

Sharena Smith

Associate

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Denver – 303.352.1107

Sharena is a trusted legal strategist who focuses her practice on all aspects of real estate, including renewable energy real estate transactions, purchase and sale, leasing, development, and finance matters.

Sharena is known for delivering forward-thinking counsel and results-driven solutions across a wide range of complex transactions. She represents developers of solar, wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and conventional energy projects, guiding them through every phase of development with clarity and confidence, from negotiating critical land rights—such as leases, easements, and crossing agreements—to overseeing the purchase and sale of energy assets.

Her practice also involves advancing the business goals of developers, national banking institutions, private lenders, nonprofit organizations, equity investors, and real estate investment trusts. Whether structuring multi-party financing arrangements or resolving intricate title, permitting, or land use issues, she brings discipline, diligence, and deep subject-matter knowledge to every matter.

Sharena negotiates and drafts a wide array of critical documents—purchase and sale agreements, lease agreements, deeds, mortgages, construction contracts, loan and intercreditor agreements, and more, all with her clients' needs in mind. She also has experience navigating tax-incentivized transactions involving Renewable Energy Tax Credits, New Markets Tax Credits, and Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Her meticulous due diligence work ensures her clients are positioned for success in even the most complex legal landscapes.

Recognized by Best Lawyers as “One to Watch” in Real Estate Law in Colorado for three consecutive years, Sharena is regarded as a rising leader in the evolving real estate market.

Select Experience

- Represented a not-for-profit cooperative power supplier in the purchase of a 110 MW

Education

- University of Denver, Sturm College of Law (J.D., 2013)
 - Recipient, Margarete E. Schmaltz Endowed Scholarship, 2012 – 2013
 - Recipient, Robert Merle Johnson Endowed Scholarship, 2012 – 2013
 - Recipient, Sam Cary Endowment Fund (Academic Scholarship), Fall 2011
 - Recipient, Robert B. Yegge Scholarship (Full-Tuition Academics Award), 2010 – 2011
 - Business Law Society, Vice President, 2011 – 2012
 - Corporate Governance and Law Blog, “Race to the Bottom,” Contributor, 2012 – 2013
- University of California,

solar energy project for \$175 million.

- Represented a not-for-profit cooperative power supplier in the purchase of a 145 MW solar energy project for \$200 million.
- Represented renewable energy developers in the purchase of battery storage projects in Utah.
- Assisted client in a \$185 million asset exchange with another entity, which was an NYSE-listed energy master limited partnership (MLP) managed by an affiliate of the client.

Clerkships

- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, Honorable Wiley Y. Daniel, 2012–2012

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Inclusive Romance Project – Mentee, 2023
- The Write Team Mentorship Program – Mentee, 2023
- Life Art/Dance Ensemble — Board Member, 2018-present; Secretary, 2019-present
- Nonprofit Legal Audit Clinic — Volunteer Attorney, 2014-present
- Denver Young Professionals Financial Literacy Book Club — Organizer, 2021-2023
- Lawyers in the Classroom — Volunteer, 2019-2022
- Colorado Poverty Law Project — Volunteer Attorney, 2019-2022
- Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) of Denver — Member, 2017-20
- Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking — Board Member, 2017
- Jewish Family Service of Colorado — Assisted a Holocaust survivor with obtaining a Victims of War and Post-War Oppression reparation pension from the Polish government, 2015

Accolades

- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- We The Action, Amicus Mundi Award, 2025
- Contributed more than 50 Diversity & Inclusion hours, 2024
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, "Ones to Watch," Real Estate Law, 2022-24
- Black In House Counsel, "Think Like a GC" Senior Associate Program Honoree, 2023
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), Pathfinder Honoree, 2022
- Colorado Chamber of Commerce, EXECs Advocacy Leadership Program Honoree, 2021

Languages

- English
- Spanish

Additional Information

- *Coming to the Neighborhood: Colorado Passes New HOA Laws*, Real Estate Transactional and Real Estate Litigation (Co-Author, 2022).
- *Changes to Title and Survey Diligence Insurers Don't Want to Miss*, Insurance Thought Leadership Initiative (Co-Author, 2021).

Santa Cruz (B.A., Business Management Economics and Legal Studies, 2008)

- International Scholar Laureate Program Delegation Nominee, 2006
- E.O.P. Certificate for Academic Excellence, 2005
- Academic Study Program in Washington, DC, Spring 2008

Bar Admissions

- Colorado

- *Inaugural Colorado Diversity, Equity & Inclusion CLE Event*, Colorado Diversity Collective (Co-Presenter, 2021).
- *Sarafin v. BioMimetic: Statements without Scienter are not Fraudulent*, Race to the Bottom - Corporate Governance blog (Contributor, 2013).
- *In re Fannie Mae: Potentially Negligent Behavior and Failure to Understand are not Evidence of Scienter*, Race to the Bottom - Corporate Governance blog (Contributor, 2012).
- *Directed Verdict/Judgment as a Matter of Law*, Colorado Courtroom Handbook for Civil Trials (Co-Contributor, 2011).

Select Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, Associates 101: What I Wish I Knew as a Junior Associate, National Association of Women lawyers, April 2026