

Cole Finegan

Regional Managing Partner
Denver

Biography

For more than 30 years, Cole Finegan has focused his practice on working locally and nationally with businesses and governmental entities to create and expand public-private partnerships. He has represented clients in regulatory, land use and development, and legislative and public policy law.

Cole's efforts led *Law Week Colorado* to recognize him as "Lawyer of the Decade" and "Lawyer of the Year" for 2013. He was also named one of the most influential people in Denver by *5280* magazine in its feature "The 5280 Fifty." *Best Lawyers in America* has also honored Cole as the "Denver Municipal Lawyer of the Year" (2016).

Prior to joining Hogan Lovells, Cole served both as Denver's City Attorney and Chief of Staff to Mayor John Hickenlooper. During his tenure as City Attorney, Cole reorganized the office of 100 lawyers for the first time in 20 years, saving the city more than US\$1 million by cutting outside legal services and expanding the city's capabilities to try its own cases.

As Chief of Staff, he led the successful campaign to change Denver's charter to add a Chief Financial Officer and to modernize the city's 100-year-old financial services structure. Cole's passion for community service has kept him involved in almost



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Practices

Administrative and Public Law

Government Contracts

Government Relations and Public Affairs

Infrastructure, Energy, Resources, and Projects

Real Estate

Industries

Energy and Natural Resources

Real Estate

TMT

Diversified Industrials

every major private-public partnership in Denver, including the redevelopment of Stapleton Airport, the Gates Rubber Company facility, and most recently Denver Union Station.

Cole also served both as Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Policy and Initiatives for Colorado Governor Roy Romer from 1991 to 1993. He handled the governor's legal matters, advised the governor on judicial appointments, and supervised a policy development staff of 60 working on economic, environmental, health care, energy, telecommunications, transportation, and education policy issues.

From 1978 to 1986, Cole worked as a legislative aide and Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative James R. Jones of Oklahoma, who chaired the U.S. House of Representatives' Budget Committee from 1981-1985.

Awards and rankings

- Top Lawyer - Government Relations, Contracts, and Lobbying, *5280*, 2015-2020
- Acritas Star, *Acritas Stars Independently Rated Lawyers*, 2018-2020
- 500 Leading lawyers list, *Lawdragon*, 2017
- Municipal Law, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2010-2019
- Denver Municipal Law, Lawyer of the Year, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2016
- Colorado Super Lawyers, 2007-2009, 2012-2018
- People's Choice Government Lawyer, *Barrister's Best, Law Week Colorado*, 2009-2017
- Lawyer of the Year, *Law Week Colorado*, 2013
- Lawyer of the Decade, *Law Week Colorado*, 2011
- The 50 Most Influential People in Denver, *5280*, 2010-2011

Areas of focus

Tax Legislation and Policy

Privacy and Cybersecurity Public Policy Counseling and Advocacy

Education and admissions

Education

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1986

B.A., University of Notre Dame, 1978

Memberships

Past Board Member, Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce

Past Board Member, Teach for America

Member, Colorado Forum

Past Board Chair, Downtown Denver Partnership

Past Board Member, The Denver Foundation

Bar admissions and qualifications

Colorado

District of Columbia (inactive)

Registered Foreign Lawyer, England and Wales

Accolades

Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells Adds Leading Real Estate Finance Lawyer Ana Tenzer in Denver
- Media Mention
 - Developmental Drivers *Law Week Colorado*
- Media Mention
 - The Therapist Down the Hall *Law Week Colorado*
- Media Mention
 - Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation to Celebrate 30-Year Anniversary *Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation*
- Published Works
 - Global 20: Hogan Lovells *Law360*
- Published Works
 - Ritter's former firm right pick *The Denver Post*

"I instantly felt a sense of trust. We had four great years — he did a great job for us. There is no swagger, no arrogance, but a quiet confidence."

Governor John Hickenlooper

"I think he's got more political wisdom than almost anyone I can think of in Colorado. What I have prized most from him over the years is his judgment and his gentle relentlessness."

Senator Michael Bennet
