

# **ROBERT C. WIDNER**

## **WIDNER JURAN LLP**

### **EDUCATION**

B.A., Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 1984

J.D., University of Kansas School of Law, Lawrence, KS, 1989

Staff Member, Kansas Law Review

M.U.R.P., Master of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Colorado, Denver, CO, 1992

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Widner is a founding partner of the law firm of Widner Juran LLP in Centennial, Colorado. His legal practice has consistently focused upon local government representation with a special emphasis in land use planning law. His particular specialty involves the drafting of zoning, subdivision, growth management, and other regulatory tools to implement and accomplish the goals and objectives of communities' comprehensive and master plans.

Mr. Widner serves as the City Attorney for the City of Centennial. Founded in 2001, Centennial is one of the larger municipalities in the State of Colorado and the Denver metropolitan area. Mr. Widner is responsible for all aspects of Centennial's legal needs and supervises and coordinates the services of the attorneys of Widner Juran, as well as specialized outside counsel, in the delivery of legal services to Centennial.

Prior to forming Widner Juran, Mr. Widner was an associate (1989-1999) and partner (1999-2004) with the Denver law firm of Gorsuch Kirgis LLP. His experience derived from more than 27 years of representation of local governments includes serving as the city or town attorney for the municipalities of Cherry Hills Village, Arvada, Lyons, Hot Sulphur Springs, and the county attorney for Park County, Colorado. In addition, Mr. Widner has provided special project advice and counsel on land use and regulatory projects for the municipalities of Lakewood, Loveland, Crested Butte, and Fort Collins, and the Lowry Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Widner has drafted municipal ordinances addressing a variety of land use and local government topics, including sexually oriented business regulation, growth management programs, zoning and land subdivision, sign regulation, and initiative and referendum. Mr. Widner's more specific project experience includes:

- Advice, counsel and drafting of local regulations and moratoria to govern Colorado's medical marijuana business industry and defense litigation protecting the right to ban medical marijuana dispensaries.
- Drafting of the City of Centennial's sexually oriented business ordinance which included a substantial role in the oversight of extensive and controversial public hearings, media appearances, and public relations to explain the need and purpose behind the City's regulatory program.
- Drafting the lot merger ordinances to eliminate antiquated substandard lots and multiple overlapping mining claims that impede reasonable use of property.
- Drafting of adequate public facilities/concurrency ordinances to regulate the timing of land subdivision and development concurrent with the availability of adequate public facilities.
- In association with a variety of land use planning firms such as URS Corp., BRW, Inc.,

and RNL Design Inc., the preparation of comprehensive or master plans for the Town of Lyons, Colorado; City of Montrose, Colorado; City of Salida; and Lawrence County (South Dakota).

- Advising a resort community in the creation of a comprehensive plan, development moratorium, housing and open space studies, and devising a growth management implementation strategy to address pressures resulting from rapid growth.
- Drafting of a larger city telecommunication siting ordinance to regulate the location and design of telecommunication facilities for cellular and commercial mobile radio services. Mr. Widner's ordinance has been widely used within Colorado as the template for other community's telecommunication siting programs.
- Advising the Lowry Economic Redevelopment Authority in the comprehensive planning and site design for the rezoning and redevelopment of the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Widner drafted the *Lowry Community Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions* and, working with the national planning firm of Sasaki Associates, prepared the *Lowry Community Design Guidelines* to regulate commercial, industrial, and residential redevelopment of the former military base.
- Litigation and appellate court briefing of Boulder County's successful defense of its county-wide rezoning of property which resulted in the 1991 Colorado Supreme Court decision titled *Jafay v. Boulder County Board of County Commissioners*.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

Mr. Widner is an adjunct professor of law with the University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, Colorado (Land Use Law; 2013 to present). He has served as an adjunct faculty instructor at the University of Colorado at Denver, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning.

He serves on the 5-member advisory Amicus Curiae Board for the Colorado Municipal League in advancing municipal interests in the state and federal appellate courts. He is a co-author of the first edition of "*Colorado Land Planning and Development Law*" published by the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association. Mr. Widner was elected on state-wide vote of members to the position of the Vice President of the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA/Colorado) and previously served as editor of *Planning Matters*, the newsletter for APA/Colorado. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Widner is a frequent speaker at professional conferences, local government training sessions, and citizen education academies throughout Colorado.

## **SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Fellow, International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) (2015 to Present)

Member, Executive Board of the Colorado Municipal League (CML) (2015 to Present)

1999 Outstanding City Attorney awarded by the Colorado Metropolitan City Attorney's Association.

AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. (Preeminent Competency; Highest Ethical Standards)

## PUBLICATIONS

"The Privileged Posse: Protecting the Attorney-Client Privilege When Dealing With Third-Party Contractors," Journal of Local Government Law, International Municipal Lawyers Association, September/October 2015.

Co-Author with Tami A. Tanoue, "Ethics, Liability & Best Practices Handbook for Elected Officials" published by the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), 2013.

"Basics of Variances" Planning Commissioners Journal (No. 50, Spring 2003).

"Understanding Spot Zoning" Planning Commissioners Journal (Vol. 13, Winter 1994).

"Long Arm of Uncle Sam: Federal Environmental Issues in Siting Decisions" 7 Natural Resources & Environment 9-15 (American Bar Association, Section on Natural Resources and Environmental Law, Winter 1993).

Contributing Author, Colorado Land Planning and Development Law, 4th Edition, published by Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association (D. Elliott ed. 1992).

"Supporting Municipal Impact Fee Ordinances: A Kansas Perspective" 37 Kansas Law Review 621-655 (1989).

Assisted in drafting and editing of Public Lands and Natural Resources Law, a two volume legal treatise authored by George C. Coggins and published by Clark Boardman, New York (1990) (special recognition given by author in treatise Preface).