



KOLE W. KELLEY
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Good.
Jocko Willink



KOLE W. KELLEY

Kole advises clients in the agriculture, natural resource, water, and advanced energy industries related to complex farm and ranch management, employment, real property, and regulatory issues. From his experience sorting cattle and throwing irrigation tubes, to helping clients solve farm and ranch, title, survey, mineral, and water issues, Kole brings a practical approach to developing legal project strategies; navigating the federal, state, and local permitting processes; and monitoring the ongoing governmental rulemakings that impact his clients' projects.

Kole provides general counsel services to agriculture and oil and gas clients, advises clients through mining and oil and gas transactions, solves title questions, provides water rights counsel, and helps clients navigate public lands law. Kole has experience representing clients before the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission, and Colorado Water Court, drafting oil and gas development plans, and assisting clients as they navigate implementing solar energy projects. Kole's knowledge extends to regulatory matters across the Rocky Mountain West.

With a drive to make a meaningful impact, Kole actively volunteers on several non-profit boards, including the Leadership, Policy, and Governance Foundation, Colorado Junior Swine Association, the Colorado Farm Bureau, and the Douglas County Farm Bureau.

Outside of the legal field and volunteering, Kole can be found overanalyzing a fantasy football lineup, rooting on the Colorado Avalanche, shoveling pig pens on his family's ranch, or at a livestock show with a focus on making the next generation better.

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Denver Sturm College of Law

B.S., Adams State University

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Agribusiness

Natural Resources

Advanced Energy

Water Law

AWARDS AND HONORS

Best Lawyers in America[®], Ones to Watch, Energy Law, Natural Resources Law, Real Estate Law, 2026

Denver Business Journal, Leaders in Agriculture, 2025

Denver Business Journal, Who's Who in Agriculture, Water Resources Law, 2021

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, "Legislative Update: Colorado and Federal Developments Impacting Agriculture," Colorado Bar Association, June 2, 2026

Presenter, "[Understanding Colorado Surface Water and Groundwater Rights: Agricultural Water Use](#)," HalfMoon Education Inc., December 17, 2025

Interview, "[Kole Kelley | Succession Planning](#)," Farm Broadcaster, Lorrie Boyer, June 13, 2025

Co-Author, "[Cross collaboration among Denver and Nogales lawyers fuels agribusiness knowledge, seeds positive culture and client relations](#)," Fennemore Blog, March 10, 2025

Featured, "[Announcing the 2025 Leaders in Agriculture awards program honorees](#)," Denver Business Journal, March 1, 2025

Co-Author, "[Denver voters reject slaughterhouse and fur ban initiatives](#)," Fennemore Blog, December 11, 2024

Co-Author, "[Economic Realities if Colorado Amendment 309 is Adopted](#)," Fennemore Blog, November 1, 2024

Co-Author, "[Business Contracts in 2025: Straightforward Answers for Nuanced Situations](#)," Fennemore Blog, August 14, 2025

Author, "[Supreme Court Ruling Narrows Scope of Clean Water Act: Kole Kelley Shares Insights on Navigating the Murky Legal Waters](#)," Fennemore Blog, July 10, 2024

Presenter, "Administrative Law Outlook in Agriculture," Elite Leadership Academy, Colorado Farm Bureau

Co-Author, "Energize Denver: Moving toward a more sustainable Denver," *Colorado Real Estate Journal*, December 2023

Author, "The Renewable Revolution: It's a Race to the Top," *Firm Blog*, October 2023

Leadership, Policy and Governance Leadership Academy (2023)

Co-Author, "WOTUS: The Water Definition Battle That Defines the Nation," 46 MITCHELL HAMLIN L. REV. 76, (2019).

Colorado Farm Bureau Elite Leadership Academy (2020)

Author, "New Rules in the Land of Cool Sunshine," 21 DENV. WATER L. REV. 271, *Case Note* (Spring 2018).

Author, "Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World" 21 DENV. WATER L. REV. 271, *Book Note* (Spring 2018).

Guest Lecturer, "Water Law in the West," University of Arkansas Honors College Signature Seminar Series and L.L.M. in Agriculture and Food Law program (2018).

Guest Lecturer, "What's Next in Colorado Water Law," Adams State University Agribusiness program. (2018).

Author, "A Tough Economic Choice for Water Rights Holders in the San Luis Valley," DENV. WATER L. REV. *Blog Post* (Mar. 7, 2016).

Author, "House Bill 16-1005 (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 37-96.5-101)" 20 DENV. WATER L. REV. 119, (Fall 2016).

Author, "Najas Realty, LLC v. Seekonk Water Dist." 20 DENV. WATER L. REV. 138, (Fall 2016).

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Member, Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training program

Chair (2025-Present), Vice-Chair (2021-2025), Colorado Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee

Chair, Colorado Bar Association Agricultural and Rural Law Section, 2024-Present

President, Colorado Junior Swine Association, 2023-Present

President, Douglas County Farm Bureau, 2023-Present

Board Member, Leadership, Policy, and Governance Foundation, 2023-Present

Co-Board of Governors Representative – Colorado Bar Association Agricultural and Rural Law Section, 2024-Present

Member, Colorado Farm Bureau Membership Task Force, 2024-Present

Member, Colorado Livestock Association, 2024- Present

Member, Action Colorado, 2023-Present

Vice-Chair, Agricultural and Rural Law Section, Colorado Bar Association, 2022-2024

Board Member, Colorado Junior Swine Association, 2022-2023

Presidential Selection Committee, Adams State University , 2023

University of Denver Water Law Review, Editor-in-Chief, Volume 22, 2019

ADMISSIONS

Colorado