



About the Authors

Brian J. Connolly is an associate with the Land Use practice group at Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti, P.C., in Denver, Colorado. His practice focuses on the regulatory aspects of the real estate development process, and includes the representation of both public- and private-sector clients in matters relating to zoning, planning, and development entitlements. Brian also represents clients in litigation relating to land use matters and assists clients in conducting real estate transactions.

Prior to practicing law, Brian was an urban planner in the planning department of Westchester County, New York. In addition to reviewing numerous large-scale development proposals for consistency with municipal codes and countywide planning policies, he conducted demographic analysis and research support through the course of the county's litigation and settlement of the federal fair housing case *United States ex rel. Antidiscrimination Center of Metro New York, Inc. v. Westchester County*.

Brian speaks and writes frequently on a variety of land use law topics. While in law school, he coauthored the *Michigan Sign Guidebook: The Local Planning and Regulation of Signs*, and he frequently writes and speaks on First Amendment issues related to sign regulation, aesthetics, and other land use matters. Brian also writes and speaks frequently on the relationship between fair housing and antidiscrimination law and zoning. He is an active member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Planning Association and the American Bar Association.

Brian holds a J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School, and a Master of Regional Planning and B.S. in urban studies, both from Cornell University. Brian is admitted to practice law in Colorado.

Dwight H. Merriam, past chair of the American Bar Association's Section of State and Local Government Law, founded Robinson & Cole's Land Use Group in 1978. He represents land owners, developers, governments, and individuals in land use matters. Dwight is a fellow and past president of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a former director of the American Planning Association (APA), a former chair of APA's Planning and Law Division, the Connecticut member of Owners' Counsel of America, a fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute National Advisory Board, a fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, a designated Counselor of Real Estate, a member of the Anglo-American Real Property Institute, and a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

He teaches land use law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and at the Quinnipiac University School of Law and has published over 200 articles and nine books, including *Inclusionary Zoning Moves Downtown*, *The Takings Issue*, *The Complete Guide to Zoning*, and *Eminent Domain Use and Abuse: Kelo in Context*.

Dwight has been named to the Connecticut Super Lawyers list in the area of Land Use Law since 2006; was one of the Top 50 Connecticut Super Lawyers in 2011; was one of the Top 100 New England Super Lawyers in 2011; is ranked in Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business in Connecticut in the area of Real Estate; is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Land Use and Zoning Law and Real Estate Law since 1991 and in the areas of Litigation: Land Use and Zoning and Litigation: Real Estate for 2012 and 2013; and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America as Hartford Lawyer of the Year in the area of Litigation: Land Use and Zoning for 2013 and in the area of Land Use and Zoning Law for 2012.

He received his B.A., cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts, his Master of Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina, where he was invited back as the graduation speaker in 2011, and his J.D. from Yale. He is a featured speaker at many land use seminars and presents monthly audio land use seminars for the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Dwight has been cited in the national press, from the *New York*

Times to People magazine, and has appeared on NBC's *Today* show, MSNBC, and public television.

Dwight served for seven years on active duty in the Navy as a surface warfare officer, including three tours in Vietnam, and 24 more years in the reserves, retiring as a captain following his command of the reserve augmentation unit of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center.