



RHETT A. BILLINGSLEY

Director

Natural Resources

Phoenix

P: 602.916.5486

F: 602.916.5686

rbillingsley@fennemorelaw.com

RHETT A. BILLINGSLEY

Rhett Billingsley is a director in our natural resources, energy, and environmental law practice group, where he specializes in the areas of water and environmental law. He has 20 years of experience helping municipal, residential development, agricultural, industrial, energy, and mining clients develop practical solutions to water resource and environmental permitting issues. Rhett has successfully represented clients in both the public and private sector, including serving as outside counsel to Fortune 500 companies and working as in-house counsel with the Central Arizona Project.

Rhett has extensive experience in all areas of water law, including Arizona's assured and adequate water supply programs, due diligence investigations and acquisition and permitting of surface water and groundwater rights (including Colorado River and Central Arizona Project entitlements), well sharing agreements, water conservation and drought planning, underground water storage and recovery permitting, federal and Indian reserved water rights, subflow issues, representing clients in the Gila River General Stream Adjudication and other complex water litigation, and drafting and lobbying water resources legislation.

Rhett also helps clients with permitting and compliance issues under numerous state and federal environmental programs, including the Endangered Species Act, the [Clean Water Act](#), and the National Environmental Policy Act ([NEPA](#)).

Rhett loves spending time with his family, paddleboarding, mountain biking, backpacking in the Arizona wilderness, and playing guitar and writing original indie rock music.

EDUCATION

J.D., Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, *summa cum laude*

B.S., Arizona State University, *summa cum laude*

Order of the Coif

AREAS OF PRACTICE

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Indian Law

Natural Resources

Mining Law

Water Law

AWARDS AND HONORS

Best Lawyers in America[®], Mining Law, 2023-2025

Best Lawyers in America[®], Environmental Law, Water Law, 2013-2025

Chambers USA, Leading Lawyers for Business, 2021-2026

Southwest Rising Stars[®], Energy and Natural Resources, 2012-2016

AV[®] Preeminent[™] Peer Review Rated (the highest rating available), by Martindale-Hubbell

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Author, "[Groundwater Regulation in Rural Arizona in Flux](#)," Arizona Attorney, February 2025

Featuring, "Top 10 Arizona Water Rights Lawyers Influencing Environmental Law in 2023," Business Today, July 14, 2023

Author, "Clarification Sought from Arizona Supreme Court on Applicability of Forfeiture Laws to Pre-1919 Water Rights," *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Water Law Newsletter, Vol. LII, No. 2*, 2019

Speaker, "Water is for Fighting (and Creative Compromises): International and Interstate Water Issues in North America," Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, May 2018

Speaker, "Arizona Water Rights, Sales, and Transfers," Lorman Webinar, April 2016

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Arizona Reporter, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Water Law Newsletter, 2018-Present

Programs Co-Chair, State Bar of Arizona, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section, Member, 2005-Present; Executive Council, 2011-2016

Board of Directors, Men's Arts Council of the Phoenix Art Museum, 2010-2015

Member, American Bar Association, Mining Committee, Co-Chair, 2009-2010; Chair, 2010-2012, Water Resources Committee, Vice Chair, 2012-2013

ADMISSIONS

Arizona

U.S. District Court, District of Arizona