

## Fennemore Craig Grows in Denver via Construction Law Combination

July 22, 2025 By  **Jon Campisi**

### What You Need to Know

- The Second Hundred firm continues its expansion in the U.S. West by combining with construction law boutique Galvanize Law.
- The combination will add a team of eight new lawyers and three legal professional's to Fennemore's Denver office.
- The combination comes two months after Fennemore combined with Arizona employment firm BurnsBarton.



James Goodnow (left) and Kate Strauss. Courtesy photos



Am Law Second Hundred firm Fennemore Craig, which [in May combined with an Arizona employment firm](#), is continuing to widen its presence in the western United States, announcing a combination Tuesday with Denver-based construction law boutique Galvanize Law.

Fennemore says the move will expand its construction capabilities in the mountain and western region and reinforces the firm's long-standing presence in Colorado, where it already has an existing office that will soon be home to a new team of Galvanize attorneys.

Construction remains one of Colorado's most prominent industries, and the combination will deepen Fennemore's litigation bench and broaden its advisory services at a time when clients need "forwarding-thinking legal partners," said Fennemore CEO James Goodnow.

"When we look at our strategic planning efforts, we're always trying to determine what are the practice areas that have significant growth potential. Where's their high client need?" Goodnow said in an interview. "Just take a look at the cityscape around Denver, where you see cranes every which way, and there's a lot of construction happening. So, as we look to sectors, parts of the economy where we think there's going to be a lot of activity, a lot of client need, construction was at the top of that list."

The landscape of the construction industry is also evolving—facing rising land, water and material costs, entitlement delays and skilled labor shortages, even as population growth, infrastructure investment and energy sector acceleration drive long-term demand, the firm stated in a news release.

The firm said that in Colorado, and more specifically in the city of Denver, construction disputes represent a "pressure point in the market."

Goodnow said the two firms hit it off almost immediately and were encouraged by an "immediate spark in terms of how we view the legal world."

"They are very forward-thinking," Goodnow said of Galvanize Law, a fully-women owned firm. "They realize that we're in a world of change right now, and they want to be on a platform with like-minded people to really take client service to the next level. We're super excited about this, and as we continued conversations over the months, we just saw more and more of a great fit."

After the combination, Fennemore will have about 350 lawyers in offices across six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Texas and Washington.

A total of eight attorneys and three legal professionals will be coming over to Fennemore post-combination, said Kate Strauss, one of the founding partners at Galvanize.



Galvanize's lawyers are currently licensed to practice law in six states, yet Strauss said Colorado, and Denver specifically, will be a main focal point moving forward.

"Part of the Fennemore [combination], of course, is to allow us to broaden the western footprint for our clients," Strauss said in an interview.

During her initial introductory call with Goodnow, Strauss expressed a desire to combine with another firm that also values team culture, "where everybody is supported and has the resources they need to practice."

"There was literally a twinkle in James's eyes as I'm telling him all these things about Galvanize," she said. "He did a great job in our following conversations, just demonstrating to me how much that is also the Fennemore culture."

January Allen, another Galvanize founding partner, said her firm had never before considered combining with any other firm, but, because of Strauss's recommendation, "and her indications that this was a cultural fit really allowed us to explore these conversations."

"We're really excited to find that fit and to have the opportunity to provide expanded legal services to our clients," Allen said.

Fennemore's Denver office managing partner, Tami York, referenced an invitation to Strauss extended by Goodnow to attend a firm retreat, an event where Strauss was really able to get a feel for Fennemore and its lawyers.

"It's because we believe that integration starts the day you start the conversation, not the day that everyone is an employee," York said. "Our integration with the Galvanize team started months ago, and I've had many meetings with Kate and January and those are only going to accelerate and continue over the next few months."

Fennemore says that after the combination, Galvanize clients will now have access to a full-service platform that includes labor and employment law, succession planning, insurance counsel, mergers and acquisitions and outside general counsel services.

As for the construction focus, York said she expects the Galvanize team to offer "such depth and expertise in the construction industry, and for construction professionals, we're already servicing that industry, but this is just going to give us more depth and agility to face and help guide our clients and their clients with the challenges that they are facing."

York said construction professionals often need immediate responses to pressing legal guidance and counsel, and the combination of the two firms will "allow us to even be more immediate than we have been."

Strauss said firm clients include large subcontractors, smaller general contractors, architects and engineers.

“What we’re excited for is to be able to bring additional practice areas to them that we would usually refer outside of Galvanize,” she said.

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