Van Ness Feldman LLP

vnf.com

CLARA PARK

PARTNER



CONTACT

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206.802.3855

PRACTICES

Land Use
Litigation & Investigations
Oil, Gas, & LNG
Public Lands
Real Estate

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School
Washington University in St. Louis

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
Washington State Court of Appeals (Div I, II, III)
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Professional Background

Clara is a member of the firm's land use practice group and has extensive experience representing developers, property owners, and municipal clients in the areas of land use, environmental, real estate, and municipal law. Her practice focuses on securing and defending permitting for energy facilities and other major infrastructure projects facing significant opposition, helping clients navigate issues arising under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Shoreline Management Act, Growth Management Act (GMA), and other local, state, and federal land use and environmental laws. She counsels clients on developing comprehensive permitting strategies and regularly litigates before local adjudicators, state administrative tribunals, and state and federal courts to defend project approvals and agency actions.

She previously worked at a mid-sized law firm in Honolulu, Hawaii, where her practice focused on land use and commercial litigation. Before entering private practice, Clara served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Daniel R. Foley of the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals, where she assisted in drafting opinions.

Clara serves as the firm's Pro Bono Coordinator.

Representative Experience

- Represented the City of Seattle in defending the City's environmental review of several land use proposals in appeals before the Hearing Examiner and the Growth Management Hearings Board, including working with the City Attorney's Office to defend Environmental Impact Statements for the City's Mandatory Housing Affordability policy and changes to regulations governing accessory dwelling units, as well as the Seattle Department of Transportation's Environmental Impact Statement for the Burke Gilman Missing Link project, a final step in a nearly thirty year legal dispute over completion of the gap in the multi-use trail.
- Represents Puget Sound Energy, the largest energy utility in the Pacific Northwest, on land use, environmental review, and permitting matters for major energy infrastructure projects across multiple jurisdictions, including work on the Energize Eastside transmission line, a high voltage transmission project spanning four cities.
- Provides ongoing land use support for the City of Cle Elum, including advising on the Bullfrog Urban Growth Area project, a transformative development featuring over 1,000 homes, commercial spaces, and public infrastructure such as parks and recreational facilities, and assisting the City with broader planning and permitting matters to help manage growth responsibly and sustainably in alignment with community values and regulatory frameworks.
- Represents independent power producers in land use, environmental review, and permitting for major generation, transmission, and distribution projects, including coordination with local governments during project development.
- Provided land use counsel for an energy developer's standalone battery energy storage projects in Washington State, including local, state, and federal permitting needed to acquire, construct, and operate large scale BESS facilities.

Awards and Honors

Van Ness Feldman LLP
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Super Lawyers
Rising Stars, 2016-2017, 2019-2020

"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers*
Land Use and Zoning Law, 2027
Litigation-Land Use and Zoning, 2027

Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute Fellow, 2015

Articles and Presentations

- Shoreline Development & Permitting, The Seminar Group, Seattle WA, 06/09/2026
- CLE Bootcamp, The Seminar Group, Seattle WA, 12/11/2025
- 2025 Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC) Annual Meeting, Northwest Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC), Union WA, 09/07/2025
- Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys 2022 Conference, Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, 10/10/2022
- Hearing Examiner Association of Washington Conference , Hearing Examiners Association of Washington Annual Conference, 10/03/2022
- 2022 NW Land Camp, McMinnville OR, 06/28/2022
- Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys 2021 Conference, Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, 10/04/2021
- Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys 2020 Conference, Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, 10/14/2020
- Hearing Examiner Association of Washington Conference, Hearing Examiners Association of Washington Annual Conference, 10/01/2019