

Government Law

The Government Law team is an interdisciplinary group that includes many members who are former government attorneys or have worked in various levels of federal state or local government. Team members apply their technical knowledge, experience and practical understanding of public law to assist clients in contracting, permitting, rulemaking, public records act issues, representation before administrative and regulatory bodies, and in litigation proceedings. We also work with selected strategic partners to develop and implement innovative strategies to achieve successful outcomes on matters of concern to our clients and to the communities in which they work and serve.

The members of our Government Law Team have a breadth of experience advising and representing corporate, partnership, local governments, special purpose districts and individual clients on matters affecting their work. We are committed to providing superior service to our clients in regulatory matters and interactions with all levels of government throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The Government Law Team has particular experience in a variety of legal matters, including:

State and Local Taxation

We work with clients who have tax issues with the state Department of Revenue, state Board of Tax Appeals, county assessors and similar tax collecting entities. We also counsel clients in structuring business transactions to minimize adverse tax impacts.

Health Care

Our team has a range of experience in assisting clients with health care issues, including certificates of need and other licensing matters, before the state Departments of Health, Social and Health Services, Licensing and other state agencies.

Labor, Employment & Benefits

Our team includes experienced labor and employment attorneys who provide compliance and regulatory advice to our clients on a broad range of labor, employment and benefits issues. We keep current on developing local and state laws and regulations, and provide regular updates to our clients through our annual seminars and Employer Adviser client alerts. We also know the court room and continue remarkable success in achieving favorable results for our employer clients. We provide strategic thinking in negotiations involving collective bargaining agreements, and interactions with labor unions. We represent employers in proceedings before government agencies, including federal, state and local departments of labor, the National Labor Relations Board, the Washington State Public Employment Relations Commission, the Oregon Employment Relations Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and state fair employment practices agencies, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and state occupational safety and health agencies. We also represent employers regarding self-insured workers' compensation matters, ERISA plans, and litigation involving life, health and disability employee benefits. Construction and Development

We provide a full range of assistance in contracting, permitting, development and dispute resolution of projects at the local, state and federal levels.

Investigations, Compliance and Ethics

We assist public and private entities with internal and external investigations and compliance issues, and represent our clients during government investigations and state and federal criminal and civil proceedings

Legislative Initiatives

We work with public and private clients in crafting innovative legislative solutions to challenging issues and assist clients who see opportunities for improving regulatory processes.

Consumer Privacy and Data Security

We carefully track and apply developments in the rapidly evolving consumer privacy and data security legislative and regulatory environment to our representation of corporate clients across all industry sectors. We also work closely with trade organizations in their efforts to develop and improve consumer privacy and data security legislative policy.

Environmental Permitting, Compliance and Litigation

We provide assistance ranging from the permit process, consultation on compliance matters, and defense of environmental claims in court and before state and local agencies.

Telecommunications, Energy and Regulated Utilities

We assist clients with business and regulatory issues in the areas of telecommunications, electricity, pipelines, natural gas, and water and sewer services.

Natural Resources Law, Endangered Species Act and Indian Law

The team assists with issues relating to forest practices, aquatic lands, Endangered Species Act, wetlands, and fish and wildlife issues, and Indian law matters.

Public/Private Project Financing

We have extensive experience coordinating the requirements of various funding sources and documenting transactions, including participation from federal, state and local public agencies, private lenders and equity partners. We have helped our clients negotiate and close complex housing, industrial, commercial, mixed-use and transportation projects.

Business Litigation

The team has extensive litigation experience in state and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels involving a wide range of issues. We represent clients in alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration, and in trial and appellate courts.

Experience

Oil Refinery Development Agreement

Represented a North Dakota city in the drafting and negotiation of a development agreement for construction and operation of an oil refinery.

City of Port Angeles v. United States of America

Represented the city in obtaining compensation for damage to city's surface water quality and water rights from the removal of the Elwha River Dam.

Northwest Infrastructure, Inc. v. PCL Construction Services, Inc. v. Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority

Case No. 09-2-12930-4 SEA | King County Superior Court | Seattle, Washington

Represented Sound Transit in prosecuting fraud and unfair business practices/Consumer Protection Act counterclaims against a subcontractor, and in defending against a multi-million dollar claim for additional compensation by the same subcontractor.

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