# Richard H. Honaker

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## Legal Qualifications

Admitted to practice in the federal and state courts of Wyoming in 1976, in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 1977, in the United States Supreme Court in 1989, in the federal and state courts of Utah in 2009, and in the federal courts of Colorado in 2010.

Extensive bench and jury trial experience, having engaged in civil and criminal litigation in the state and federal courts of Wyoming for 38 years, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases and representing both the prosecution and defense  in criminal cases.

Active mediation and arbitration practice for past 13 years, mediating approximately 4 to 8 matters per month.

Extensive appellate court experience, having briefed and argued more than 50 appeals before the Wyoming Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Excellent working relationships with Wyoming's sitting federal and state trial and appellate judges.

Participation in many activities enhancing the ethics and quality of the legal profession in Wyoming.

## Professional Experience

**1976 – 1979**    **Assistant Attorney General**

State of Wyoming, Attorney General                    Cheyenne, Wyoming

Provided civil advice to state agencies, represented agencies before administrative tribunals, represented the State of Wyoming in civil and criminal trial proceedings, briefed and argued the position of the State of Wyoming in appeals before the Wyoming Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, and acted as counsel to the Governor of Wyoming.

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| *1979 – 1981* | ***State Public Defender*** |
| | *State of Wyoming, Public Defender*        *Cheyenne, Wyoming* |

*1979 – 1981*      ***State Public Defender***

*State of Wyoming, Public Defender*          *Cheyenne, Wyoming*
*Appointed by the Governor of Wyoming to serve as Wyoming's second State Public Defender. Administered a statewide public defender system comprised of about 30 attorneys in Wyoming's 23 counties. Was chief trial counsel in several first degree murder cases and in other cases involving serious felony charges.*

*1981 – Present*     ***Private Practice of Law***         *Rock Springs, Wyoming*
*Established and managed solo and partnership law firms in Rock Springs, Wyoming during a private practice of law that has spanned more than 30 years. From the beginning, this practice has been statewide, and also has involved litigation in neighboring states with the association of local counsel. The primary emphasis has been on civil litigation, with about one third of litigation practice in the federal courts. Mediation/arbitration now has become about 60 percent of what I do.*

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## *Accomplishments*

- *Served as President of the Wyoming State Bar, 2002-03 (president-elect, 2001-02, and vice president, 2000-01).*
- *Served as President of the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, 1986. (Only attorney to date who has served as president of both the Wyoming State Bar and the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association.)*
- *Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers.*
- *Elected as a charter member of the Wyoming chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 1990.*
- *Served as president of the Wyoming chapter of ABOTA, 2006-07, and as a member of the national board of directors of ABOTA, 2007-present.*
- *Rated for the past 30 years by Martindale-Hubbell as an AV lawyer.*
- *Listed in The Best Lawyers in America.*
- *Listed in Super Lawyers (top 10% of all United States lawyers).*
- *Nominated by President Bush in 2007 to serve as a United States District Judge, and unanimously rated "Well Qualified" by the American Bar Association.*

## *Additional Service To The Judicial System*

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| *Permanent Rules Advisory Committee -- Civil Division* | *Served 1988-2008, pursuant to re-appointments by successive Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justices, on the committee that writes the rules for civil practice in the state courts of Wyoming.* |
| *Uniform District Rules Subcommittee* | *Appointed by Wyoming Supreme Court in 1992 to serve on the subcommittee that rewrote the rules of practice for Wyoming district courts.* |
| *Civil Pattern Jury Instruction Committee* | *Served 1992-98 on the committee that writes pattern jury instructions for use in the state trial courts of Wyoming.* |
| *Legislative and Law Reform Committee* | *Appointed by President of Wyoming State Bar, as a former state legislator (elected to three terms in the State House, 1986-92), to serve since 1997 on the committee which reviews and monitors proposed legislation, offers information to legislators and testimony before legislative committees regarding bills which may impact the legal profession or judicial system.* |
| *Select Committee To Review Disciplinary Functions* | *Chaired this bench-bar committee appointed by the Wyoming Supreme Court to examine rules and procedures relating to Wyoming regulatory functions of attorney discipline, to evaluate the underlying principles for those rules in light of current and anticipated future developments regarding the practice of law, and to explore and recommend appropriate revisions to those rules for the purpose of improving the attorney disciplinary system by enhancing its efficiency, consistency, comprehensibility, and enforceability. Wyoming's current disciplinary code, adopted by the Wyoming Supreme Court, represents the work of this committee.* |
| *Board of Professional Responsibility* | *Served 2004-08 as vice chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility, the board charged by law with investigating and conducting hearings on complaints of attorney ethical misconduct in Wyoming.* |
| *Wyoming State Bar Foundation* | *Served 2001-04 as a member of the board of directors of the Wyoming State Bar Foundation. Currently a fellow of the Foundation.* |
| *Bench-Bar Relations Committee* | *Currently chairs this State Bar committee that exists to foster improvement of relations between members of the bench and bar in Wyoming.* |

## *Education*

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| *1969* | *Laramie High School* | *Laramie, Wyoming* |
| *1973* | *B.A. Cum Laude*<br>*Harvard College* | *Cambridge, Massachusetts* |
| *1976* | *J.D.*<br>*University of Wyoming College of Law* | *Laramie, Wyoming* |