

# Steve Gurr

CONSTRUCTION CO-CHAIR

Denver, CO | 303.583.8225

[sgurr@polsinelli.com](mailto:sgurr@polsinelli.com)



Steve Gurr concentrates his practice in the areas of construction and real estate law and complex commercial litigation. His practice primarily focuses on the representation of international engineering and construction, global alternative investment, manufacturing, food and beverage, infrastructure, oil & gas producers, real estate investment trust (REIT) and real estate private equity, and real estate lending clients in the areas of project and contract formation, trial work, claim resolution and risk management.

Steve has over three decades of trial, arbitration and appellate experience in state, federal and international forums. In addition to construction and real estate development disputes, his commercial litigation experience includes the representation of leading businesses and their officers and directors in contract, business tort, shareholder derivative, securities fraud and corporate governance matters.

## Education

- University of Colorado (J.D., *Order of the Coif*, 1990)
- Colorado College (B.A., *cum laude*, 1987)

## Bar Admissions

- Colorado, 1990

## Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

## Memberships

- Denver Public Schools Foundation
  - Gala Co-Chair, 2026
- Canvassing Board Member for Denver Elections, 2021-Present
- Denver Park Trust
  - Founding Board Member, 2019-Present

## Capabilities

- Construction
- Real Estate
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Energy

- Adams County School District 12–Five Star Schools Foundation
  - Board Member, 2013-2019
- American Red Cross Mile High Chapter, 2009-2020
  - Board Member
  - Bench & Bar Society
    - Founder and Co-Chair, 2009-2020
- City and County of Denver County Court Judicial Nomination Committee
  - Member, 2008-2012
- Denver Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division
  - Past Board Member
- American Bar Association, Litigation and Construction Sections
  - Association Advisory Panel
- Colorado Bar Association

## Recognition

- Selected for Inclusion in *ColoradoBiz's* Colorado 500 List, 2026
- Named "Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*, 2025-2026
- *Law Week Colorado* 2025 Lawyer of the Year
- Ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Construction, Colorado, 2023-2025
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for:
  - Litigation - Construction, 2025-2026
  - Construction Law, 2023-2026
  - Commercial Litigation, 2018-2026
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5
- *Law Week Colorado* "Best Construction Defects Lawyer for Defense," 2012

# Matters

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## Construction Claim Litigation

- Three-week 2025 federal jury trial for an international oil and gas refinery contractor in the United States District Court for District of Montana against a top five global oil company on a dispute relating to a \$160 million refinery turnaround mechanical construction project. The jury verdict awarded client \$64 million in damages and rejected the refinery owner's consequential damages counterclaim; pending judgment for additional interest, Montana Prompt Payment Act Penalties, attorney fees and expenses.
- Four-week 2024 federal jury trial for an international highway engineering client in the United States District Court for District of Colorado against a design-build contractor on a dispute relating to a \$500 million, 13-mile highway expansion project. Jury verdict awarded client \$5.25 million in damages and rejected the entirety of the defendant's \$260 million in counterclaims; Court awarded client \$14.2 million in attorneys and expert witness fees and costs.
- Represented a major general infrastructure contractor on a regional highway and light rail project in a state court trial; obtained judgment on fraud and veil-piercing claims against subcontractor.
- Obtained a vacation of a \$18.5 million construction defect jury verdict against an officer and director of a publicly traded REIT.

- Defense of a multi-state public utility in arbitration and federal court actions surrounding the installation and performance of automated meter reading and data management utility infrastructure and equipment.
- Representation of an international food company in the defense of contractor scope and delay claims relating to the construction of manufacturing plants.
- Represented a national hotel developer in multiple civil actions and arbitration proceedings relating to design, construction defect and delay claims.
- Defense of an international oil and gas producer on claims by general contractor of design deficiencies, wrongful termination and delay damages.
- Representation of an international luxury hotel and condominium developer in litigation, mediation and arbitrations of design/construction and warranty claims.

## **Complex Civil Litigation**

- Prevailed in a landmark 2016 eminent domain case before the Colorado Supreme Court establishing that the Colorado Department of Transportation lacked condemnation authority to take client U-Haul's property. The holding established that CDOT's Chief Engineer acted without condemnation authority after 1994, when Colorado's Transportation Commission unlawfully delegated its condemnation power.
- Defense of an international oil and gas producer in federal jury trial of breach of day drilling contract claims.
- Obtained a \$7.75 million Judgment and Permanent Injunction on trademark, copyright, cyber-squatting and deceptive trade practice claims for the family-owned international distributor of Salba™ registered varieties of organic chia seeds.
- Represented a water project developer in defense of investor securities fraud claims.
- Established important Colorado Supreme Court precedent for corporate officer defense of shareholder derivative actions through special litigation committee review.
- Successful litigation of shareholder proxy fight with ultimate appointment of clients' slate of board of directors.
- Prosecution and defense of post-acquisition "earn-out" disputes in federal, state and arbitration forums, including recent successful defense of an international company in federal court where the court rejected plaintiffs' \$34 million damages model and struck their expert witness and expert report.

## **Construction Contract Document Drafting, Negotiation and Review**

- Ongoing representations of international engineering and construction, global alternative investment, manufacturing, food and beverage, infrastructure, real estate investment trust (REIT) and real estate private equity and real estate lending clients in drafting and negotiating design, construction, EPC, development and construction management agreements
- Representation of publicly-traded oil and gas producers in design and construction contracts for office and field operation facilities.
- Twenty years representing a major Colorado-based regional developer of medical, office, retail and residential projects.
- Due diligence review of construction, design and insurance documents in support of construction, real estate lending and M&A clients.

## **Litigation of Design Professional Liability Claims**

- Represented a utility engineering firm in multiple litigations relating to construction of coal-fired steam-electric generation stations, including design, performance and delay disputes relating to dechlorination system, bag house, cooling tower and flue gas stack refurbishing projects.
- Prosecuted claims against an ethanol plant design-builder arising out of commissioning and performance failures.

- Represented a townhome developer in a multi-week arbitration against a general contractor and engineer relating to the failure of post-tensioned slab-on-grade systems.
- Representation of a casino hotel developer in design claims against an architect.
- Represented an international casino architect in claims against a casino hotel developer.

## Investigations

- Represented Colorado and out-of-state attorneys in responding to investigations brought by the Colorado Supreme Court's Attorney Regulatory Counsel (ARC).
- Represented oil and gas partnerships in responding to a securities fraud investigation by Colorado Securities Commissioner.

## International Arbitrations

- Obtained an award in International Centre for Dispute Resolution arbitration of trademark claims for an Argentinian client and against a Canadian corporation with successful confirmation of Award in federal court.
- Prosecuted a series of international arbitration claims under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) through the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center.

# Publications

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November 25, 2025

**Colorado justices consider whether to restore \$5.7 million award to RTD subcontractor**

*Quoted, Colorado Politics*

March 25, 2025

**AECOM Seeks Tens of Millions in Interest From ExxonMobil After Refinery Verdict**

*Mentioned, ENR*

March 17, 2025

**Judge Orders Flatiron to Pay AECOM \$14.2M in Lawsuit Costs**

*Mentioned, ENR*

February 17, 2025

**2025 Lawyers of the Year: Steve Gurr**

*Featured, Law Week Colorado*