



Sarah M. Stevenson Shareholder

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Related Practices

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

Environment

Water Rights and Water Quality

Litigation

Appellate

Commercial

Native American Law

Economic Development

Energy and Resources

Tribal Law and Courts

Related Industries

Business in Indian Country

Energy

OVERVIEW

Sarah Stevenson is a shareholder in the Natural Resources Department and a litigator representing public entities and private businesses. Her natural resources experience focuses on water law, including water adjudications and interstate water compacts, and Native American law, including natural resource development projects on Native American land. She has advised clients developing projects on Native American land on issues regarding indigenous rights, jurisdiction, and contract formation. Sarah has litigated business disputes and employment and First Amendment cases.

With a practice that includes cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court, Sarah advises and guides clients on a broad range of issues. Sarah's recent experience includes obtaining a jury verdict as second chair attorney in a federal court employment case and conducting oral argument before the New Mexico Supreme Court. Sarah provides pro bono services to local families in conjunction with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center.

Sarah graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University School of Law, and received a joint J.D./M.A. in International Political Economics and Development from Fordham University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. While at Fordham, she was chosen as a Crowley Scholar in International Human Rights, participated in the Leitner Human Rights Clinic, and was a research assistant for Professor Russell Pearce. She clerked for the Honorable Patricio M. Serna of the New Mexico Supreme Court from 2009 to 2011. Her B.A. is from Scripps College.

Southwest Super Lawyers® has recognized Sarah as a Southwest Rising Star in Appellate practice.

Education

Fordham University School of Law, J.D., 2009, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, Dean's List 2007-2009

Fordham University, M.A., International Political Economy and Development, 2009

Scripps College, B.A., American Studies, 2001, with honors

Bar Admissions

New Mexico

New York



United States Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

ACTIVITIES

Professional Activities

- Board of Directors, Indian Law Section, State Bar of New Mexico, 2016-2018
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 2011-present; Young Professionals Committee, 2012-2016; Human Rights and the Extractive Industries Conference Steering Committee, February 2016
- New Mexico Women's Bar Association
- Member, Modrall Sperling Diversity Committee, 2017-present

Clerkships

- Law Clerk, Justice Patricio M. Serna, New Mexico Supreme Court, 2009-2011

Public Service

- U. S. Peace Corps, Niger, West Africa; HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, 2004-2005; Community Health Agent, 2002-2004

NEWS & ARTICLES

News

[Super Lawyers® Names 31 Modrall Sperling Attorneys to 2019 List; Four Named Top 25 New Mexico Super Lawyers](#)

Posted on April 15, 2019 By [Daniel Schueler](#)

Articles

[Indian Law in the Next Supreme Court Term: Grants and Pending Applications](#)

July 16, 2018

By [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

[A Historic Moment in Indian Water Rights in New Mexico: Entry of the *Aamodt* Final Decree](#)

August 29, 2017

By [Maria O'Brien](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

[The Congressional Review Act: Regulations on the Chopping Block](#)

March 20, 2017

By [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

[Professor Kevin Washburn: Reflections on Service as Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, the State of Indian Law in 2016, and Returning Home to New Mexico](#)

April 21, 2016

By [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)



Indian Law Cases Pending Before the Supreme Court Worth Following

March 18, 2016

By [Brian K. Nichols](#), [Lynn H. Slade](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Wind Energy: Challenged Under Federal Regulations, but More Native American Nations Appear to Be Embracing Its Development

February 24, 2016

By [Walter E. Stern](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Indian Reserved Water Rights: Groundwater Included

June 19, 2015

By [Maria O'Brien](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Balancing Opposing Cultural and Religious Beliefs on a Shared Reservation: Agency consideration of “Native American culture” not enough to demonstrate narrowly tailored compelling interest

May 28, 2015

By [Lynn H. Slade](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Indigenous Peoples’ Rights to Sacred Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties and the Role of Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent

32 J. Energy & Nat. Resources L.,

No. 3, 297, July 22, 2014

By [Stuart R. Butzier](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Recreational Release Enforced: Modrall Sperling Obtains Summary Judgment for Indoor Climbing Gym Sued for Negligence

May 23, 2014

By [Martha G. Brown](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

Jemez Pueblo’s Aboriginal Title Claims to the Valles Caldera Dismiss; Pueblo Appeals

December 31, 2013

By [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)

DISCOURSE

Presentations

- Indigenous Peoples’ Rights to Sacred Sites and the Role of Consultation and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Int’l Mining and Oil & Gas Law, Development, and Investment*, April 22-24, 2013, Cartagena, Colombia

Articles

- **Maori Land Rights & the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
32 Fordham Int’l L. J., 298, October 7, 2008
By [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)
- **Indigenous Peoples’ Rights to Sacred Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties and the Role of Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent**
32 J. Energy & Nat. Resources L., No. 3, 297, July 22, 2014
By [Stuart R. Butzier](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#)



- **Don't Let the Well Run Dry: Management and Use of Groundwater in Times of Scarcity**
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Annual Institute Proceedings 2015,
Vol. 61, ch. 23, Maria O'Brien and Sarah M. Stevenson, October 7, 2015
By [Maria O'Brien](#) and [Sarah M. Stevenson](#),

HONORS

- *Southwest Super Lawyers®*, selected as a Southwest Rising Star, 2014-present