

CONTACT

mmeademeyers@vnf.com
202.298.1995

PRACTICES

Endangered Species & Wildlife
Litigation & Investigations
Native Affairs
Public Lands

EDUCATION

George Mason University
Cornell University

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Alaska State Bar
District of Columbia Bar
Virginia State Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District
of Alaska
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Virginia
U.S. Supreme Court

MELINDA L. MEADE MEYERS
OF COUNSEL



Professional Background

Melinda (Mindy) Meade Meyers' practice focuses on federal regulatory law and policy as they pertain to natural resources, public lands, and Native communities. She represents Alaska Native corporations, concessioners, and others on regulatory compliance matters, corporate governance, and strategic business decisions related to land use, permitting, and economic development.

Mindy's expertise includes national park concessions, wildlife and animal law, and litigation. She has experience advocating for clients before various federal courts, Congress, and administrative agencies in matters involving the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Concessions Management Improvement Act, Endangered Species Act, Animal Welfare Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other natural resources statutes.

Mindy serves as the Executive Director of the [National Park Hospitality Association \(NPHA\)](#), a national trade association of the businesses that provide lodging, food services, equipment rentals, transportation, gifts and souvenirs, and other visitor services in the National Park System. In this role, she develops and supports NPHA's federal policy initiatives and advocates for NPHA's goals before Congress and the Administration.

Mindy also counsels Alaska Native corporations and Tribes on federal small business contracting and participation in the U.S. Small Business Administration's business development programs, such as the 8(a) and HUBZone Programs. She helps clients navigate the complexities of program compliance and advises Native-owned firms on legislative and regulatory changes impacting their businesses.

Prior to joining the firm, Mindy was an attorney in the D.C. office of an Alaska-based law firm, where she focused on wildlife and Alaska Native issues. Before attending law school, Mindy served as NPHA's Director of Communications. She also worked in various capacities at the American Recreation Coalition, where she collaborated in the development and implementation of nationwide programs and initiatives promoting outdoor recreation industries.

Mindy is originally from Anchorage, Alaska.

Representative Experience

- Provides counsel to Alaska Native corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act with respect to land use, public policy, and federal small business development programs and contracting.
- Assists current and prospective National Park Service concessioners with efforts to secure concession contracting opportunities to operate visitor services in national parks.
- Represents Alaska municipal government in litigation challenging oil and gas development projects on Alaska's North Slope.
- Counsels clients on implications of proposed and final federal legislation and administrative rulemakings for clients' business interests, proposes recommendations for responding to federal policy initiatives, and drafts and advocates for legislation and/or agency comments for clients
- Drafting and advocating for legislation requiring the United States to fulfill certain Treaty obligations of

the United States to a group of American Indian descendants.

- Drafted and advocated for legislation to reinstate direct appropriations for the Department of Defense Indian Incentive Program.
- Advocated to stop the advance of federal legislation that would have undermined the interests of Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian businesses.
- Successfully represented aquarium client sued by activist organizations in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida; decision was upheld on appeal by the Eleventh Circuit.
- Represented hunters in litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and snowmobilers in federal litigation over access to public lands.

Awards and Honors

"Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch" by *Best Lawyers*

Native American Law, 2023 -2025

Natural Resources Law, 2021-2025

Articles and Presentations

- NEPA, ESA and the Fundamentals of Environmental Law, Environmental Law Institute, 06/11/2024
- 38th Annual Alaska Native Law Conference, Alaska Bar Association, 11/17/2022
- 2022 ABA 30th Fall Conference, American Bar Association, Nashville TN, 09/23/2022
- ABA Publishes Van Ness Feldman's ESA Regulatory Revisions Article, American Bar Association, 02/09/2022

Alerts

- Administration Finalizes Revised Endangered Species Act Regulations, 04/02/2024
- Biden-Harris Administration Debuts Inaugural Ocean Justice Strategy, 12/28/2023
- FWS Proposes to Streamline Eagle Take Permitting Process, 10/10/2022
- Administration Rescinds ESA Regulatory Procedures for Exclusions from Critical Habitat, 07/28/2022
- Federal Judge Vacates Three Trump-Era Endangered Species Act Rules, 07/12/2022
- Administration Rescinds ESA Definition of "Habitat", 06/28/2022
- Administration Proposes First Wave of Endangered Species Regulatory Revisions, 11/05/2021
- FEMA Seeks Input on Updating the NFIP Program, 11/03/2021
- Changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Enforcement Regime Take Flight, 10/08/2021
- Final Rule Codifying Exemption of Incidental Take Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Faces Substantial Hurdles, 02/02/2021
- NPS Proposes Regulatory Revisions to Improve Administration and Delivery of Visitor Services, 07/23/2020
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes to Codify Exemption of Incidental Take Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 01/31/2020
- Administration Issues Significant Revisions to Endangered Species Act Implementation, 08/13/2019