



## *Thomas L. Strickland*

### **PARTNER**

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Thomas Strickland's practice focuses on a range of matters at the intersection of law, business, and government policy, including governmental enforcement cases, Congressional and internal investigations, corporate governance, and high-stakes crisis management matters. His substantive expertise includes natural resources and environmental law, healthcare regulation and securities law. Mr. Strickland joined the firm after serving as Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the United States Department of the Interior; US Attorney for the District of Colorado; and Chief Legal Officer at UnitedHealth Group.

Mr. Strickland's service as a senior member of the Obama Administration followed his previous roles as chief legal officer for UnitedHealth Group, United States Attorney for the District of Colorado, and Policy Director for former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm.

Following confirmation by the US Senate, Mr. Strickland joined the Interior Department in 2009, holding both the Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary positions. As Chief of Staff to Secretary Ken Salazar, he oversaw press, legislative and intergovernmental affairs for the department, including coordination with the White House and external constituencies. Mr. Strickland was also responsible for oversight, and management of 77,000 employees and a \$12 billion budget. While there he was also very involved in energy matters, from leasing decisions on federal land to the development of the five year plan for the Outer Continental Shelf.

Prior to joining the Department of the Interior, Mr. Strickland was executive vice president and chief legal officer at UnitedHealth Group, where he managed an in-house legal department of 200 attorneys and a nationwide team of outside counsel. He was responsible for all legal, regulatory and compliance matters and implemented a number of corporate governance initiatives.

Mr. Strickland also has extensive experience in private practice, and was previously a partner at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), where he helped build and lead the firm's practice in Colorado. He also previously served as US Attorney for Colorado, where he led the federal

investigation of the Columbine shootings.

### *Energy Experience*

In both the public and private sectors, Mr. Strickland has significant experience working with clients in the energy industry on regulatory, policy and crisis management issues. He acted as outside counsel for Colorado Interstate Gas (a subsidiary of the Coastal Corporation) and lead counsel for Xcel Energy in the successful renegotiation of their franchise agreement with the City of Denver. He has also represented Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA), and numerous mining and energy companies on public lands and environmental issues.

While at the Department of the Interior, following the Deepwater Horizon incident, Mr. Strickland was deeply involved with the response and clean up efforts, and acted as lead negotiator of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment team. He was also involved in the review and permitting of wind and solar projects on public lands. As Assistant Secretary, he managed the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. In this capacity Mr. Strickland was involved in reviewing the wildlife impacts of many conventional and renewable energy projects.

### *Community Involvement*

Mr. Strickland is a founding member of Great Outdoors Colorado, a statewide initiative that directs lottery dollars to help preserve wildlife habitat, parks, rivers, trails and open space.

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## *Solutions*

Congressional Investigations	Crisis Management and Strategic Response	Cross-Border Investigations and Compliance
Energy, Environment and Natural Resources	Environmental Litigation and Enforcement Defense	Government and Regulatory Litigation
Healthcare	Investigations	Life Sciences
Litigation	Native American Law	Public Policy and Legislative Affairs
Securities Enforcement	Securities Litigation	White Collar Defense and Investigations

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## *Recognition*

- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* for his securities litigation practice in 2017-2023
- Recommended in the 2017 and 2018 editions of *The Legal 500 United States* for his government relations practice

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## Credentials

### EDUCATION

JD, The University of Texas  
School of Law, 1977

*with honors*

BA, English Literature,  
Louisiana State University, 1974

*with honors*

### ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

Colorado

Minnesota

Texas

### CLERKSHIPS

US District Court for the  
Southern District of Texas,  
1977 - 1979

### GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

Department of the Interior

*Chief of Staff to the Secretary*

Department of the Interior

*Assistant Secretary, Fish and  
Wildlife and Parks*

Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office

*US Attorney, District of  
Colorado*