



John K. Simpson

Partner

he/him/his

jsimpson@martenlaw.com

208.424.2031

[Boise](#)

101 S. Capitol Blvd, Suite 1200, Boise, Idaho 83702

John assists clients in litigation and administrative proceedings concerning conjunctive administration of ground and surface water, endangered species act, remediation of ground and surface water, adjudication of Native American water right issues and power generating facilities.

John began his career as an engineer in structural design and construction, and in the Electric Utility industry, and furthered his education by attending law school at the Lewis and Clark Northwestern College of Law, graduating in 1990. He has served as a member of the National Water Resources Association's Policy Development Committee since 2001, and in 2010 was appointed by the Governor of the State of Idaho as a representative to the Western States Water Council. John was invited by Governor Little to participate in the Governor's Salmon Task Force and the appointment was effective beginning in June 2019. He is also one of Idaho Water User Association's Representatives for the Columbia Basin Partnership negotiations.

SERVICES & INDUSTRIES

[Water Rights & Resources](#)

[Natural Resources & Endangered Species](#)

EDUCATION

- J.D., Lewis & Clark College School of Law
- M.B.A., Boise State University
- B.S., University of Idaho

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Idaho State Bar
- Oregon State Bar
- U.S. District Court, District of Idaho
- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon

Representative Matters

- Successfully negotiate complex settlement involving Nez Perce Tribe, State of Idaho and the United States to resolve Tribal treaty rights and water rights claims by Tribe in Snake River Basin Adjudication.
- Represent hydroelectric asset owners in varied matters including obtaining CWA section 401 certification, securing hydroelectric water rights, and navigating endangered species consultations with federal resource agencies.
- Represent various water users litigation and administrative proceedings affecting surface water and groundwater rights.

Recognition and Activities

- Recipient, Distinguished Service Award, Idaho Water Users Association, 2025
- Idaho Representative, Western States Water Council, 2010-present
- Member, American Bar Association, Section on Natural Resources and Environmental Law