



**Lori A. Dawkins** | Member

**PHONE** (303) 389-4360  
**EMAIL** lori.dawkins@steptoe-johnson.com  
**LICENSURE** CO | WY | PA | WV  
**EDUCATION** J.D. West Virginia University

Lori Dawkins is the Managing Member of the Denver office and focuses her practice on litigation and regulatory issues for energy companies. Lori has more than twenty-five years of litigation experience and has tried more than fifty cases in front of juries in state and federal court. Lori is the co-leader of Steptoe & Johnson's Oil & Gas Emergency Response Team, and she serves as a member of the firm's Diversity Committee.

A former officer in the United States Air Force, she was appointed as the lead search and recovery officer at a major Strategic Air Command base and she served in Saudi Arabia for a year during Desert Storm. She was named Strategic Air Command's Military Manager of the Year and received the Medal of Commendation, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Lori is a former Drum Major of the West Virginia University Marching Band ("The Pride of West Virginia"). She enjoys camping, classical guitar, and trail riding on her horse ("Henry") in the mountains of Colorado.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

As lead counsel, represented several of the nation's largest interstate natural gas pipeline companies in eminent domain proceedings in federal court

Represented oil and gas operators in contested administrative hearings in front of the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission and the Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

As lead counsel, prosecuted a claim in excess of \$24 million on behalf of a coal operator in an eminent domain matter that went to verdict in a jury trial

Responded to emergency incidents for oil and gas operators and clients in the chemical industry, conducted on-site investigations, and coordinated responses to regulatory agencies in matters involving on-site fatalities

Represented oil and gas operators in state and local rulemakings affecting oil and gas operations in Colorado

Represented energy companies in complex condemnation actions involving permanent easements for the storage of natural gas, permanent well road easements, and permanent pipeline easements

Litigated cases involving breach of lease agreements, breach of implied covenants, right-of-way disputes, injunctions against landowners, royalty disputes, and all types of energy-related cases in Colorado, Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania

As lead counsel, defended claims premised on adverse possession and prescriptive easements that went to verdict in a jury trial

Handled the litigation of property cases involving express and implied easements, partition actions, missing heir petitions, boundary disputes, property damage, and title disputes

Litigated a case for a public utility natural gas company involving allegations of carbon monoxide poisoning

Represented a public utility natural gas company in several cases involving questions regarding the duty to re-inspect appliances after they are red-tagged

Litigated an antitrust action for a dominant health care provider in Pennsylvania involving a battle for the control of a major hospital

Represented a large multi-national pharmaceutical company in litigation to recover for the faulty design, construction, and installation of a \$4.3 million wastewater treatment plant

Defended a preliminary injunction action brought by an unsuccessful bidder on a \$30 million construction project for a state university

Handled multiple appeals to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, the Pennsylvania Superior Court, and the Third and Fourth Circuit Courts of Appeal

Defended national oil and gas companies in litigation over validity of oil and gas leases and deeds

Represented producers in suits for excessive surface use, ownership, drilling rights, and pooling

Prosecuted partition actions to acquire fractional, unleased mineral interests

Defended lessees against claims of lease forfeiture arising from nonproduction and/or abandonment

Represented Colorado employers in EEOC matters alleging discrimination based on national origin and age

## WORK EXPERIENCE

2005	Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
2000-2005	Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling
1995-2000	Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
1989-1993	Commissioned Officer, United States Air Force

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Colorado High Court Deems Use of Legal Marijuana Valid Ground for Termination  
Colorado Supreme Court to Decide if Cities Can Ban Hydraulic Fracturing

Colorado Task Force Issues Nine Proposed Recommendations  
Nebraska Supreme Court Upholds Keystone Route  
Surface Use in the Age of Horizontal Drilling: Will Horizontal Wells be Considered a "Reasonably Necessary" Use of Surface?  
The Impacts of the 2014 Elections on Colorado's Energy Industry  
What Constitutes "Commencing a Well" in Pennsylvania  
Wyoming Federal Judge Denies Preliminary Injunction  
"Surface Use in the Age of Horizontal Drilling," North Dakota Law Review (2013)  
"Surface Use in the Age of Horizontal Drilling," North Dakota Energy Symposium (2013)  
"Surface Use in the Age of Horizontal Drilling," Texas Wesleyan Law Review Energy Symposium (2013)  
"Shareholders' Preemptive Rights," West Virginia Law Review  
"Litigating Title Disputes," AAPL  
Litigation Updates, Steptoe & Johnson Second Annual Appalachian Oil & Gas Roundtable - Shaping the Law We Need

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

The Best Lawyers in America®  
Who's Who In Energy  
Top Women in Energy selected by the Denver Business Journal and Women in Energy  
Member, Colorado Energy Coalition  
Super Lawyers®  
Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation  
Energy & Mineral Law Foundation  
Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association  
Advisory Committee, Institute for Energy Law  
Western Energy Alliance  
Women in Energy  
Denver Petroleum Club  
United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit  
Adjunct Professor, West Virginia University College of Law  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit  
United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

### **INDUSTRY/CIVIC**

Successful completion of Pipeline Emergency Response Course focusing on incident planning and communication (2018)