

# LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

## A BIG DEAL

IF GREENBERG TRAURIG shareholder and former Colorado U.S. Attorney Troy Eid had accomplished just a fraction of what he did in 2011, he would still be on our Lawyer of the Year shortlist.

In the past twelve months, Eid has made possible the completion of a \$3.6 billion natural gas pipeline from Wyoming to Oregon; helped broker a \$1.45 billion sale of a stake in the state's biggest hospital system; represented a client in a major arbitration over the Grand Canyon Skywalk tourist attraction; and chaired a national commission that is overhauling the criminal justice system on American Indian reservations.

Eid represented El Paso Energy in construction of the Ruby Pipeline Project, which stretches 677 miles from Wyoming to Oregon. The pipeline came online at the end of July, bringing 1.5 billion cubic feet of Rocky Mountain natural gas to the west coast every day. The sale of Colorado natural gas through the pipeline is expected to bring the state \$200 million annually in tax revenue.

Eid's expertise in Indian law was vital, as the pipeline crossed the ancestral land of 40 Indian tribes. He fostered collaboration between the company and tribal leaders to avoid disrupting culturally significant sites. Even so, there were some legal attempts to block construction, but Eid was able to defend those and prevent costly work stoppages.

One of the biggest transactions in Colorado this year was the Colorado Health Foundation's sale of its 40-percent ownership stake in hospital system HCA-HealthONE to HCA Holdings. The deal had to get approval from state Attorney General John Suthers before it could go through, and the foundation retained Eid to make sure it passed regulatory muster.

"His legal, financial and political knowledge served us very well," said Anne Warhaver, the foundation's president and CEO. "Troy knows when to lead and does so very effectively. His participation was essential to the success of the transaction."

After months of negotiations, Suthers approved the sale, which closed in October.

In a case originating in Arizona, Eid represents David Jin, the investor and builder of



TROY EID

the Grand Canyon Skywalk, a glass-bottomed platform that juts out 70 feet over the canyon. Jin developed the tourist attraction along with the Hualapai Tribe, but a dispute arose between the parties with Jin accusing the tribe of trying to wrest control of the skywalk through eminent domain to avoid paying millions of dollars in management fees. Eid succeeded in getting the case to arbitration.

At the very end of 2010, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid named Eid to the Indian Law and Order Commission, and in April, Eid was elected to serve as its chair. The nine-member national panel is tasked with improving criminal justice on Indian reservations, where crime rates far exceed the national average.

"Troy Eid's leadership of the Indian Law and Order Commission has been critical to moving the commission forward in the last year," said Colorado U.S. Attorney John Walsh.

Eid billed about 2,450 hours in the last year, about half of it on the road, and did another 400 hours of pro bono work, but he still found plenty of time to spend with his wife, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Allison Eid, son, Alex, and daughter, Emily. •

— Matt Masich, [MMasich@CircuitMedia.com](mailto:MMasich@CircuitMedia.com)