

CONTACT

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PRACTICES

Endangered Species & Wildlife
Hydropower
Land Use
Public Lands
Renewable Energy
Water

EDUCATION

University of California College of
Law, San Francisco
University of Colorado at Boulder

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar

TIFFANIE ELLIS

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Tiffanie (she/her) is an associate in the firm's environmental practice group where she represents both public and private-sector clients in a variety of land, water, natural resources, and litigation matters. Tiffanie's practice focuses on energy infrastructure and the permitting necessary for development on federal, state, and tribal lands. Her experience includes a full range of counsel on federal, state, and local matters under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), among others. Concurrently with these permitting needs, she also guides clients in necessary and pertinent tribal consultations. Currently, she is working throughout the Rocky Mountain region and the Western United States to help clients permit and complete federal and state environmental review for hydropower relicensing, transmission line, and renewable and natural gas energy projects. Additionally, Tiffanie assists new and seasoned hydropower developers in navigating the complexities of FERC hydropower licensing and relicensing for cutting-edge hydropower developments including pumped storage hydropower, as well as related litigation.

Prior to joining Van Ness Feldman, Tiffanie worked at a California-based law firm, where she assisted public agencies, developers, and landowners in water rights disputes, litigation, administrative proceedings, and general counsel work. There, she also worked on state and federal issues related to large water infrastructure projects including the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Before moving to the private sector, Tiffanie spent two years at the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I, which provided her with an in-depth understanding of successful litigation strategies, including a unique understanding of how judges review code enforcement matters, administrative appeals, and environmental litigation. Clients benefit from this perspective in all of her representations.

When not in the office, Tiffanie is active in mentoring activities with her alma mater and various associations, and enjoys spending time with her two rescue dogs, reading fiction, or traveling.

Representative Experience

- Assisting developer in preparation for hydropower dam relicensing before FERC
- Performing a water rights inventory and related strategy for optimization for a local public utility district
- Assisting in various litigation matters related to, among other issues, wetlands, pumped storage hydropower, and property disputes
- Acting as liaison between client and relevant tribes for pre-development consultation
- Performing state and federal due diligence reviews for transmission line developments and innovative energy infrastructure projects

Government Service

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Lori K. Smith, Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I
2019 - 2021

Extern to Senior Judge, United States District Court, Western District of California, San Francisco

Fall 2018

Legal Extern, Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region
2018

Articles and Presentations

- Permitting Strategies in the Northwest, The Seminar Group, Seattle WA, 12/06/2023

Alerts

- Biden-Harris Administration Debuts Inaugural Ocean Justice Strategy, 12/28/2023
- Supreme Court Rules Against Navajo Nation in Tribal Water Rights Case, 07/06/2023
- UPDATED: Biden Administration Redefines "Waters of the United States," Expanding Regulation Under Clean Water Act, 01/18/2023
- Backstop Siting: FERC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 12/22/2022
- BOEM's First Offshore Wind Lease Sale on the West Coast, 11/02/2022