



Legal Ethics in Water and Environmental Law November 13, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 1580 Logan St. Ste 700

8:30 a.m. Registration

8:40 a.m. Introduction

8:45 a.m. Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct: Ethical Principles and Obligations for Water Lawyers
Stephen H. Leonhardt, Attorney, Burns, Figa, & Will, P.C.

9:35 a.m. Break

9:50 a.m. Conflicts of Interest in Water Law Practice
Cynthia Covell, Attorney, Alperstein and Covell, P.C.

10:35 a.m. Ethical Obligations and Principles for Engineers Serving as Experts
Janet Williams, P.E., Senior Project Manager and Chairman of Leonard Rice Engineers

11:05 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. A Panel on Hypothetical Problems
Stephen H. Leonhardt and Cynthia Covell

12:30 p.m. Adjourn

Stephen H. Leonhardt

Stephen H. Leonhardt is a shareholder with the law firm of Burns, Figa & Will, P.C., in Greenwood Village. He works primarily in water law, as well as environmental and governmental law and related litigation and appeals. Mr. Leonhardt represents public agencies and private parties on a variety of water and governmental matters. Mr. Leonhardt grew up in Colorado Springs and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis (B.S.C.E. with honors, 1982) and Stanford Law School (J.D., 1985). He has spoken and written articles on water law issues, and on the initiative and referendum process in Colorado. Mr. Leonhardt was a member of the Ethics Committee of the Colorado Bar Association from 1988 to 1996, and lectures frequently on issues of legal ethics.

Cynthia F. Covell

Cynthia Covell, co-founder and shareholder of Alperstein & Covell P.C. graduated from the University of Colorado in 1974 and from the University of Denver, College of Law in 1977. Her practice emphasizes water rights matters, representing municipalities, non-profit organizations, individuals and businesses in the acquisition, transfer, sale, change and adjudication of water rights and water supplies, and in administrative proceedings regarding water matters. Ms. Covell has been a member of the Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee since 1986, has chaired that committee, and is a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct. She is also a member of the Colorado Supreme Court's Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee, and a member of the Court's hearing board panel for disciplinary cases. Ms. Covell lectures frequently on ethics matters, particularly as they relate to water and natural resource water law practices.

Janet Williams

Janet P. Williams, P.E., has always been fascinated with water - the stuff we swim in, ski on, paint pictures of, and derive life from. She is the Board Chair and Sr. Project Manager with Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. (LRE), where she provides consulting engineering services regarding water rights and water resources matters. Janet has worked at LRE since 1982, except for some time off to focus on her kids (and teach some piano lessons). Her expertise includes water resources planning and management, water rights evaluations, historical use analyses, development of plans for augmentation, litigation support including expert testimony for water court proceedings, water demand projections, hydrologic analyses and yield studies, water system operations modeling, water rights appraisals, and assisting clients with water right acquisitions. She has served a variety of clients, including municipalities, special districts, ditch companies, state governments, developers, industrial water users, private entities, and individuals.

Janet is registered as a Professional Engineer in Colorado and Wyoming and has been certified as an expert witness by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) in water rights and water resources. She has served as an expert witness in a number of water court trials. She participated for 6 years on the ACEC/Colorado Expert Witness Certification Committee, which provided ethics training and promoted ethical standards in engineering expert witness services.

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