

# Dawn Meidinger

## Partner

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Phoenix – 602.735.2697



Dawn is an established mining attorney.

Dawn has represented clients seeking a variety of use authorizations, including exploration and mine plans of operation, special use permits, rights of way, and grazing leases. Many of those matters require working with federal and state agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the Arizona State Land Department. In the natural resources law sector, Dawn has multidisciplinary experience permitting mining, renewable energy and linear projects, and handling all aspects of NEPA, NHPA, and ESA compliance for those initiatives.

She especially enjoys working with the high-caliber professionals in the mining industry, including some of the finest environmental managers and engineers in the field. As an experienced environmental attorney, she diligently shepherds projects forward for her clients, many of which span the course of years, to ensure plans come to fruition. An advocate for the importance of mining and minerals in our daily lives, Dawn has broad transactional experience related to due-diligence exercises, land use planning, earn-in, farm-out and joint venture agreements in conjunction with the developments of mineral exploration targets, and ground leases or purchases for solar facilities.

## Select Experience

- Involved in numerous project permitting efforts on Federal, state and private land for mining, development and renewable energy clients.
- Participated on advance teams for the acquisition of two separate major mining companies. Provided oversight and direction on due-diligence review and had an active role in post-acquisition integration of operations.
- Lead in-house counsel on two substantial BLM land exchanges for Fortune 500 mining company. Provided oversight of participation in NEPA process and subsequent administrative and judicial appeals.
- Assisted mining and development clients in navigating NEPA processes, Section 7 consultations under the Endangered Species Act, obtaining federal rights of way on

## Education

- Arizona State University - Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (J.D., 1996)
- Arizona State University (B.S., Justice Studies, 1990)
  - *cum laude*

## Bar Admissions

- Arizona

BLM and Forest Service lands and cultural resources (NHPA) compliance and consultation.

## Professional Affiliations

- Member, Arizona Mining Association
- Member, American Exploration & Mining Association
- Member, State Bar of Arizona
- Board of Directors, Arizona Mining Association, 2016-2018
- Member, Canada Arizona Business Council, 2013-2018
- Trustee, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 2003-2006, 2016-2018
- Appointed to serve as a representative of the mining industry on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Teams for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
- Appointed by Arizona's Governor Hull to serve as Commissioner for the Arizona Water Protection Fund, 2000-2006

## Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Environment, Arizona, 2019-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America®*, Lawyer of the Year
  - Mining Law, 2019, 2024, 2026
  - Energy Law, 2023, 2026
- *Best Lawyers in America®*, Energy Law, Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, Mining Law, 2016-2024, 2026
- *The International Who's Who* of Mining Lawyers, 2014-2018
- Most Influential Women in Arizona, 2017

## Additional Information

- Chair, Mining Program, 65th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute Summer Conference, RMMLF, July 2019
- Co-author, "Preliminary Agreements," *Mining and Minerals, A Practical Guide to the Life Cycle of a Mining Project, Global Law and Business*, 2018
- Speaker, "Public Lands in the Trump Administration," State Bar of Arizona 2018 Annual Convention, June 27, 2018
- Quoted, "Most Influential Women: Dawn Meidinger, Fennemore Craig," *AZ Big Media*, August 6, 2017
- The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation paper, *Mining Due Diligence*