

FERN O'BRIEN

Fern O'Brien is founding partner of O'Brien Law, P.C., a Boulder law firm since 2007. Her practice is in the areas of estate planning/probate, mediation/dispute resolution, and corporate law.

Fern provides mediation services to individuals and groups to resolve disputes and avoid litigation. In Fern's dispute resolution practice, she mediates two-party disputes in a variety of areas. Fern also facilitates groups who are working to find consensus about issues important to their organization. Fern has facilitated meetings among law firm and accounting firm partners; HOAs; Neighborhood Associations; Non-profit organizations; business partners, and more.

Areas of Mediation

- Probate
- Marriage Dissolution
- Parenting Time/Child Support
- Landlord-Tenant
- Real Property
- Contracts
- Employment

Current Mediation Associations

- Mediator, State of Colorado, Office of Dispute Resolution
- Mediator, 20th Judicial District Small Claims and Domestic Relations
- Mediator, Longmont Community Services
- Mediator and Group Facilitator, Boulder Community Mediation and Resolution Center
- Mediation Training Certificate of Completion, 40-hour Mediation Course by Judy Mares-Dixon at Colorado Bar Association

Estate Planning and Probate

Fern helps individuals, business owners and families in all aspects of estate, trust and wealth transfer and preservation planning. Whether the planning involves a basic will, complex trust arrangement or the succession of a closely held business, she helps her clients achieve their goals through practical, comprehensive, solution-driven planning.

When a loved one passes away, Fern works with families to make sure the deceased person's wishes are followed and the estate is in compliance with probate law and the federal and state tax codes.

Corporate Practice

Fern counsels corporations, LLCs and partnerships on a variety of matters including complex entity structuring, partner/shareholder buyouts, executive compensation and long-term corporate planning. Fern has a number of clients in the natural products industry and she also represents emerging

companies; financial institutions; healthcare practices, technology companies; breweries, vineyards, real estate developers; and service, retail and manufacturing companies.

She advises HOA's, government entities, arts and trade organizations and other nonprofits with respect to formation, IRS filings for tax exempt status, board duties and liabilities; governance documents such as Bylaws and Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and members and membership issues and disputes.

Fern started her legal career as an associate with Kaye Scholer (now Arnold & Porter), in New York City. She was also a divorce attorney in Greenwich, Connecticut. In Colorado, she was a partner with Faegre Drinker LLP, an international corporate law firm.

Recent/Past Community Activities and Honors:

- Member, Daily Camera Community Editorial Board
- Member, Past President, Board of Directors, Downtown Boulder Foundation
- Member, Board of Directors, Downtown Boulder Partnership
- Member, Downtown Boulder Public Policy Committee
- Mentor, Boulder CU President's Leadership Program
- Member, Board of Directors, YWCA of Boulder County
- Democratic Party Candidate, Colorado Attorney General, 2006
- Recipient, Downtown Boulder's Ron Porter Lifetime Achievement Award, 2016
- Woman of the Year 2008, Boulder County YWCA
- Member, Advisory Board, First Western Trust
- President, Board of Directors, Attention Homes
- President, Board of Directors, Boulder Valley Women's Health Center
- President, Board of Directors, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
- Member, Board of Directors, Boulder County Bar Association
- President, Board of Directors of Project Safeguard, an organization that provides legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence
- President, Project Safeguard Foundation
- President, Board of Directors, Downtown Boulder Business Improvement District
- Member and past President, Boulder County Estate Planning Council

Education:

University of Minnesota, B.A. Humanities

Rutgers Law School, J.D.

Editor, *Rutgers Law Review*

Teaching Associate, Legal Writing & Research

Student Bar Association Representative

Bar Admissions:

Colorado, New York, and Connecticut

For more information, please contact Fern O'Brien: 303.579.3559 or fobrien@fobrienlaw.com.