

# BEATTY & WOZNIAK, P.C.

*Energy in the Law*<sup>®</sup>

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## **Michael L. Beatty**

Mike Beatty, a Harvard Law School graduate, is chairman and founding partner of premier energy and natural resources law firm Beatty & Wozniak. He began his career with the energy industry in the late 1970s as in-house counsel for Colorado Interstate Gas Company, and ultimately became executive vice president, general counsel and director of The Coastal Corporation. He also served as chief of staff to Colorado Governor Roy Romer from 1993-1995.

He successfully handled cases for both plaintiffs and defendants, including a \$549 million antitrust verdict, the only successful commercial impracticability case and most of the successful force majeure cases for the pipeline industry. Mike's in-house management and first-chair litigation experience, combined with a hands-on understanding of the political and administrative process, provide him with uncommon insights into the oil and gas business, and the regulatory environment in which his clients operate.

Prior to his work as an energy litigator, Mike was a law professor. He became adept at explaining very difficult concepts in terms that students from a variety of backgrounds could easily grasp.

In 2007, Mike was named a Colorado Super Lawyer in Energy/Oil & Gas Law.

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## **Michael J. Wozniak**

Mike Wozniak, founding partner of Beatty & Wozniak, has served the energy and natural resources industry for more than 25 years. Drawn to energy and natural resources law soon after beginning his legal career, he found his passion for representing companies with an environmental ethic who responsibly develop natural resources.

Before joining Mike Beatty's legal team, he served as partner-in-charge of Dorsey and Whitney LLP's Denver office and head of its Denver Energy Regulatory Group. He previously practiced for 20 years with the Clanahan Tanner firm, where he chaired its Natural Resources Practice Group.

He is a member of the Executive Council of the Colorado Bar Association's Energy and Natural Resources Section, and also sits on the Independent Petroleum Association of

Mountain States Board of Directors Executive Committee. Mike is a frequent lecturer on natural resource issues centering on oil and gas commission matters and local government regulation. He is the chair of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation's bi-annual Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Course.

In 2006 and 2007, Mike was named a Colorado Super Lawyer in Energy/Oil & Gas Law. He also is listed in "The Best Lawyers in America" in 2006 and 2007 as a top lawyer in the Natural Resources Law and Energy/Public Utilities Law categories. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1980.

Mike is the current mayor of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado.

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### **Frederick M. MacDonald**

Since joining Salt Lake City-based Pruitt Gushee in 1986 and later serving as managing director, Fred has focused his practice in oil and gas law. He counsels and advises clients in the acquisition, exploration, development and operation of their properties. He has extensive experience with fee, federal, state and Indian leasing and titles; and federal unit formation, operation and administration. Fred also appears regularly before the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining for clients on a wide variety of oil and gas regulatory issues.

He has recognized expertise in the legal aspects of coalbed methane extraction, developed through his representation of companies operating in Central Utah's coal region. He regularly lectures and authors papers on a variety of oil and gas topics.

Fred served as chairman of the Natural Resources Section of the Utah State Bar and is an active member of such industry organizations as the Utah and American Associations of Professional Landmen and the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States.

Fred is listed in the 2007 and 2008 versions of "The Best Lawyers in America" and named as one of the top 3000 lawyers in America by Lawdragon. He earned his Juris Doctor from the Valparaiso University School of Law in 1986.

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### **Robert S. Thompson, III**

Upon graduation from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1979, Rob served in the Solicitor's Office of the Department of the Interior. Following his departure from government service in 1981, he entered private practice and focused on Indian law, federal litigation and resource development.

Rob has acted as general or special counsel to 12 Indian tribes. Some of his accomplishments include final establishment of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation's political boundaries, restoration of approximately 83,000 acres of land within former Naval Oil Shale Reserve No. 2 to Indian ownership, and negotiation of and passage of legislation addressing the dual severance tax imposed on Indian lands.

Rob's practice now focuses on resource development on Indian and public lands, federal administrative practice and litigation, and federal appellate practice. His experience in these areas provides an interface between various Indian tribes and their advisors, and oil and gas, mining and other natural resources companies.

Rob is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.