



**JAMES M.  
LYONS**

Partner

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Denver

*"Retains his reputation as a go-to lawyer for a range of issues including insurance disputes, IP litigation, and securities litigation. He is also noted for his arbitration practice and has handled a range of disputes including international commercial matters." - Chambers USA*

Jim Lyons focuses his practice on complex business litigation, mediation, and arbitration of all types, including corporate, securities, insurance law, and crisis management. Jim has more than 40 years of courtroom and jury trial experience in state and federal courts. He also has extensive government relations and international trade and diplomatic experience from his work in Ireland and the United Kingdom as special advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

## Education

- J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 1971
- B.A., College of the Holy Cross, 1968

## Bar Admissions

- Colorado, 1971

## Practices

- Corporate Governance
- Securities Litigation Broker Dealers
- Antitrust
- Securities Litigation and Enforcement
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Investigations and White Collar Criminal Defense

## Industries

- Educational and Research Institutions
- Hotels and Resorts

## Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- Colorado Supreme Court
- Colorado Court of Appeals
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

## Community

- Coe College Founder's Award Medal, Award Presenter, 2022
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow; Colorado State Chair, 2004-2006
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow
- Ireland's Honorary Consul/Denver, 2009-present
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2011-2012
- Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System IAALS University of Denver, Advisory Board
- Colorado Denver and Illinois Bar Associations, Member
- Member of the AAA and ICDR Roster of Neutrals, Panel of Arbitrators, and Panel of Mediators
- National Association of Distinguished Neutrals
- Doyle's Inn Chapter of the American Inns of Court, Master Barrister
- Board of Trustees, Regis University, 1999-2008; 2012-Present
- Advisory Board, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System
- Advisory Board, Center for Dependency Addiction and Recovery, University of Colorado Hospital

## Representative Matters

### Arbitration and ADR Experience

In the past five years, Jim has served as a sole arbitrator, arbitration panel chair, or member in 35 major arbitrations, including international commercial disputes. These have included disputes over intellectual property, royalties, commissions, mergers, acquisitions, and distributions, as well as insurance coverages, shareholder rights, and claims from real estate development interests. Jim has also served as a court-appointed mediator and has been selected by the AAA and by counsel for private litigants in numerous cases facing imminent trial.

### Recent Litigation Experience

Recent clients include The Anschutz Corporation, the City and County of Denver, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, HealthOne, Rocky Mountain Health Care (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Colorado and New Mexico), STET, Qwest Communications, and Tracinda Corporation.

- Lead trial counsel for a major Colorado school district in defense of statutory and constitutional challenges to its school voucher program. After an adverse 4-3 decision by the Colorado Supreme Court, the case was successfully appealed by the school district to the United States Supreme Court which granted certiorari, vacated the judgment of the Colorado Supreme Court and remanded the matter for further consideration in light of Trinity Lutheran. After a change in the composition of the elected school board, the case was then dismissed as moot.
- Served as independent counsel and lead litigation counsel to independent members of the Board of Directors of Qwest Communications in civil and regulatory matters and for the merger Qwest/Century Link.
- Served as independent counsel to the Board of Trustees of Colorado State University and as acting general counsel to Colorado State University.
- Lead counsel for the City and County of Denver in federal court litigation brought by the ACLU and organizations claiming infringement of First Amendment rights for parade routes, permits, and public demonstration areas for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Case was tried to judgment in favor of the City on all issues.
- Lead trial counsel for the principal defendant in one of the largest CERCLA/Superfund cases in the United States, *United States and State of Colorado v. Friedland et al.*, Civil Action No. 96-N-1213, United States District Court for the District of Colorado (Summitville Mine, Del Norte, Colorado). Case was favorably settled with the U.S. and Colorado state governments.
- Lead defense counsel for the City and County of Denver in multiple securities class actions involving the public issuance of more than \$3 billion of Denver International Airport bonds (case dismissed).
- Representation, advice, and strategic counseling to boards of directors, independent directors, and board committees of public companies in connection with securities litigation, class actions, and regulatory and compliance investigations. Also representation of hospital boards and nonprofit health care insurance entities in connection with asset sales, conversion to for-profit status, and formation of foundations to receive proceeds. Related representations

include matters involving D&O liability and D&O insurance carriers.

- Pro bono co-lead counsel for a group of Colorado state prisoners with untreated hepatitis C. Federal court settlement resulted in a state of the art treatment protocol.

## Honors & Recognitions

- Barrister's Best 2022 - Arbitrator, *Law Week Colorado*, October 2022
- The Best Lawyers in America, "Bet-the-Company Litigator of the Year" for Denver, Arbitration, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense-White Collar, and Mediation, 2010, 2016-2023
- Benchmark Litigation, "Local Litigation Star" in Colorado, 2016-2023
- Colorado Super Lawyers in the area of Business Litigation, 2021-2022, Top 100 Lawyers, 2021-2022, Top Ten Lawyers, 2006-2019; Top Vote Getter, 2012; 2006-2020
- Chambers USA, Top Band, Commercial Litigation, 2013-2022
- 5280 [*The Denver Magazine*], "Top Lawyers" List, 2020
- *Corporate INTL Magazine*, "Alternative Dispute Resolution Attorney of the Year" in Colorado, 2014
- DePaul University College of Law, Outstanding Alumnus, 2011
- *Law Week Colorado*, "Best Arbitrator," 2011 "Lawyer of the Decade," 2010-2011
- Archbishop Charles J. Chaput (Inaugural) Leadership Award, 2010
- Colorado Super Lawyers, Featured cover story, "The Gold Standard - How Jim Lyons Helped Bring Peace to Northern Ireland," 2007
- University of Ulster, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Honorary Doctorate of Law (LL.D.), "In recognition of his service to peace & the people of Northern Ireland," 2002
- Learned Hand National Award, American Jewish Committee, 1998
- St. Thomas More Award, Catholic Lawyers Guild of Colorado, Northern Ireland peace process, 1998

## News

- Lewis Roca Lawyers Named "Litigation Stars" by *Benchmark Litigation 2023*  
Press Release | 10/3/2022
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as *The Best Lawyers in America*© 2023  
Honors & Recognitions | 08/18/2022
- Lewis Roca Retired Alumni Bill Johnson Receives 2022 Founders Medal from Alma Mater  
Honors & Recognitions | 06/29/2022
- Lewis Roca Recognized by *Chambers USA 2022*  
Honors & Recognitions | 06/1/2022

- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as 2022 *Colorado Super Lawyers*® and *Colorado Rising Stars*® Honors & Recognitions | 03/4/2022
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as “Litigation Stars” by Benchmark Litigation 2022 Press Release | 09/30/2021
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Named to 2022 *Best Lawyers* List Honors & Recognitions | 08/19/2021
- Lewis Roca Recognized by *Chambers USA 2021* Honors & Recognitions | 05/20/2021
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Named 2021 *Colorado Super Lawyers*® and *Colorado Rising Stars*® Press Release | 03/9/2021
- Lewis Roca Receives High Honors from Benchmark Litigation 2021 Press Release | 10/14/2020
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as The Best Lawyers in America© 2021 Press Release | 08/20/2020
- Lewis Roca Recognized by Chambers USA 2020 Press Release | 04/24/2020
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as 2020 *Colorado Super Lawyers*® and *Colorado Rising Stars*® Honors & Recognitions | 03/13/2020
- Thirteen Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized in Benchmark Litigation 2020 Honors & Recognitions | 11/5/2019
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as The Best Lawyers in America© 2020 Press Release | 08/15/2019
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Recognized by Chambers USA 2019 Honors & Recognitions | 04/25/2019
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Lawyers Recognized as 2019 *Colorado Super Lawyers*® and *Colorado Rising Stars*® Honors & Recognitions | 03/18/2019
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as The Best Lawyers in America© 2019 Press Release | 08/15/2018
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Recognized by Chambers USA 2018  
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie announces 22 attorneys and seven practice areas are recognized by Chambers USA 2018  
Honors & Recognitions | 05/3/2018
- Thirty Eight Lewis Roca Lawyers Named Colorado Super Lawyers  
Press Release | 03/29/2018
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Named Southwest Litigation Firm of the Year by Benchmark Litigation  
Nineteen of the firm’s attorneys are listed as “Star” litigators in the 2018 edition

Honors & Recognitions | 02/23/2018

- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Earns ‘Highly Recommended’ Ranking From Benchmark Litigation  
20 attorneys recognized in peer-reviewed annual guide to top U.S. litigation firms  
Honors & Recognitions | 10/10/2017
- Partners Honored as Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers  
85 Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie attorneys in The Best Lawyers in America 2018  
Press Release | 08/15/2017
- Lawyers, Practices Earn Recognition in Chambers USA 2017  
Rankings reflect research findings based on client and peer feedback  
Honors & Recognitions | 05/31/2017
- Thirty Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Lawyers Named Colorado Super Lawyers  
Inclusion acknowledges peer recognition and professional achievement  
Honors & Recognitions | 03/16/2017
- Denver Attorneys Named in Local ‘Top Lawyers’ List  
Survey results include eight attorneys from Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie  
Honors & Recognitions | 02/6/2017
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Attorneys Named in ‘Best Lawyers’  
11 partners also honored as ‘Lawyer of the Year’ in The Best Lawyers in America® 2017  
Honors & Recognitions | 08/15/2016
- Chambers USA Recognizes Lewis Roca Lawyers  
Annual rankings reflect law firm’s focus on client service, value, commitment to excellence  
Honors & Recognitions | 5/27/2016
- Thirty-Three Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Lawyers Selected for 2016 Colorado Super Lawyers List  
Inclusion acknowledges peer recognition and professional achievement  
Honors & Recognitions | 03/15/2016
- 5280 Magazine Recognizes Top Lawyers  
Annual list includes seven attorneys from Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie  
Honors & Recognitions | 02/1/2016

## Publications

- A Call For Additional Federal Judges  
Co-Author, *The Docket*, 2016-01-01

## Blog Posts

- James Lyons Interviews Former U.S. President William J. Clinton  
*Lewis Roca Blog*, 08/3/2021

## Events

- Jim is a frequent lecturer on the Northern Ireland peace process and current affairs in Ireland.