

John E. Putnam

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Summary

- Environmental regulator and transportation attorney with over 27 years' experience
- Currently lead State of Colorado's environmental regulatory programs
 - Direct reports from Air Pollution Control Division, Water Quality Control Division, Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division, Environmental Health and Sustainability Division, and Colorado Air Quality Enterprise
 - Report to Executive Director and Governor's Office
 - 500+ FTE, approximately \$100 million budget
 - Manage policy, budget, strategy, communications, and operational issues for environmental regulatory programs; primary voice of environmental programs at Legislature, with local governments and for the press.
 - *Ex officio* Commissioner on Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Natural Resource Damages Trustee, and member of Climate Cabinet.
- In previous legal practice, represented states, counties, cities, and electricity producers on complex transportation, environmental, and energy problems
 - Managing partner of law firm with more than \$10 million of revenue, 30 attorneys and offices nationwide.
 - Litigated in federal and state trial and appeals courts.
 - Counseled elected governing bodies and non-elected professional staff.
- Core strengths in climate change, Clean Air Act, NEPA, environmental justice, transportation regulation

Professional Experience

- Director of Environmental Programs, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (2019-current). Major outcomes include:
 - As part of three-person steering committee, led development and implementation of the State of Colorado's GHG Emissions Reduction Roadmap to reduce GHG emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and 90 percent by 2050.
 - Responsible for rulemakings adopting Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate, oil and gas emissions, PFAS standard guidance, GHG inventory, ozone State Implementation Plan and other rulemakings.
 - Worked with utilities and other stakeholders on plans to accelerate coal plant retirements for three utilities; working on the utility with the remaining coal-fired plants.
 - Led development and implementation of State PFAS Action Plan, including coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation on securing release-free AFFF testing equipment at all Part 139 airports in Colorado.

- o Supported Department and State SARS-CoV-2 response efforts, especially on critical infrastructure sector issues (including transit, trucking, CDOT, pipelines and aviation). Led development of wastewater epidemiology program to track COVID incidence changes in wastewater. Worked with FAA Airports District Office to address concerns about applicability of public health orders to aeronautical activities.
- o Successfully secured legislation in difficult fiscal environment to double oil and gas permitting and enforcement, as well as funding for PFAS response efforts (including an AFFF take back and replacement program).
- o Secured state legislation to address PFAS use in airport hangars, triple fines for violations of environmental regulations, and promote environmental justice.
- o Developed new Department environmental justice programs and initiatives crossing media and regulatory programs.
- o Secured funding from Legislature and enforcement matters for expansion of state investment in basic air quality science, including the creation of the Colorado Air Quality Enterprise and investment in next-generation monitoring tools.
- o Oversaw settlement of the largest clean-air settlement for a single source, including community-derived supplemental environmental project program in environmental justice community.
- o Coordinated with the Department and Attorney General's Office to modernize budgeting and managing of legal services.
- o Oversaw effort to improve fiscal reporting and performance for environmental programs.
- o Responsible for managing budgets subject to stress from the pandemic and coordinating with Division Directors to maintain operations despite revenue declines and cash sweeps.
- o Responsible for programs' continuity of operations, transition to remote operations and safe field inspections/operations during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Commissioner, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (2019-current)
 - o Part of Commission that completely overhauled Colorado's oil and gas regulations to shift from fostering the oil and gas industry to regulating to protect public health, safety, the environment and wildlife
 - o As both commissioner and point of contact for CDPHE, developed nationally leading rules on environmental justice, climate, and air and water quality for the oil and gas industry.
 - o Promulgated nationally leading rules on flowlines and wellbore integrity
- Managing Partner, Partner, and Co-Founder, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP, Denver, CO (2003-2019)
 - o Led transportation and environmental boutique law firm of 30 attorneys and just under 50 total staff with revenues of over \$10 million. Prior to becoming managing partner, managed financial, insurance and benefits issues as general partner.

- o Led expansion of innovative transportation finance and public private partnerships practice.
- o Added offices in New York, Boston, and Northern California
- o Represented range of public and private entities on complex transportation environmental and regulatory issues, including
 - Managed integration of environmental review and P3 processes for Central 70 project in Denver for the Colorado Department of Transportation.
 - Led litigation defense for Central 70 and negotiated settlement agreement.
 - Litigated City of Phoenix challenge to FAA airspace changes at PHX and subsequent resolution with FAA.
 - Represented airport proprietors, local governments, and transit agencies in Denver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Westchester County, Seattle, Florida, and elsewhere on NEPA, conformity, noise, and other environmental/regulatory issues.
 - Represented the City of Minneapolis in litigation and settlement of noise issues at MSP.
 - Represented airports nationwide on grant assurance, revenue, airspace, intermodal, and other regulatory issues.
 - Represented wind industry in defense of renewable portfolio standards against Commerce Clause challenges.
 - Represented solar industry and other power generators in public utilities commission proceedings and settlements.
 - Represented local governments and provide parties in environmental regulatory and litigation matters.
- Partner and Counsel, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, Denver, CO (2000-2003); associate Attorney, Cutler & Stanfield, Denver, CO (1996-2000) (acquired by Akin Gump)
 - o Similar practice to Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell
- Associate Attorney, Kirkland & Ellis, Washington, D.C. (1994-1996)
 - o Represented automobile and engine manufacturers and trade association in motor vehicle emissions regulation, litigation and enforcement matters
- Judicial Law Clerk, Hon. David M. Ebel, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (1993-1994)

Community Service

- Chairperson and Member, Regional Air Quality Council (2009-Present)
 - o Responsible for State Implementation Planning for Denver Ozone Nonattainment Area
 - o Included transportation conformity budget setting and mobile source program recommendations.
- Chairperson and Member, Planning Board for City of Boulder (2013–2018)
- Co-Founder and Chairman, Partners for Rural Improvement and Development in Ethiopia (2005–Present)
- Co-Founder and Vice President, Team Colorado Whitewater Racing Club (2012–Present)

- Member, Environmental Steering Committee and PFAS Task Force, Airports Council International – North America (2011–Present)
- Chairman and Trustee, Open Space Board of Trustees, City of Boulder (2008–2013)
- Chairman, Subcommittee on Aviation and Climate Change, United States Transportation Research Board (2007–2012)
- General Accountability Office Expert Panel, Air Traffic Control: Experts' and Stakeholders' Views on Key Issues to Consider in a Potential Restructuring (2016)
- General Accountability Office Expert Panel, FAA Airspace Redesign, An Analysis of the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Project (2008)
- Member, Committee on Developing an Environmental Design Tool, National Research Council (2003–2005)
- Secretary and Member, Committee on the Environmental Effects of Aviation, United States Transportation Research Board (2002–2012)
- Chair and Member, City of Boulder Environmental Advisory Board (2002–2007)

Education

- J.D., University of Chicago Law School (1993)
- B.A., Political Economy, Williams College (1990)
- High School Diploma, Doherty High School, Colorado Springs, CO (1986)