The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute  
*Thirteenth Annual Conference*  

Session Handouts  
To Accompany Home Study Audio CD 

*for*  

**How to Read Land Use Codes and Statutes:**  
*The Top 10 Things to Know*  
Original Presentation  
Friday, March 12, 2004  

**Moderator:** Melinda M. Beck, Esq.  
*Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Woods & Levy, P.C.*  
* Denver, Colorado*  

**Panelists:**  
Gerald E. Dahl, Esq.  
*Partner*  
*Gorsuch Kirgis, LLP*  
*Denver, Colorado*  

Bob Rogers, Esq.  
*Deputy City Attorney - Aurora*  
*Aurora, Colorado*
PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Melinda Beck, Esq., is an associate in the Denver law firm of Isaacson, Rosenbaum, Woods & Levy, P.C. She is a member of the firm's Real Estate and Transactional Practice Group, Public Law and Policy Practice Group, and Conservation Practice Group. Ms. Beck specializes in the grant of conservation easements to local governments and land trusts by private landowners and the representation of conservation buyers who acquire land subject to conservation easements. She represents landowners and developers seeking land use approvals from local governments, including annexation, rezoning, subdivision, and special use permits. Ms. Beck also handles general real estate transactions such as the purchase and sale of residential, commercial, and vacant land.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Beck was as an Assistant County Attorney with Douglas County and advised the Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, and staff on land use and open space issues including the review and drafting of proposed subdivision and zoning regulations. She also handled the legal review and negotiation of land and conservation easement acquisitions and advised regarding management of such land by the Douglas County Department of Open Space and Natural Resources.

Gerald E. Dahl, Esq., is a partner in the Denver firm of Gorsuch Kirgis LLP. Mr. Dahl serves as Town Attorney for Wheat Ridge, Colorado. His specialties include local government and land use law. From 1984 through 1989, he served as general counsel for Alma and special counsel to a number of counties and municipalities on Colorado’s western slope. From 1976 to 1978, he was associated with the Denver water law firm of White & Burke.

Bob Rogers, Esq., Deputy City Attorney for the City of Aurora, Colorado, has served in the Aurora City Attorney's Office since 1981. He is a former assistant city attorney for Arvada, Colorado. Bob holds a master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona and a law degree from St. Mary's University. His practice emphasizes land use, annexation, intergovernmental relations, and development issues.
How To Read Land Use Codes and Statutes

Top Ten Things to Know
Top 10 Things To Know

1. Understand the Land Use Code As a Whole
2. Interpretation of Uses Permitted within a Zone Category
Top 10 Things To Know

3. Interpretation of Criteria for Approval
Top 10 Things To Know

4. Understanding Administrative Decision-Making and Delegation of Authority
Top 10 Things To Know

5. Conditions, Exactions and Extractions
Top 10 Things To Know

7. Understanding Appeals and Waivers
Top 10 Things To Know

8. Annexation Issues
Top 10 Things To Know

9. Relevance of Statutory Provisions for City and County Land Use Regulations
Top 10 Things To Know

10. General Rules of Interpretation
Top 10 Things To Know

Questions and Answers