

Craig A. Umbaugh

Partner

Denver

Biography

Craig Umbaugh focuses his practice on sports and stadiums, governmental and legislative law, finance, banking, and commercial transactions.

As Global Head of the Sports, Media, and Entertainment Group, he brings into play his more than three decades of knowledge and experience working with clients in the sector. He works with public entities and private clients on issues such as financing, construction, design, and operation of public venues, acquisition of teams, naming rights, and sponsorship agreements, urban redevelopment, and negotiation of governmental agreements.

Craig's involvement with sports and sports facilities spans the leagues, including advising many Colorado teams and venues, including the Avalanche, Mammoth, Nuggets, Rapids, Pepsi Center, National Western Center, Colorado Springs Sports Authority, and the Denver Grand Prix. Other client representations have included Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment (Brooklyn Nets), Chicago Fire, Chivas USA, Connecticut Sun, Hennepin County (Minnesota Twins Ballpark), Miami Beckham United (Inter Miami), Minnesota Wild, Onexim Sports and Entertainment, Phoenix Coyotes, Rosemont Entertainment Group, Seattle Sounders, Tampa Bay Lightning, and the USA Pro Challenge bicycle race.



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Practices

Mergers and Acquisitions

Industries

Sports, Media & Entertainment

Areas of focus

Sponsorship

Land Use and Project Development

Education and admissions

Education

He serves as general counsel for the Denver Urban Renewal Authority, the Metropolitan Football Stadium District, the Denver Metropolitan Major League Baseball Stadium District, and the Colorado Bankers Association. He regularly drafts legislation and counsels clients with respect to state legislative issues.

Craig has served on numerous boards, including as chair of the Denver Public Schools Foundation board, and on the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce board. Craig was legal counsel for the Denver 2008 Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention, the Colorado Music Hall of Fame, and the Clyfford Still Museum. Craig's work on the Clyfford Still Museum led to him being named one of *Law Week Colorado's* 2010 Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year.

Representative experience

Advised Mikhail Prokhorov in an agreement to sell full ownership of the Barclays Center and his controlling interest in the Brooklyn Nets to an entity controlled by Joe Tsai.

Represent the Denver Metropolitan Major League Baseball Stadium District on the development and operation of Coors Field.

Advised on numerous naming rights and sponsorship agreements, including Empower Field at Mile High and Oracle Park.

Representation of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority in numerous urban redevelopment projects including tax increment financing matters.

Awards and rankings

- Lawyer of the Year, *Law Week Colorado*, 2019
- Colorado Super Lawyers, 2006-2020
- Top Lawyers - Entertainment and Sports and Government Relations, Contracts, and Lobbying,

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1985

B.A., Northwestern University, 1981

Memberships

Past Chair, Denver Public Schools Foundation Board

Board Member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Past Board Member, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Past Board Member, Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Past Board Chair, Auraria Higher Education Center

Past Member, Denver Parks & Recreation Board

Bar admissions and qualifications

Colorado

5280, 2015-2020

- Power Players of Outside Counsel, *Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal*, 2016
- Law Week Colorado, Best Sports Lawyer, *Barrister's Best/People's Court*, 2009, 2013
- Who's Who in Law, *Denver Business Journal*

Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases
 - As sports leagues resume play, Hogan Lovells' Sports, Media & Entertainment group identifies seven key trends to watch in the sports sector
- Published Works
 - The MLB, NHL, and NBA may be coming back, but they're going to have to deal with a minefield of data and privacy issues if they want fans back in the stands *Business Insider*
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells announces changes to office, practice area, and industry sector leadership roles
- Published Works
 - Thinking Beyond Taxpayer Dollars for Stadium Improvements *Route Fifty*
- Awards and Rankings
 - Three Hogan Lovells teams win spots in Law360's Practice Groups of the Year
- Media Mention
 - Lawyers of the Year 2019: Craig Umbaugh *Law Week Colorado*