



Jessica K. Ferrell

Partner

she/her/hers

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A litigator with nearly 20 years of courtroom experience and a background in environmental law and policy, Jess brings a proven track record of taking on and achieving successful results in a wide array of complex challenges, with emphasis on disputes arising under the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, the Clean Water Act, CERCLA, and state analogues.

In her environmental and natural resource practice, Jess represents public and private clients under a multitude of federal and state laws. She has successfully argued before and tried cases in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Alaska, Colorado, District of Columbia, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, and the Western and Eastern Districts of Washington; superior courts across Washington State; and the Washington State Environmental and Land Use Hearings Boards. Jess has prosecuted numerous cost recovery actions and defended renewable energy project permits against ESA, MMPA, APA, and NEPA challenges, and ensured regulatory compliance of developments, water diversion operations, fishing, and other natural resource-dependent activities.

She also participates in rulemaking proceedings and has pursued regulatory challenges under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other federal laws. Outside the courtroom, Jess negotiates settlements in complex multi-party cases and regularly advises clients on regulatory compliance, environmental liabilities in property transactions, water rights, permitting, and a variety of natural resource and wildlife matters.

SERVICES & INDUSTRIES

[Cleanup & Cost Recovery](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[Audits, Risk, and Compliance Assessments](#)

[Clean Water & Water Quality](#)

[Consumer Products](#)

[Fisheries](#)

[Natural Resources & Endangered Species](#)

[PFAS & Emerging Contaminants](#)

[Public Lands](#)

[Recycling & Waste Management](#)

[State, Municipal, and Local Government](#)

EDUCATION

- J.D., with honors and Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate, Lewis and Clark Law School (2005)
- B.A., with honors, Cornell University, History (1998)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts, Eastern and Western Districts of Washington
- State Bar of Washington

Representative Matters

- Represents multiple cities and water districts in actions against U.S. Department of Defense (“DOD”) and chemical manufacturers for contamination of public water systems by perfluorinated compounds (“PFAS”), including in the Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Multi-District Litigation in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina.
- Represents New Mexico local governments for recovery of costs to remediate municipal water supplies contaminated by private companies and the U.S. military. Successfully negotiated multi-year, multi-million dollar consent decree to remediate public water supply with DOD and EPA.
- Represents Seattle Times in environmental cost recovery litigation in U.S. District Court for the W.D. Washington and the Ninth Circuit, and in insurance coverage litigation.
- Represents partnerships between affordable housing and community advocacy groups and development companies to bring long-term affordable housing to increasingly gentrified urban areas in the Pacific Northwest.
- Advises global apparel, food, and outdoor gear retailers, manufacturers, and distributors on PFAS regulatory compliance.
- Represented fishing companies in support of and challenges to NOAA Fisheries allocations, fishery management regulations, and associated ESA and NEPA decisions for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod and Atka mackerel fisheries.

Recognition and Activities

- Best Lawyers in America®: Environmental Law, Environmental Litigation, and Natural Resources (2018-present)
- Business Today's Top 10 Influential Environmental Lawyers in Washington, 2023
- Environmental Law Institute Leadership Counsel and GreenTech Committee (2020-present)
- Chambers USA: Washington – Environment (2022-present)
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Environmental & Energy Lawyers (2021-present)
- Pro Bono work representing refugees seeking political asylum (2007-19)
- WSBA Board of Governors *Pro Bono Publico* Service Recognition (2007-17, 2019-present)
- “Super Lawyer” (2021-present) and Rising Star® (2015-21), Washington Law & Politics / Super Lawyers Magazine
- Editorial Board, WSBA Environmental & Land Use Law Section (2006-present)

Publications and Presentations

- Guest, "Law, disrupted" hosted by John Quinn, Forever Chemicals - Forever Litigation? (June 22, 2023)
- Speaker, Lewis and Clark Law School Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law 2023 Symposium, The Next Five Decades: Conserving Biodiversity on a Changing Planet (April 7, 2023)
- Speaker, Vertex Webinar, PFAS Compounds: Implications for Real Estate Transactions (March 21, 2023)
- Co-author, "Firefighting and Forever Chemicals: The Environmental Impact of PFAS in Firefighting Foam," with A. Dunn, ABA Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 37, No. 2 (Fall 2022)
- Speaker, Masters of Mass Tort 2022, "Government Entities as Allies in Toxic Torts" (September 13, 2022)
- Speaker, Perrin Conferences, Impact of PFAS on Environmental Litigation (January 13, 2022)