive Council (2002-2005)
- Colorado River Water Users Association
- Water Reuse Association of Arizona
- Maricopa County Bar Association
 - Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section
- Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
 - Water Policy Committee, Chair (2005-2008)
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Board of Visitors

Representative Presentations & Publications

- ["The Law of the Colorado River: An Opportunity for Change,"](#) Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (May 23, 2023)
- ["Arizona's In-State Surface Water Resources: Appropriable Water Fosters Economic Development,"](#) Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (May 16, 2023)
- ["Arizona Groundwater Supplies: More Than a Drop in the Bucket, Problems and Solutions for Policymakers,"](#) Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (May 9, 2023)
- ["As an Excellent Winter Transitions to an Uncertain Spring, How Secure Are Arizona's Water Supplies?"](#) Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (May 1, 2023)
- "The Water-Energy Nexus," Presenter and Panel Moderator, Energy Bar Association, Western Chapter Annual Meeting (2023)
- ["EPA Issues Guidance Concerning Coronavirus and Drinking Water,"](#) Author, S&W Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (March 16, 2020)
- ["Pinal Active Management Area Stakeholders Address Projected Water Deficit,"](#) Author, S&W Environmental, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas Law Blog (January 10, 2020)
- Western Governors' Association Drought Forum, Workshop on Drought Impacts and Solutions in the Manufacturing, Mining and Industrial Sectors, Panelist (2014)
- "Navigability and the Public Trust Doctrine – History, Legal Standards, and Recent Developments in Arizona," Presenter, Arizona Water Law Conference, CLE International (2012, 2013, 2014)
- "Interstate Water Compacts – Legal and Environmental Challenges," Presenter, Bloomberg BNA Webinar (2014)
- ["Interstate Water Compacts: The Supreme Court Once Again Endorses State Sovereignty Over Water Resources,"](#) Author, Bloomberg BNA's Water Law & Policy Monitor, (June 26, 2013)
- "Tribal Water in the Southwest – New Legal and Policy Developments, Sovereignty, Settlements and Opportunities," Conference Co-Chair and Presenter, Law Seminars International (2013)
- "PPL Montana v. Montana," Presenter, American Bar Association teleconference (2012)
- "Water Rights and Trading – Southwest Regional Summit: Tribal Water Rights, Settlements and Marketing," Presenter, WestWater Research and American Water Intelligence (2012)
- "Negotiating Indian Water Right Settlements," Presenter, Symposium on the Settlement of Indian Reserved Water Rights Claims (2011)
- "Water for Natural Gas Storage Facilities," Presenter, Water and Energy Law Conference, Law Seminars International (2011)
- "Securing and Protecting Water Rights in an Ever-Changing Real Estate Environment," Presenter, Snell & Wilmer Real Estate Series (2011)
- ["Water Requirements for Utility-Scale Concentrating Solar Power Facilities: Are We Robbing Peter to Pay Paul?,"](#) Author, ABA Natural Resources & Environment, Volume 25, Issue 4 (Spring 2011)
- "Water Law Issues for Nuclear Power Generation," Presenter, NEI Lawyers Committee Meeting, Nuclear Energy Institute (2010)
- "Water Requirements for Power Plants," Presenter, ABA Section of Public Utilities, Communications and Transportation Annual Meeting (2009)
- "Securing Water Supplies for Electric Power Generating Facilities," Presenter, Energy in the Southwest Conference, Law Seminars International (2008)

- "Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction - The Continuing Search for the Elusive Subflow Zone," Presenter, Lorman Education Services (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)
- "Water Right Transfers in Arizona - An Overview of Legal Issues and Trends," Presenter, Lorman Education Services (2008, 2009, 2010)
- "Federal Indian Water Right Settlement Policy - A State Law Perspective," Symposium on the Settlement of Indian Water Right Claims (2007)
- "[Between a Rock and a Dry Place: The Rural Water Supply Challenge for Arizona](#)," Author, Arizona Law Review, Volume 49, Issue 2, pp. 321-338 (Summer 2007); Presenter, Arizona Water Law and Policy Symposium (2006)
- "Water in the West - Identifying, Evaluating and Securing Water Rights for Businesses in the Western United States," Moderator and Speaker, American Bar Association Teleconference (Spring 2006)
- "[Water and the law: A guide to what matters](#)," Author, Business Law Today, Volume 15, Issue 4 (March/April 2006)
- "[Arizona Groundwater Law](#)," Author, The Water Report, Issue 33 (November 15, 2006)
- "The Right to Pump Percolating Groundwater in Arizona," Presenter, CLE International (2006)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- The Best Lawyers in America[®], Energy Law, Environmental Law, Real Estate Law, Water Law (2007-2023)
 - Phoenix Lawyer of the Year, Environmental Law (2022)
 - Phoenix Lawyer of the Year, Water Law (2013)
- Arizona's Top Lawyers, Energy and Natural Resources, AzBusiness Magazine (2014)
- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business[®], Environment (including water rights) (2007-2018, 2020-2022), Energy & Resources (2019)
- Southwest Super Lawyers[®], Energy & Natural Resources (2007-2020)

Previous Professional Experience

- Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, Associate and Shareholder (1998-2009)
- Arizona Public Service Company, Senior Attorney (1992-1998)
- Arizona Department of Water Resources, Deputy Counsel (1990-1992)
- Streich, Lang, Weeks & Cardon, Associate (1988-1989)
- Federal District Court, District of Colorado, Law Clerk for Hon. Richard P. Matsch (1987-1988)

Bar Admissions

- Arizona

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Arizona
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court, District of Arizona
- United States Supreme Court