

DEBBIE LEONARD

Leonard Law, PC · 955 S. Virginia Street, Suite 220 · Reno, Nevada 89502
775-964-4656 (o) · debbie@leonardlawpc.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

ATTORNEY, Leonard Law, PC, Reno, Nevada (6/19 - present)

Lawyer practicing primarily in the areas of natural resource, land and water law, with a focus on appellate practice. Represent private sector and public agency clients in federal and state courts and in regulatory and administrative proceedings in California and Nevada.

Areas of Experience:

Water rights permitting and compliance	Interference actions	Groundwater management planning
Water purchases, sales and leasing	Forfeiture and abandonment	Conjunctive management
Water permit extensions and cancellations	Mitigation water rights	Quiet title and condemnation
Protests to water appropriations	Interbasin transfers	Geothermal facilities
Water adjudications	Federal reserved rights	Clean Water Act
Basin water budgets	Mineral interests and split estates	Active and former shooting ranges
Water curtailment	Easements and rights of way	Open Meeting Law and Public Records Act
Reclaimed water	Trespass	
Anti-speculation doctrine	Public lands	
	Trans-boundary water disputes	
	Public trust doctrine	

MEDIATOR AND NEVADA SUPREME COURT SETTLEMENT JUDGE (1/13-present)

Serve as a mediator and court-appointed settlement judge, mediating all manner of conflicts to help parties negotiate mutually agreeable solutions. Use a combination of evaluative and facilitative techniques, as appropriate, to resolve disputes.

ATTORNEY, McDonald Carano LLP, Reno, Nevada

(Associate 10/03-12/09, Partner 1/10-5/19)

Practiced primarily in the areas of natural resource, land water and administrative law. Advised and litigated on behalf of public entity and private sector clients. Co-chair, McDonald Carano Appellate Practice Group.

JUDICIAL CLERK, The Honorable David W. Hagen, United States District Court, District of Nevada, Reno, Nevada (9/02-9/03)

Prepared memoranda to aid judge in disposition of civil and criminal cases. Assisted judge during trials and evidentiary hearings.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Dean John Dwyer, Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall) (1/01-2/02)

Researched, supplemented, updated cases, and edited a manuscript of Environmental Law and Policy textbook. Researched and drafted legal memoranda on Clean Water Act issues.

SUMMER ASSOCIATE, Woodburn and Wedge, Reno, Nevada (5/00-8/00; 5/01-8/01)

Researched and drafted memoranda and motions primarily in water law.

LAW CLERK, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, San Francisco, CA (8/00-12/00)

Researched and drafted legal memoranda on land use, public agency and municipal law, water quality, and air quality issues. Assisted with document review and other discovery matters.

SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

National Marine Fisheries Service, Juneau, Alaska (2/92-9/93)

Performed field sampling in ongoing studies of petroleum contamination from Exxon Valdez oil spill and in anadromous fish genetics research. Prepared mussel and sediment samples for hydrocarbon analysis. Researched marine organisms as biological indicators of pollution. Edited manuscripts and grant proposals.

FISHERIES TECHNICIAN

United States Forest Service, Quinault, Washington (6/90-5/91)

Performed stream surveys to assess salmonid habitat condition and availability. Snorkeled streams to perform fish population estimates. Performed feasibility study on potential stocking project for cutthroat trout.

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Limnology Laboratory, University of Wisconsin, Madison (summer 1989)

Performed lake sampling for water quality parameters and plankton population assessment.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SCIENCE TEACHER

Mission Hill Junior High School, Santa Cruz, California (12/98-6/99);

Delta School, Santa Cruz, California (9/97-8/98)

Developed and implemented science curricula that included laboratory and field classes for middle and high school students. Contributed to program development and curriculum oversight.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Biology Department, University of California, Santa Cruz (9/95-6/97)

Taught discussion sections in Introductory Biology, Microbiology, and Physiology courses. Tutored students in scientific writing protocols and procedures.

NATURALIST

San Lorenzo Valley School District, Felton, CA (8/94-8/95)

Hidden Villa Environmental Ed Program, Los Altos Hills, CA (9/93-6/94)

Taught field classes in botany, horticulture, ecology, and zoology.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BERKELEY LAW, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BOALT HALL)

Juris Doctor with Certificate in Environmental Law (2002)

Activities: ECOLOGY LAW QUARTERLY, Associate Editor (8/00-5/02); Member (8/99-5/02)

Awards: Jurisprudence Award, Water Law
Prosser Award, Secured Real Estate Transactions
Winner, 2002 Landis Writing Award in Water Law
Honorable Mention, 2002 Doolin Sovereignty Symposium writing competition

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

M.A. Education, June 1997

California Secondary Teaching Credential in Science

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON

B.A. Zoology (Honors), May 1991

Class Standing: 64/3274, GPA: 3.887

Member, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Honors thesis: *Production Potential of Cutthroat Trout in Two Streams on the Olympic Peninsula*

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE: Nevada 2002, California 2003

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRAINING:

- 37th Water Law Conference, ABA Section of Energy Environment and Resources (2019)
- Nevada Water Law Conference, CLE International (2017)
- Water Law Bills from 2017 Nevada Legislature (2017)
- Water Resources Management, Science and the Law, Law Seminars International (2016)
- California Land Conservation Conference, California Council of Land Trusts (2016)
- National Land Conservation Conference, Land Trust Alliance (2015)
- Environmental and Natural Resources Law Update, State Bar of Nevada (2014)
- National Land Conservation Conference, Land Trust Alliance (2014)
- Ethics Issues Arising From Environmental and Natural Resources Issues (2014)
- National Land Conservation Conference, Land Trust Alliance (2012)
- Hot Topics in Environmental and Natural Resources, State Bar of Nevada (2012)
- National Environmental Policy Act, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (2010)
- Nevada Water Law, CLE International (2009)
- Nevada Water Law Super Conference (2008)
- Renewable Energy in the Pacific Northwest, Law Seminars International (2007)
- Watershed Planning Using the EPA Draft Handbook, Lorman Education Services (2007)
- Litigating Takings, Georgetown University (2007)
- 22nd Water Law Conference, ABA Section of Energy Environment and Resources (2004)
- Colorado River Super Conference, CLE International (2004)

PUBLICATIONS

- *Appellate Briefs* column, The Writ, Washoe County Bar Ass'n (Dec. 2013–present, bi-monthly)
- *Nevada District Court Vacates State Engineer's "Superbasin" Order* - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (May 2022)
- *Nevada State Engineer Amends Procedures for Managing Groundwater Appropriations to Protect Devils Hole Pupfish* - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (March 2022)
- *Nevada State Engineer Establishes Interim Procedures for Managing Groundwater Appropriations*

- to Prevent Capture of Humboldt River Water and Conflicts with Surface Water Users - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (January 2022)*
- *U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Declares First-Ever Water Shortage for the Colorado River, Mandating Reduced Deliveries to the States of Arizona, Nevada and to Mexico - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (October 2021)*
 - *Upon Petition of Chief Justice Hardesty, the Nevada Supreme Court Establishes a Commission to Study Water Rights Cases and Determine if a Water Court System is Advisable - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (May 2021)*
 - *Nevada Supreme Court Upholds the State Engineer's Prohibition on Domestic Well Drilling in Pahrump Basin - Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (March 2021)*
 - *Nevada Legislation Update: Water-Related Bills on Tap for 2021 Legislative Session, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (December 2020)*
 - *Nevada Supreme Court Answers Certified Questions from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Regarding the State's Public Trust Doctrine, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (October 2020)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Engages In Proposed Major Rulemaking Effort, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (July 2020)*
 - *Southern Nevada Water Authority Does Not Appeal Denial of Groundwater Applications for Las Vegas Pipeline, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (May 2020)*
 - *Nevada State District Court Orders the Denial of Southern Nevada Water Authority's Groundwater Applications for Las Vegas Pipeline, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (April 2020)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Uses Modern-Day Technology to Determine Historical Water Duties in Adjudications, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Mar. 2020)*
 - *Groundwater-Surface Water Conflicts in Nevada's Humboldt River Basin Prompt Litigation and a Large-Scale Hydrogeologic Modeling Effort, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Feb. 2020)*
 - *One Nevada County Proposed the Novel Idea of Exporting Excess Floodwaters, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Dec. 2019)*
 - *Nevada Supreme Court May Continue to Exercise Equitable Powers Over Water Rights Matters, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Oct. 2019)*
 - *Water Purchased by Walker River Basin Restoration Program in 2010 Finally Reaches Walker Lake After Years of Court Delays, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Sept. 2019)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Approves Long-Sought Water Permits for Molybdenum Mine by Allowing Mitigation of Conflict With Existing Rights, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (July 2019)*
 - *Nevada Supreme Court Follows Colorado's Lead Regarding Anti-Speculation Doctrine, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (June 2019)*
 - *Banner Year Snowpack Does Not Necessarily Yield Reservoir Storage in Nevada, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (May 2019)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Issues Order to Conjunctively Manage Surface Water and Groundwater Within Sizeable Area of Southern Nevada, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (March 2019)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Approves First-of-its-Kind Groundwater Management Plan, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (. 2019)*
 - *Nevada State Court Reverses Nevada State Engineer's Prohibition on Domestic Well Drilling in Pahrump Basin, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (Jan. 2019)*
 - *Nevada State Engineer Denies Southern Nevada Water Authority's Groundwater Applications for Las Vegas Pipeline, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (October 2018)*
 - *Nevada Supreme Court Accepts Certified Question from the Ninth Circuit Regarding Application of Public Trust Doctrine to Adjudicated Water Rights, Western Water Law & Policy Reporter (August/Sept. 2018)*
 - *State Groundwater Management and Federal Reserved Rights: What's Next?, ABA Water Resources Committee Newsletter (2018)*
 - *Can You Get Appellate Review In The Middle Of Your Case?, Nevada Business Magazine (co-authored November 2016)*
 - *Taking The Mystery Out Of Writ Practice, Nevada Lawyer Magazine (co-authored March 2016)*

- *Court Clarifies Realty Agent Responsibility*, Northern Nevada Business Weekly (September 24, 2012)
- *Unresolved Water Law Issues Should Encourage Engineering Innovation in Renewables*, Power Engineering Magazine, Vol. 115, No. 11 (November 2011)
- *Doctrinal Uncertainty in the Law of Federal Reserved Water Rights: The Potential Impact on Renewable Energy Development*, 50 NAT. RES. J. 612 (2011)
- *Legal Tools to Protect Access to Solar and Wind Resources*, Nevada Lawyer (July 2009)
- *Does Cap and Trade Lie Ahead for Nevada?*, Northern Nevada Business Weekly (June 1, 2009)
- *Economic Benefits of a Rideable Truckee Meadows*, Reno Gazette Journal (2005)
- *Water Issues on Tap for Legislative Session*, Northern Nevada Business Weekly (January 17, 2005)
- *Workplace Chemical Rules Get a New Look*, Northern Nevada Business Weekly (July 26, 2004)
- *Beyond Reserved Rights: Tribal Control over Groundwater Resources in a Cold Winters Climate*, 28 COLUM. J. ENVTL. L. 326 (2003)
- *In Brief: Arizona Supreme Court Designates Reservations as Permanent Homelands and Adopts a Balancing Approach to Quantifying Reserved Rights*, 29 ECOLOGY L.Q. 449 (2002)
- *Note: Pronsolino v. Marcus*, 28 ECOLOGY L.Q. 327 (2001) (analyzing TMDL implementation and enforcement)

PRESENTATIONS

- *Review of Nevada Appellate Courts Civil Law Opinions*, Nevada Judicial Summit (May 2022)
- *Effective Communication & Conflict Resolution*, University of Nevada's Career Explorations: Women in STEM Series (2021)
- *Review of Nevada Appellate Civil Law Opinions*, Nevada District Judges Conference (April 2021)
- *Strategies to Resolve Basin-Wide Water Conflicts*, Nevada Water Law Conference, Reno (November 2017)
- *Freeing Up Water for Economic Growth and Development: Water Conservation and the Anti-Speculation Doctrine*, Conference on Water Resource Management and the Law in Nevada, Reno, Nevada (May 2016)
- *Mediating Conservation Disputes*, California Land Conservation Conference, Los Angeles, California (March 2016)
- *Nevada's New Appellate Landscape*, State Bar of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada (December 2015)
- *Mediating Conservation Disputes*, Land Trust Alliance Rally, Sacramento, California (October 2015)
- *The Court of Appeals*, First Judicial District Bar Association, Carson City, Nevada (February 2015)
- *Everything You Need To Know About The Court of Appeals*, Washoe County Bar Association, Reno, Nevada (February 2015)
- *Trust and Estate Appeals In The Court of Appeals And Beyond*, Washoe County Probate Bar Association, Reno, Nevada (January 2015)
- *Mediating Conservation Disputes*, Land Trust Alliance Rally, Providence, Rhode Island (Sept. 2014)
- *Advanced Topics in the Practice of Appellate Law*, Washoe County Bar Association, Reno, Nevada (April 2014)
- *Water Law Update*, State Bar of Nevada, Reno, Nevada (February 2014)
- *Hot Topics in Water Law*, State Bar of Nevada, Reno, Nevada (November 2012)
- *Carbon Cap and Trade*, Rotary Club, Reno, Nevada (September 2009)
- *Nevada Water Law Basics*, Reno, Nevada (December 2007)

Leadership and Service

Editor, Nevada Appellate Practice Manual (2016 and 2018 editions)

Chair, Nevada State Bar Appellate Litigation Section (2013-2014)

Lawyer Representative, U.S. District Court (2015-2018)

Former Contributing Editor, Western Water Law and Policy Reporter

Contributing Author, The Writ, Washoe County Bar Association

Volunteer Mediator and Arbitrator, Nevada State Bar Fee Dispute Panel

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
 - Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (Alternative Dispute Resolution and Water Committees)
 - Council of Appellate Lawyers, Judicial Division's Amicus Committee
- Federal Bar Association
- State Bar of Nevada (Chair, Appellate Litigation Section 2013-2014; Member-at-Large, Environment and Natural Resources Section)
- State Bar of California
- Washoe County Bar Association

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated
- Ranked by Best Lawyers and *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Law Firms," tier 1 and metropolitan rankings
- Named One of Northern Nevada's Top Attorneys (2020, 2021)
- Reno-Tahoe Top Twenty Under 40 award (2008)
- Northern Nevada Woman of Achievement (2005)

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English (fluent)
- Spanish (working knowledge)