



James S. Witwer

James Witwer is the 2018–19 chair of the *Colorado Lawyer* advisory board. He has served on the board since July 1, 2014.

PROFILE

Hometown: Greeley, Colorado

Law School: University of Colorado

Lives in: Denver

Works at: Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP

Practice Area(s): Water, Eminent Domain, Public Land

CBA Member Since: 1990

Describe yourself in five words.

Curious, Steady, Chatty, Loyal, Messy.

Why did you become a lawyer?

My dad (Stow L. Witwer, Jr. of Greeley) is one. He's spent a lifetime helping others in his work; I wanted to try to do the same.

What's the best advice you've ever been given?

From Dad: Just because you know something is not a good enough reason to share it with others. (Still working on that.)

What is one of the most positive experiences you've had as a lawyer?

Helping a pro bono client defend title to the only road that ran straight up to his old mountain home. His need was urgent, the case was contentious, and the issues were novel. I sent opposing counsel champagne when the clients settled.

What do you like the most about your practice area?

Water lawyers are a collegial if nerdy bunch. Nearly all realize that we will see one another again, probably soon and with the shoe on the other foot. That dynamic encourages professionalism and practical solutions.


What do you wish you had learned in law school?

Administrative law; it's a dry topic but very much a part of my practice, and it's how we organize government at all levels.

What is your favorite place to escape to in Colorado?

The family ranch near Kersey.

If you weren't a lawyer, you'd be:

A high school drama teacher. 

Do you know a CBA member who should be featured in Under Oath? Email nominations to Brendan Baker at bbaker@cobar.org.