

Elizabeth (Liz) Alice Och

Senior Associate

Denver

Biography

Liz Och is dedicated to resolving her clients' complex litigation challenges. Liz combines her commercial litigation experience with her background in environmental science and dispute resolution to bring creative, collaborative solutions to conflicts over natural resources, environmental remediation, and energy production.

Liz counsels clients in all stages of environmental and natural resources disputes. She has rich experience with matters arising under the federal environmental laws, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Clean Air Act. Liz also advises clients on state cleanup statutes. Her work for clients in the energy industry includes litigating conflicts regarding royalty disputes and lease-interpretation issues.

In her general commercial practice, Liz works with clients across a variety of industries to carefully evaluate and efficiently resolve their litigation matters. She has litigated disputes arising under the Freedom of Information Act and state records acts. Liz also has experience with both government and internal compliance investigations. In any context, Liz is a valuable asset for the team. She is quick to learn her clients' industries and motivations to identify business-minded solutions. Clients value Liz's leadership, team-mindedness, and project-management skills.

In law school, Liz was a founding member of *The Michigan Journal of Environmental & Administrative*



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Practices

Commercial Litigation

Environment and Natural Resources

Investigations, White Collar, and Fraud

Energy Regulatory

Energy Disputes

Administrative and Public Law

Litigation Services

Industries

Energy and Natural Resources

Life Sciences and Health Care

Areas of focus

Law. She also holds a master's of science from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Liz is passionate about giving back to her community. She is a member of the firm's recruiting committee and is closely involved in the Denver office's summer associate program. Liz previously served on the board of the Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado and is an active member and past Co-Chair of the organization's Associate Advisory Board. She also maintains an active pro bono practice.

Representative experience

Representing a higher education finance nonprofit organization in a proposed class-action suit, successfully securing dismissal of the claims.

Representing an industrial client in various environmental and litigation matters in connection with a Superfund site in Washington state.

With a team, dismissed a purported class action brought by a royalty holder against an oil and gas company before the Denver District Court and Colorado Court of Appeals.

Successfully briefed BLM lease-prioritization matter in federal court for Peabody Energy, freeing up over US\$1bn of coal for extraction.

Awards and rankings

- Commercial Litigation, Ones to Watch, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2021-2022

Latest thinking and events

- Published Works
 - Legal Aid Foundation's Associates Campaign Kicks Off March 1 *Denver Bar Association Docket*
- Media Mention
 - Modern mines must absorb social costs *Mining News*
- Sponsorships and Speaking Engagements

Administrative Procedure Act
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Clean Air
Environmental Litigation
False Claims Act and Qui Tam
Site Remediation
E-discovery and Information Management

Education and admissions

Education

M.S., University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment, 2014

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, cum laude, 2013

B.A., Northwestern University, 2010

Bar admissions and qualifications

Colorado

Washington

Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington

- Growth of Environmental, Sustainability, and Governance Policies and the Push for Ethical Mineral Supply Chain Management
- Published Works
 - Environmental Citizen Suits Under the Trump Administration: Key Concepts and Risk Management for Extractive Industries *Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 63rd Annual Institute, July 2017*
- Published Works
 - Interview with Laura Robertson *The Energy Dispatch*
- Published Works
 - What's in a Name? CLS's "First Name Unknown" Name Change Project *The Colorado Lawyer, Vol. 46, No. 3*