SpencerFane®

Shelly L. Dalrymple

Of Counsel

Contact

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Overview

Shelly has more than 30 years of experience helping clients in complex litigation situations, with a strong background in multi-district litigation and class action defense. She has developed a focus on process and efficiency in dealing with large scale litigation. With a current emphasis on environmental litigation, Shelly handles CERCLA litigation, environmental nuisance, oil and gas industry environmental impacts, and federal and state compliance issues relating to air quality, water quality, noise pollution, and hazardous waste. She works closely with technical experts in investigations, analysis, compliance, and the crafting of experts' reports in the environmental and natural resources arenas.

Shelly is also involved in water use and distribution matters, including water rights adjudication and interstate compact compliance. She formerly worked in the Litigation and Adjudication Program of the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, assisting the public with water rights issues, and served as that agency's lead counsel in New Mexico's ongoing interstate water litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Shelly also helps clients in a completely different area – employment law. She works with clients on federal and state law compliance issues, internal investigations and investigations by state agencies and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Shelly attempts to resolve disputes and compliance issues in their early stages, but when early resolution cannot be achieved, she has represented employers in more than 50 litigation matters.

Education

- The George Washington University Law School, 1992 (J.D.)
- Dickinson College (B.A.), *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- New Mexico, 2021

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma

Community Involvement

- Tulsa Women Lawyers Association, Former President
- Leadership Tulsa Alumna
- Leadership Harrisburg Alumna
- Six Sigma Certified
- Lady Litigators of New Mexico, Co-Founder

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Water Law, 2026-2027
- State of New Mexico, Office of the State Engineer, Employee of the Year, 2019

Memberships

- Oliver Seth Inn of Court, Master of the Bench
- American Bar Association
- New Mexico Bar Association, Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Section
- New Mexico Bar Association, Employment Law Section
- Oklahoma Bar Association

Related Experience

- Obtained a defense verdict for breach of covenant and environmental nuisance claims against a concrete batch plant after a four-day trial.
- Serves as counsel for New Mexico in the U.S. Supreme Court, relating to disputes over the Rio Grande Compact. *Texas v. New Mexico*
- Represents municipal, utility, farming, and individual clients in applications and protests before the Office of the State Engineer relating to the acquisition, validity, transfer, leasing, permitting, and protection of surface water and groundwater rights.
- Effected a favorable settlement after initiating aggressive motion practice in a Surface Owner Protection Act case against an oil and gas operator in the Permian Basin.
- Obtained an air quality permit for a construction industry client over vigorous public opposition and two contested multi-day public hearings.
- Represented an EPA contractor in the federal Gold King Mine litigation involving CERCLA, Clean Water Act, RCRA, and toxic tort claims.

- Regularly obtains summary judgment on plaintiffs' state and federal employment law claims. *See Myers v. Robinson Aviation, Inc., et al; Anderson v. Smith Power Products; Jencks v. Modern Woodmen of America.*