

STEVE SILVERMAN

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Boulder, Colorado

■ SUMMARY

35 years of experience in agriculture, natural resources, and environmental law and policy at the highest levels of federal and state government.

■ EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Colorado School of Law **2024-Present**

- Course: "Animal Welfare, Animal Rights, and Human-Animal Relationship"

Adjunct Professor of Law, Sturm College of Law at University of Denver **2022-Present**

- Course: "Agriculture, Food Systems and Environmental Law"

Deputy Commissioner, Colorado Department of Agriculture **2019-2022**

- The No. 2 official at CDA. Oversaw all Department operations, including a staff of 300 employees, a budget of more than \$50 million, and 9 divisions that administer several dozen programs that support farmers, ranchers, and agriculture throughout the State of Colorado.

Professorial Lecturer in Law, George Washington Univ. Law School **2017-2019**

- Seminar: "Agriculture, Food Systems, and Environmental Law"

Director, National Appeals Division (NAD), USDA (Washington, DC) **2014-2019**

- Appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack to lead an independent USDA agency that adjudicates administrative appeals involving farm, conservation, and rural development programs.
- Oversaw a nationwide staff of 90 employees, an annual budget of \$15 million, and the issuance of thousands of appeal determinations resolving disputes involving USDA programs.
- Under my leadership, Secretary Vilsack recognized NAD as a transforming force for change.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General/Acting Chief of Staff to Assistant AG Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), USDOJ (Washington, DC) **2012-2014**

- Obama Appointee.
- As Deputy AAG (2012-2014): Oversaw litigation related to defending EPA's rulemaking, including regulations to limit emissions of greenhouse gases.
- As Chief of Staff (2012-2013): Advised AAG on all operations of ENRD (a division comprised of 650 attorneys and support staff personnel), including budget, personnel, media, policy, internal and external relations, tribal issues, and litigation and settlement of major cases, such as the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill case in the Gulf of Mexico.

Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel, USDA (Washington, DC) **2009-2012**

- Obama Appointee and top legal official of largest civilian department in the United States Government for 18 months (2009-10).
- Directly provided legal counsel to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Sub-Cabinet members.
- Worked closely with senior officials at the White House, USDOJ, federal and state agencies and Members of Congress.
- Oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Office of the General Counsel of USDA, a nationwide organization of nearly 300 employees.

Regional Attorney and Acting Deputy Regional Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, USDA Mountain Region, Denver, Colorado **2001-2009**

- Managed four legal offices in Denver, Ogden, Missoula and Albuquerque.
- Oversaw all legal matters involving USDA agencies in the Mountain states, including the Forest Service, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Pollution Control Attorney **1997-2001**
Office of the General Counsel, USDA, Denver, Colorado.

Senior Attorney and Trial Attorney (Honors Program) USDOJ, Environmental Enforcement Section, ENRD, Washington, D.C. **1986-1997**
(Senior Attorney 1994-1997; Trial Attorney 1986-1994)

- Litigated and supervised environmental enforcement actions against polluters under all federal environmental statutes, including large-scale and complex federal lawsuits under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Special Assistant United States Attorney **1991-1992**
United States Attorney's Office, Washington, D.C.

Judicial Law Clerk **1986-1987**
Judge Pamela Ann Rymer, United States District Court for the Central District of California

Legislative Correspondent/Research Assistant **1983**
Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan

■ **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Colorado Food Systems Advisory Committee **2019-2021**
Advises the Governor on policies to strengthen healthy food access for Coloradans.

Colorado Agriculture Commission (Ex Officio) **2019-2022**
Advises the Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture on the state of the agriculture industry.

Colorado Extension Advisory Council **2019-2022**
Advises Colorado State University Extension Services

■ **EDUCATION**

Stanford Law School, J.D., 1986

- Graduated with Distinction (top 15% of the class)
- Fellow, Stanford Public Interest Law Fellowship (SPILF). Awarded a SPILF grant in 1986 to combat human rights abuses in South Africa during the apartheid era.

Princeton University, B.A., 1983

- Awarded degree from the Woodrow Wilson School for Public & International Affairs
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- Member of Phi Beta Kappa Society

■ SIGNIFICANT CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Leading the Colorado Department of Agriculture through the unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic to support of the State's farmers, ranchers and agricultural providers and to ensure a sufficient and safe food supply produced in the State of Colorado.
- Transformed the USDA National Appeals Division into a premier administrative appeals organization with record employee satisfaction in leadership and agency mission.
- Led the USDA Office of the General Counsel successfully during an 18-month period of transition.
- Key member of the United States' settlement negotiation team in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill case.
- Integrally involved in formulating the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule, which restored key environmental protections and protected species diversity.
- Led efforts at USDA to negotiate landmark civil rights settlements of class actions lawsuits involving African American, Native American, Hispanic and women farmers.
- Led efforts to culturally transform USDA's Office of the General Counsel into a modern, rewarding workplace environment that embraces diversity and provides equity of opportunity.
- Lead attorney for numerous significant environmental enforcement cases between 1987 and 2009. Key achievements include:
 - o Negotiated a \$100 million settlement requiring groundwater remediation by electronics at a Superfund site in the Silicon Valley.
 - o Led enforcement actions against Marine Shale Processors (Louisiana), which was the nation's largest hazardous waste incinerator but possessed no permit to operate.
 - o Secured a record-breaking civil penalty pursuant to the Resource Conservation Recovery Act from Sanders Lead Company (Alabama).
 - o Negotiated numerous multi-million dollar clean agreements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) for remediation of large Superfund sites.

■ HONORS AND AWARDS

Recipient of 23 awards from USDA, USDOJ, EPA and other organizations, including:

- Nominated and accepted into the Denver Business Journal's "Who's Who in Agriculture" in 2020
- Two Secretary's Honor Awards (the highest award conferred at USDA)
- Two Special Achievement Awards from the Attorney General of the United States
- Two Special Recognition Awards from the Chief and Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service
- Numerous awards from the USDA General Counsel