



## Ken Salazar

Partner

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### Practice Area

#### Regulatory and Government Affairs

Environmental

Strategic Response

### Education

JD, University of Michigan, 1981

BS, Colorado College, 1977

### Bar Admissions

Colorado

Ken Salazar is a partner in the firm's Regulatory and Government Affairs Department, a member of the Strategic Response and Environmental Practices, and a member of the [Energy and Cleantech Group](#). Mr. Salazar, a former US Secretary of the Interior, US Senator and State Attorney General, provides legal, strategic and policy advice to national and international clients, particularly on matters at the intersection of law, business and public policy. He draws on his deep experience in energy, environmental and natural resources, and tribal issues to assist the firm's clients.

### Experience

In December 2008, President Barack Obama selected then-US Senator Salazar to serve in his cabinet as Secretary of Interior. Mr. Salazar was confirmed as the 50th Secretary of the Interior by a unanimous US Senate vote on January 20, 2009. Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Salazar served as United States Senator for Colorado, winning the election in 2004 and serving on the Energy and Natural Resources and Finance Committees, which oversaw the nation's energy, natural resources, tax, trade, social security and health care systems. He also served on the Agriculture, Ethics, Veterans Affairs and Aging Committees.

As Secretary, Mr. Salazar helped to lead the United States energy efforts in developing and implementing the President's "all of the above energy strategy." The effort included overseeing the exploration and development of conventional and renewable energy resources on the nation's public lands and oceans, and working on matters relating to climate change, exploration of frontier areas like the Arctic, leading the successful response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill, and overhauling the regulatory oversight of oil and gas exploration and production. He also created the five-year plan that governs the leasing for oil and exploration for the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Arctic Seas.

During that time, Mr. Salazar also led the effort to permit more than 11,000 MW of power on public lands from solar, wind and geothermal sources (the equivalent of power from more than 30 regular power plants) and developed the blueprint for future siting and development of these resources, including high-priority transmission infrastructure projects. As part of his renewable energy efforts, he also created the first offshore wind energy plan for the Atlantic Ocean and awarded the first leases in

American history for offshore wind projects.

As Secretary, Mr. Salazar also led the nation's efforts on conservation, including the creation of 10 National Parks and 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and organized more than 100 other conservation and preservation projects in the United States. He also led the successful resolution of bilateral conservation efforts with Mexico and Canada along the two borders and in the Arctic.

Mr. Salazar also led the President's initiatives in creating a new chapter with the 566 Native American tribes and Alaska Natives. This effort included the resolution of longstanding conflicts like the Cobell litigation and numerous water rights settlements and permitting the first oil and gas refinery and solar projects in Indian country.

As Secretary, Mr. Salazar appeared before Committees of the United States Congress and provided testimony at more than 30 hearings.

As a US Senator, Mr. Salazar served on key committees, including Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Ethics and Veterans Affairs. Highlights of that service include the enactment of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Security Act, the 2007 Farm Bill, and the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. In each of these efforts, Mr. Salazar was a central player in putting together the successful bipartisan efforts that created the most significant energy legal framework in US history.

Mr. Salazar also helped lead a bipartisan group of Senators on comprehensive immigration reform, the only significant bipartisan legislative effort on ending the War in Iraq, and the beginning of health care reform, which was enacted into law in 2010. As a member of the Ethics Committee, Mr. Salazar was involved in reviewing and resolving ethics matters related to other United States Senators.

As Attorney General, Mr. Salazar served as the top legal officer for the State of Colorado and oversaw thousands of civil and criminal legal matters and investigations before state and federal courts, including the State Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Salazar also exercised the exclusive authority to convene and present matters before the State Grand Jury.

Some of the notable matters investigated and reported on included sexual assault allegations against the University of Colorado football program, the homicide of a Native American young man in southwestern Colorado, the Jon Benet Ramsey homicide, and the review of numerous law enforcement matters relating to the Columbine High School killings. Mr. Salazar also led many investigations relating to securities fraud and consumer protection, including multistate securities fraud and consumer protection matters.

Finally, Mr. Salazar led the resolution of some of the most complex natural resource and environmental conflicts in Colorado history, including longstanding natural resource damage cases at places like the Summitville mine and other CERCLA cases

that had been filed some 25 years earlier. As Attorney General, he was involved in several complex interstate water disputes in the United States Supreme Court.

From 1987 to 1994, Mr. Salazar served first as Chief Legal Counsel and then as Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the Governor of Colorado.

As Chief Legal Counsel for the Governor, Mr. Salazar worked on all important matters to the State of Colorado, including economic development, crisis management, and appointments to all courts, including the Colorado Supreme Court. Mr. Salazar also oversaw the Governor's efforts on criminal justice, corrections, parole and commutation matters.

As Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Salazar spearheaded all efforts on oil and gas, mineral, water, and conservation matters for the State of Colorado.

Besides his public sector experience, Mr. Salazar also has substantial experience in the private practice of law. He practiced natural resources and water law for 11 years in the major Denver law firms of Sherman & Howard and Parcel, Mauro, Hultin and Spaanstra. In his practice, Mr. Salazar represented ski areas, land developers, farmers and mining companies in both transactional and litigation matters. About 50 percent of his time was focused on addressing water rights matters.

Mr. Salazar received a JD degree from the University of Michigan and a political science degree from Colorado College. He later received honorary doctorates of law from Colorado College, the University of Denver and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

### **Professional Activities**

Mr. Salazar has served on numerous boards and commissions, including:

- Member, Target Corporation Board of Directors, 2013
- Member, US Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 2012-2013
- Chairman, US Tourism Task Force on Travel and Competitiveness, 2012-2013
- Member, White House Domestic Policy Council, 2009-2013
- Chairman, National Park Foundation, 2009-2013
- Chairman, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, 2009-2013
- Chairman, Interagency Group on Insular Areas, 2009-2013
- Member, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, 2009-2013

- Member, Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2009-2013
- Member, National Ocean Council, 2009-2013
- Senior US Official, US Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2009-2013
- Arctic Policy Group, 2009-2013
- Tourism Policy Group, 2009-2013
- America's Great Outdoors Council, 2009-2013
- Chairman, Conference of Western Attorneys General, 2002-2003
- Chairman, National Association of Attorneys General Environment Committee, 1999-2003
- Chairman, Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, 1999-2005
- State of Colorado Claims Board, 1999-2004
- Colorado College Board of Trustees, 1999-2004
- Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1999-2004
- Chairman, Rio Grande Compact Commission, 1995-1998
- Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission, 1995-1998
- Chairman, Sangre de Cristo Land Grant Commission, 1993-1995
- Chair, Great Outdoors Colorado Board, 1993-1994
- City and County of Denver Ethics Recommendations Panel, 1993
- Department of Local Affairs Mineral Impact Advisory Committee, 1990-1994
- Colorado Water Conservation Board, 1990-1994

### **Past Appearances**

Mr. Salazar is a frequent speaker on issues related to energy, conservation and tourism, Native Americans, water and law enforcement. Speaking engagements include:

#### ***Energy***

February 14, 2013

Governor's Forum on Colorado Agriculture

*How Investments in Energy and Infrastructure Can Help Grow Our Economy*

September 13, 2012

Center of the American West and Public Lands Foundation Symposium

*Standing Up a Renewable Energy Economy*

April 24, 2012  
National Press Club  
*"All of the Above" Strategy for Domestic Energy Development*

February 14, 2012  
City Club of Cleveland  
*Responsible Development of Our Nation's Domestic Energy Resources*

October 11, 2011  
American Wind Energy Association's Annual Offshore WINDPOWER Conference  
*Toward A Clean Energy Economy*

April 14, 2011  
Ministerial Forum on Offshore Drilling Containment  
*Reducing the Risks Associated with Offshore Drilling Around the World*

January 19, 2011  
National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment on Our Changing Oceans  
*Safe Oil and Gas Production in the Nation's Oceans - Deconflicting the Missions of Government*

October 18, 2010  
Society of Geophysicists Conference  
*A Safe, Secure and Clean Energy Future*

October 14, 2010  
Solar Power International Conference  
*Large-Scale Renewable Energy Production on Public Lands*

October 6, 2010  
American Wind Energy Association's Annual Offshore WINDPOWER Conference  
*Developing a Clean Energy Economy*

September 30, 2010  
Woodrow Wilson Center  
*Toward a Safe, Secure, and Clean Energy Future*

December 10, 2009  
Global Conference on Climate Change  
*A New Energy Future for America*

November 9, 2009  
2009 Great Plains Energy Expo and Showcase

*Renewable Energy and Climate Change*

September 30, 2009

Energy Daily's Transmission Siting Policy Summit at the National Press Club  
*New Transmission Infrastructure for the 21st Century*

May 4, 2009

American Wind Energy Association's Annual Offshore WINDPOWER Conference  
*The Nation's Energy Frontier: Wind Energy Projects on U.S. Public Land*

April 1, 2009

25X25 America's Energy Future Summit  
*Renewable Energy Development on America's Public Lands and Oceans*

*Conservation and Tourism*

January 11, 2013

Miami Chamber of Commerce  
*The Economic Importance of Tourism and Conservation*

January 11, 2013

28th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference  
*America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future*

July 17, 2012

Greater & Greener: Re-Imagining Parks for 21st Century Cities  
*Building and Expanding America's Great Urban Parks*

May 31, 2012

15th Annual International Symposium of the US National Committee for International Council on Monuments and Sites  
*Capturing and Telling a More Inclusive Story of American History*

March 2, 2012

White House Conference on Conservation  
*Growing America's Outdoor Heritage and Economy*

July 14, 2011

US Fish and Wildlife Service Annual National Wildlife Refuges Conference  
*Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation*

April 15, 2011

Celebration of Renovation of Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church  
*Martin Luther King Jr. - A Continuing March Toward a More Perfect Union*

March 16, 2011

76th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference  
*America's Great Outdoors: The Importance of Outdoor Recreation*

January 7, 2011  
Annual Everglades Coalition Conference  
*Conserving Ranches, Working Lands, and Wildlife in the Headwaters of the Everglades*

November 16, 2010  
National Landscape Conservation System Summit  
*Growth of the National Landscape Conservation System: An Economic Engine for the New West*

April 16, 2010  
White House Conference on Conservation  
*Introducing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative*

March 24, 2010  
National Landscape Conservation System Ceremony  
*Celebrating the National Landscape Conservation System's 10th Anniversary*

December 4, 2009  
Groundbreaking of the Tamiami Trail Bridge at the Everglades National Park  
*Highlighting the Threat Posed by Accelerating Climate Change*

March 30, 2009  
White House Event on Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009  
*Protecting that Which Fuels Our Spirit*

***Native Americans***

December 5, 2012  
White House Tribal Nations Conference  
*Continuing the Progress in Tribal Communities*

December 2, 2011  
White House Tribal Nations Conference  
*Strengthening the Nation to Nation Relationship with Indian Country*

December 16, 2010  
White House Tribal Nations Conference  
*Working with Tribal Nations to Build a Brighter Future*

November 15, 2010  
National Congress of American Indians Convention  
*Strong Tribal Nations, Strong America*

March 4, 2009  
Council of Energy Resource Tribes  
*Native Energy Development and Its Place in America's Future*

March 4, 2009  
Tribal Nations Legislative Summit of the National Congress of American Indians  
*Interior's Agenda on First Americans*

***Water***

December 14, 2012  
Colorado River Water Users Association's Annual Conference  
*The Pressing Need to Build upon the Recent Cooperative Successes on Colorado River Management*

December 17, 2010  
Colorado River Water Users Association's Annual Conference  
*Managing a River of Issues*

January 2002  
Colorado Water Congress Convention  
*Overview of Colorado River Issues*

January 2001  
Colorado Water Congress Convention  
*2000 - A Year of Remarkable Progress on Water Issues*

January 2000  
Colorado Water Congress Convention  
*Colorado Water - Our Past, Our Future*

***Law Enforcement***

November 2001  
Opinion Editorial: "The D.A.R.E. Program: New Directions in Preventing Substance Abuse"

January 2000  
Opinion Editorial: "Protecting Our Senior Citizens Against Fraud"

January 2000  
Opinion Editorial: "Creating Safe Communities and Safe Schools"

***Congressional Hearings***

As Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Salazar appeared before Committees of the United



States Congress and provided testimony at more than 30 hearings, including:

February 29, 2012

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
*Fiscal 2013 Budget Request: The Department of the Interior*

February 28, 2012

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Fiscal 2013 Budget Request: Interior*

February 16, 2012

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
*Fiscal 2013 Budget Request: The Department of the Interior*

February 15, 2012

House Natural Resources Committee  
*Fiscal 2013 Budget Request: The Department of the Interior*

November 16, 2011

House Natural Resources Committee  
*U.S. Oil and Natural Gas Development*

May 17, 2011

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*US Oil and Gas Development*

March 9, 2011

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
*Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: The Department of the Interior*

March 8, 2011

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
*Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Interior*

March 3, 2011

House Natural Resources Committee  
*Fiscal 2012 Budget Request: Interior Department*

March 2, 2011

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Fiscal 2012 Budget Request: Interior Department*

July 22, 2010

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee  
*The Department of the Interior's Oversight of Offshore Oil Drilling*

July 20, 2010  
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and  
Oversight and Investigations  
*Role of Interior Department in Deepwater Horizon Disaster*

June 30, 2010  
House Natural Resources Committee  
*Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources Act*

June 24, 2010  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Minerals Management Overhaul; Oil Drilling Safety Plans*

June 9, 2010  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Safety Measures for Outer Continental Shelf Energy Development*

May 26, 2010  
House Natural Resources Committee  
*Gulf Coast Oil*

May 18, 2010  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
*Gulf Coast Oil Spill*

May 18, 2010  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Gulf Coast Oil Spill*

March 10, 2010  
House Natural Resources Committee  
*Native American Trust Litigation*

March 3, 2010  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Fiscal 2011 Budget Request: The Department of the Interior*

January 28, 2010  
Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New  
Economy  
*Solar Energy Technology and Jobs*

December 17, 2009  
Senate Indian Affairs Committee  
*Cobell v. Salazar*

October 27, 2009  
Senate Environment and Public Works  
*The Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act*

September 16, 2009  
House Natural Resources Committee  
*Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources*

July 24, 2009  
House Budget Committee  
*Economic Stimulus Package*

July 14, 2009  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Mining Legislation*

July 7, 2009  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
*Energy and Climate Legislation*

March 17, 2009  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Public Lands and OCS Energy Development*

February 12, 2009  
Senate Indian Affairs Committee  
*Secretary of the Interior on Indian Affairs*

January 15, 2009  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
*Interior Nomination*

## Honors & Awards

### 2013

- Colorado Conservation Trust Lifetime Achievement Award
- Colorado Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society Award of Excellence
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Chairman's Award
- Colorado Hispanic Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Ducks Unlimited 2012 Conservation Achievement Award
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Award

- The Wilderness Society Ansel Adams Award

**2012**

- 2012 Cesar Chavez Legacy Award
- 2012 Colorado College Champion of the Rockies Award
- Audubon Florida: 2012 Champion of the Everglades
- Arthur R. Marshall Foundation for the Everglades: 2012 Champion of the Everglades
- *Latino Leaders* magazine's Most Influential Leaders for 2011

**2011**

- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute: CHCI Chair's Award
- Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership – Annual Leadership Award
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Chairman's Award
- Recreation Vehicles Dealers Association: Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award
- Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award

**2010**

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Chairman's Award
- National Park Trust: American Park Experience Award

**2008**

- 2008 Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts Friend of Conservation Award
- 2008 Hispanic National Bar Association's Capital Award
- 2008 National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare Award
- 2008 The Fund for American Studies' Institute on Business and Government Affairs Congressional Scholarship Award
- 2008 Soil Science Society of America's Excellence in Soil Stewardship Award
- 2008 National Farmers Union Golden Triangle Award
- Colorado Farm Bureau Foundation's Friend of the Farm Bureau Award
- Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Public Service Award

- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Exemplary Policy and Advocacy Leadership Award
- League of United Latin American Citizens Héroe de la Comunidad Award
- National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers President's Award of Merit
- Paralyzed Veterans of America Legislator of the Year Award
- Riverreach/cityWILD Role Model of the Year Award

**2007**

- 2007 Friend of the Outdoor Industry Award
- 2007 National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. Distinguished Community Health Defender Award
- 2007 National Farmers Union Golden Triangle Award
- 2007 National Parks Association Award
- 2007 Polio Eradication Champion Award - The US Coalition for the Eradication of Polio, Rotary International - Rotary International and its partner organizations in the US Coalition for the Eradication of Polio: The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, The Task Force for Child Survival and Development, The US Fund for UNICEF, The American Academy of Pediatrics, The United Nations Foundation
- 2007 Smithsonian Latino Center Award for Leadership
- Colorado Association of Conservation Districts Legislator of the Year
- Cuban American National Council's Outstanding Hispanic Leader Award
- Eagle Award, Southeast Business Partnership for contribution to economic growth in Southeast Denver
- Golden Gavel Award, United States Senate, One Hundred Tenth Congress
- National Association of Wheat Growers US Wheat Associates (NAWG)
- Wheat Advocate Award
- Safe2Tell Recognition Award
- Southeast Business Partnership Eagle Award
- Transportation Technology Center, Inc., Pueblo - Recognition Award
- Vale La Pena, Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Voices for National Service - Outstanding New Member Award

**2006**

- Blinded Veterans Association Legislative Recognition Award
- Cesar Chavez Leadership Hall of Fame Induction - 5th Annual Denver Public Library Latino Awards Ceremony
- Colorado Adult Education Professional Association Legislator of the Year Award
- Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts Leadership in Land Conservation Award
- Colorado Parks and Recreation Association 2005 Columbine Award
- Land Trust Alliance - In appreciation for H.R. 4, Section 1206, 2006, re expansion of tax incentives for donations of conservation easements and enacting reforms that will provide fair treatment for farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners
- National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. 2006 Distinguished Community Health Defender Award
- The National Association of Hispanic Publications, Inc. & Foundation - Hispanic Role Model Appreciation
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Honorary Advocates Circle Member
- National Farmers Union - 2006 Golden Triangle Award
- National Recreation and Park Association 2005 National Congressional Award
- Outdoor Industry Association - Friend of the Outdoor Industry Award 2006
- United States Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Enterprise Award
- University of Colorado at Boulder Alumni Congressional Leadership Award

## 2005

- American Health Care Association & the National Center for Assisted Living - Leading Light of Long Term Care Award 2005
- The Century Council - in recognitions of Your Outstanding Commitment to Fight Drunk Driving and Underage Drinking
- Colorado Parks Association Legislator of the Year Award
- Escuela Tlatelolco - Champions of Change Award for Politics and Social Action
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 2005 Capitol Forum Award
- Hispanic National Bar Association 2005 Pioneer Award
- Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) 14th Annual Bernie Valdez Awards Luncheon - Herrick S. Roth Community Service

- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) - 2005 President's Award
- National Farmers Union - 2005 Golden Triangle Award
- Pueblo Reunion Committee - Honorary Puebloan Award
- The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) Education Foundation - "Creo" Award
- Urban League of Metro Denver - 2005 McKinley Harris Distinguished Warrior Award

**2004**

- Conference of Western Attorneys General - Profiles in Courage Award
- Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Government Advocate of the Year Award
- National Conference for Community and Justice - Partner with Community Award

**2003**

- Catholic Lawyers Guild of Colorado - St. Thomas More Award
- Colorado Trial Lawyers Association - Consumer Protection Award
- Colorado Association of D.A.R.E. Officers - Chief Patrick Ahlstrom Community Service Award
- SafeHouse - Community Impact Award

**2002**

- Anti-Defamation League Civil Rights Award
- Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association
- Colorado Press Association Friend of the First Award
- Latin American Educational Foundation (LAEF) Sol Trujillo National Leadership Award
- Robert G. Boucher Award; Anti-Defamation League Civil Rights Award

**2001**

- American Jewish Committee Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award
- News4, Wells Fargo, and HRO Celebrate Diversity Award

**2000**

- Recognition by AARP for Outstanding Service and Leadership on Senior Fraud Issues

**1999**

- Recognition by the Colorado Conference of Police and Sheriffs in Appreciation for Dedication to Colorado Law Enforcement Agencies

**Post-Graduate Honors**

- University of Massachusetts – Lowell, Honorary Degree (2012)
- University of Colorado School of Law, Order of the Coif (2006)
- University of Michigan, Distinguished Alumni Award (2002)
- University of Denver School of Law, Honorary Doctorate of Laws (1999)
- Colorado College, Honorary Doctorate of Laws (1993)

**Speaking Inquiries**

For inquiries regarding Mr. Salazar’s availability for speaking engagements, please contact:

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