

TOM DOWNEY Attorney at Law

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Biography

Tom Downey is a Director at Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC. With his significant experience as both a government official and private attorney, Mr. Downey helps his clients navigate all aspects of regulatory law. The majority of his practice consists of advising and representing corporate clients in the administrative, transactional and disciplinary processes related to liquor licensing, legalized marijuana and licenses governed by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. Further, he represents investors, creditors, developers, intellectual property holders and others in and around licensed industries. In providing full services to his clients, Mr. Downey conducts a great deal of zoning, code enforcement and public policy work.

Previously, Mr. Downey led Denver's Department of Excise and Licenses, issuing and regulating 25,000 business licenses in Denver in 180 categories. During that time, he redrafted Denver's Policies and Procedures for liquor licensing and wrote the original Policies and Procedures for Denver's legalized recreational marijuana licenses. Governor Hickenlooper appointed him to advise the administration and General Assembly on the legislation creating recreational marijuana. He created and ran the Business and Licensing Division of the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. He also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Business and Licensing Section under A.G. Ken Salazar. His higher profile cases included the Congressional Redistricting, State Reapportionment, the GAVEL Amendment and the Blue Book battles. Mr. Downey routinely teaches Continuing Legal Education courses and gives other presentations on regulatory and licensing law around the country. Recently, he sat on the Marijuana Enforcement Division's Licensing, and Permitted Economic Interest Rulemaking committee.

Mr. Downey started his legal career clerking for Judge D. Warren Donohue on the Circuit Court of Maryland. During law school, he spent the summer of 1992 in Budapest as a consultant to a founding member of FIDEZ, the first opposition party in Hungary, in preparing to redraft their constitution. He worked for a Congressman prior to law school. Mr. Downey and his wife, Lori Fox, have three young daughters, Cate, Ella and Meg, who are amazing singers and songwriters.



Practice Areas

Government Relations &
Regulatory Affairs

Education

University of Pennsylvania, Wharton
Business School Executive Program –
High Impact Leaders (non-degree),
2009

Villanova School of Law
J.D., 1993
Vice-Chair, Villanova Law School
Honor Board
Vice-President, Villanova Law School
Women's Law Caucus
President, Villanova Law School
Rugby Club

College of William and Mary
Bachelor of Arts in Economics, 1989

Honors & Awards

Law Week Colorado's 2018
"Barrister's Best" list - People's Choice
for Marijuana Law

TOM DOWNEY 2019
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Best Lawyers

Tom Downey Attorney at Law

Presentations & Publications

- Moderator, "The Future of RiNo Development," BusinessDen, February 19, 2019
- Author, "[Opinion: Federal marijuana legalization may not be the dream scenario some imagine](#)," *The Colorado Sun*, Opinion Columns, December 23, 2018
- Panelist, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA)'s Art + Cannabis Forum, November 29, 2018
- Co-Author, "Bankruptcy and State Alternatives for Marijuana Businesses," September 7, 2018
- Panelist, "The Enduring Manifestations of Prohibition," Cannabis Law Institute, September 7, 2018
- Program Chair, Recreational Marijuana – The Impact of Federal Enforcement on Colorado, CLE Course, Colorado Law Institute, May 17, 2018
- Co-Presenter, "Rescheduling Versus Descheduling – The Impact of Legalization," Colorado Law Institute, May 17, 2018
- Co-Presenter, "US Attorney Jeff Sessions and Marijuana Policy – What Will It Mean for the Industry?," May 17, 2018
- Speaker, "An Overview of Legal Marijuana," Mesa County Bar Association Luncheon, April 23, 2018
- Speaker, "A Changing Landscape: The Federal Update," Pennsylvania Bar Association, March 16, 2018
- Speaker, "X-TEAM: An Overview of Legal Marijuana," X-Team Conference, February 8, 2018
- Co-Presenter, "The Next Industrial Revolution: How the IoT will Change the Way People Live, Work & Play," SCG Legal Annual Meeting, September 8, 2017
- Program Chair, Recreational Marijuana – Weed & the Government: Post-Election Outlook, Colorado Law Institute, May 19, 2017
- Speaker, "Civil RICO and State vs. State," Colorado Law Institute, May 19, 2017
- Co-Presenter, "State Marijuana Laws Under President Trump," Colorado Law Institute, May 19, 2017

Tom Downey's complete list of presentations and publications can be found [here](#).

Memberships

- Colorado Secretary of State's Advisory Committee, Member
- City Club of Denver, Member
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Public Policy Forum
- Marijuana Enforcement Division's Licensing, and Permitted Economic Interest Stakeholder Work Group (August 2015)
- Governor Hickenlooper's Amendment 64 (Recreational Marijuana) legislative advisory committee (2013)

Honors & Awards

2016-2019 Top Lawyer Marijuana Law
5280 Magazine



Westword's 2013 "Best of Denver"
award for customer service

Denver 150 Unsung Heroes Award
(2008)

Mile High United Way's "Anna Jo
Haynes Care about Kids Award"
(2006)

Ballard Spahr's National Pro Bono
Attorney of the Year (2002)

*Denver Business Journal's 40 Under
40* (2002)

Villanova Law School, Herman
Mitchell Schwartz Award Recipient for
the most significant contribution to the
achievement of equality of opportunity
and treatment for women in the legal
community

Knights of Columbus Patriotism Award
(1983)

Admissions

Admitted to practice in Colorado

Colorado Supreme Court

U.S. District Court for the District of
Colorado

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Memberships

- Denver Taxi and Limo Council, Chair (2012-2013)
- Denver Medical Marijuana Working Group, Founder (2011-2012)
- Governor Ritter Transition Team, Regulatory Agencies (2006)
- Mayor's Leadership Team on Early Childhood Education (2004-2006)
- I-300 Marijuana Social Consumption Area Task Force, Member

Community Involvement

Mr. Downey strongly believes in engaging in our community. He took a break from government and legal work for five years to run the Children's Museum of Denver. He is the Past Board Chair of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, and the former Board Chair of the Colorado Children's Campaign. In 2000, Mr. Downey managed the Gore/Lieberman presidential campaign in Colorado. In 1986, he ran a children's home in Venezuela, "La Ciudad del los Muchachos."

- Stapleton MCA Delegate (Elected 2018)
- Westerly Creek Metropolitan District, Board Member (Elected 2014 -present)
- Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Livingston Fellow (2007-present)
(Focus: creation of management theory, an execution model of Jim Collins' Good to Great principles)
- LoDo District, Board Member (2005–Present)
- Emerging Leaders in Development program, Steering Committee (2010)
- Colorado Nonprofit Association, Board Member (2006–2012, Chair 2008-2010)
- Heritage 365 Magazine, Editorial Advisory Committee (2006–2009)
- Nonprofit Resources, Inc., Board Member (2006–2008)
- American Association of Museums, Co-Chair, Host Committee 2008 Conference
- Denver Preschool Program, Board of Advisors (2007)
- DPS Capital Needs Committee (2005–2007)
- Colorado Children's Campaign, Board Member (1998–2006, Chair 2004–2005)
- DPS Citizens Committee on Bond Expenditures (2003–2005)
- Citizens for Denver Public Schools (2003)
- Leadership Denver (1999)

Media

- Quoted in *Law Week Colorado*, "10th Circuit Smokes Marijuana Tax Challenge," July 16, 2018
- Quoted on *Colorado Public Radio*, "[The Even Money Says Colorado Will Take It Slow And Steady With Sports Betting](#)" July 9, 2018
- Quoted on *Colorado Public Radio*, "[US Supreme Court Opens Sports Gambling. What's The Colorado Impact?](#)" May 14, 2018

Tom Downey
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- Quoted in *The Westword*, [“Cannabis Industry Not Happy With Sean Spicer's Prediction of ‘Greater Enforcement’.”](#) February 24, 2017

Media

- Interviewed on *CBS Channel 4 Denver*, [“State Pot Officials: ‘Impossible To Discern’ White House Action On Retail Pot.”](#)
February 23, 2017
- Interviewed on *Fox31 News*, [“Local attorney, Supreme Court nominee acted in high school play together.”](#) February 3, 2017
- Quoted in *The Denver Post*, [“Donald Trump nominates Colorado’s Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.”](#) January 31, 2017
- Quoted in *The Denver Post*, [“Cops can’t be forced to return marijuana in failed drug cases, Colorado Supreme Court says.”](#) January 23, 2017
- Interviewed on *CBS Channel 4 Denver*, [“Trump’s Choice For AG Has Some Worried About Impact On Legal Pot.”](#)
January 12, 2017