

Joe (Hank) Legan

Associate

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Joe “Hank” Legan was a WTO summer law clerk and a legal intern for the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender before joining the firm. As a student attorney in the University of Denver Civil Rights Clinic, he represented incarcerated individuals in a class action challenging unconstitutional prison conditions. In his first year at WTO, he helped WTO win a landmark ruling regarding the unconstitutionality of unairconditioned prisons in Texas.

Prior to studying law, Hank spent 20 years in the real estate industry as a property manager overseeing commercial office buildings, multifamily portfolios, and condominium associations. Through his real estate experience he honed strong communication and conflict resolution skills that he continues to use every day in practicing law.

Hank also worked as a student attorney for the University of Denver Sturm College of Law's Animal Activist Legal Defense Project.

Hank's personal interests include golfing, geography, documentary filmmaking, and rock climbing.

Credentials

Education

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., Order of the Coif, 2025; Civil Rights Clinic Student Attorney, Scholastic Excellence Award in legal writing

Texas State University, B.S., *summa cum laude*, 2022; Geography Resource and Environmental Studies, Dean's List, Liberal Arts Award for Academic Excellence

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

Legal Intern for the Office of the Colorado State Public Defender

BAR AND ADMISSIONS

Colorado

U.S. District Court, D. New Mexico

U.S. District Court, W.D. Texas

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

City of Englewood, Colorado, Snow Buddy Program
Member

Texas Climbers Coalition
Trail Boss, 2020-2022

Meals on Wheels of Central Texas
Volunteer

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Student Attorney for the Animal Activist Legal Defense Project of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Cases

Served as lead trial counsel and won a permanent injunction in Texas federal court requiring that the State of Texas provide air conditioning in its prisons statewide. This was the first extreme heat case to go to trial against a statewide prison system, and the injunction will remedy unconstitutional conditions of extreme heat for many tens of thousands of current and future inmates.
