

# BERNIE BUESCHER

## Of Counsel

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### Biography

Bernie Buescher is a renowned statesman and regulatory attorney with Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe. Now in private practice, Mr. Buescher assists clients dealing with energy, healthcare and election issues. He also represents foundations regarding organization and governance matters.

Prior to joining Ireland Stapleton, Mr. Buescher served as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Colorado, in charge of the State Services Section. In that position, he had responsibility for the individual Units which represented State Elected Officials, the Public Utilities Commission and the Departments of Human Services, Health Care Policy and Financing, and Personnel and Administration.

In January of 2009, Mr. Buescher was appointed Secretary of State by Governor Bill Ritter. During his two years in office, he substantially reduced expenses in the office, improved customer service and expanded ballot access. The results of his efforts made it possible for the Department of State to return over three million dollars of unspent funds to the State Treasury.

Mr. Buescher was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 2004 and was immediately appointed to the Joint Budget Committee, where he worked on behalf of Colorado to find innovative bipartisan solutions to the difficult issues facing Colorado. In the legislature, Mr. Buescher helped craft four budgets that restored many of the cuts that were made during the economic downturn following Sept. 11. Key legislative accomplishments include working on SB 235 to protect PERA, legislation promoting Colorado's wineries, and legislation promoting the use of renewable energy for Colorado. In 2007, Bernie was the principal house sponsor of 51 separate bills, 49 of which were ultimately signed by Governor Ritter.

Prior to his election, Mr. Buescher served as Chair of the St. Mary's Hospital Board. Previously, he was responsible for implementing the Children's Basic Health Plan while working as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance. For nearly ten years, he served as President of West Star Aviation, where he grew the company from 28 employees to 220 employees. He also served terms on the Colorado Transportation Commission and the Colorado Economic Development Council.



### Practice Areas

Government Relations &  
Regulatory Affairs

### Education

University of Colorado, J.D., 1974

University of Notre Dame, B.B.A.,  
Business Administration and  
Accounting, 1971

### Honors & Awards

Maurice Knaizer  
Distinguished Service Award  
Colorado Department of Law, 2014

University of Notre Dame,  
Distinguished Service Award, 2010

John K. Inglehart Award from the  
Colorado Health Institute, Lifetime  
Achievement Award, health care  
policy and reform, 2009

## Legal Experience

- Partner, Shareholder and Officer with the Grand Junction law firm, Williams, Turner, and Holmes, P.C., focusing on ERISA (retirement plans) and transactional law (1978-1989)

## Presentations & Publications

- Author, "[How pledges block moderate solutions to pressing issues](#)" *The Daily Sentinel Grand Junction*, June 12, 2016
- Author, "[Needed: the emergence of a 'vibrant center' in politics](#)" *The Daily Sentinel Grand Junction*, May 15, 2016
- Author, "[Incivility reaching point of mutually assured destruction](#)" *The Daily Sentinel Grand Junction*, March 27, 2016
- Author, "[A needed plan to bar partisan maps.](#)" The Post Editorials, *The Denver Post*, November 20, 2015
- Author, "[Despite early cynicism, task force found common ground.](#)" *The Daily Sentinel Grand Junction*, March 1, 2015

## Memberships

- Senior Policy Affiliate, Keystone Policy Center
- Member, Colorado Bar Association
- Member, Mesa County Bar Association

## Community Involvement

Mr. Buescher is an assiduous member of the community. Since 1975, he has served on the boards of approximately 25 nonprofit organizations. Currently he serves as:

- Board Chair, Colorado Children's Campaign
- Board Member, Bright By Three
- Member, Denver Civic Club
- Board Chair, Mesa County Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
- Board Member, Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation
- Member, State Board of Human Services

## Honors & Awards

University of Colorado School of Law  
Distinguished Alumni in Public  
Service Award, 2009

National Multiple Sclerosis  
Hope Award 2005

Bernie and his wife, Mary Beth, were  
named "Citizens of the Year" in 2004  
by the Grand Junction Chamber of  
Commerce in honor of their extensive  
community involvement

## Admissions

Admitted to practice in Colorado

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### Media

- Quoted in *Denver Business Journal*, "[Bipartisan group proposes major change to how Colorado election districts are drawn.](#)" Neil Westergaard, November 17, 2015
- "[Bernie Buescher's next career.](#)" Bartles, Lynn, *Denver Post*, May 29, 2015
- "[Democrat Bernie Buescher set to leave state government.](#)" Bartles, Lynn, *Denver Post*, August 19, 2014
- "[Bernie Buescher.](#)" *Wikipedia*, wikipedia.org

### Personal Interests

Mr. Buescher is a fourth generation Coloradan who has lived in Mesa County all of his life. He is married to Mary Beth Buescher and they have four adult children, Michael, Elizabeth, Marcia and Susan and five grandchildren.