Van Ness Feldman LLP
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NICK R. SWEENEY

ASSOCIATE



CONTACT

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PRACTICES

Endangered Species & Wildlife
Land Use
Litigation & Investigations
Water

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis School of Law
Occidental College

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

California State Bar
Washington State Bar
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington

Professional Background

Nick provides counsel to both public and private-sector clients on a wide-range of land use and environmental matters under SEPA/NEPA, the Growth Management Act, Shoreline Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. He is highly-skilled at developing advocacy and litigation strategies and has experience collaborating with scientific experts to prepare comments and testimonies for administrative hearings, agency proceedings, and trial courts.

Nick assists clients through all stages of project development, from site evaluation and due diligence assessments, through permitting processes, on to legal challenges to agency actions.

Prior to joining the firm, Nick practiced land use and environmental litigation in Sacramento, California. Nick continues to assist clients in California land use matters, including due diligence, permitting, and California Environmental Quality Act litigation.

During law school, Nick obtained his environmental law certificate and interned as an environmental prosecutor serving rural communities across California. Nick also served as an Executive Editor of Environs, as the Problem Writing Chair of the Moot Court Honor Board, and as a board member on the local National Lawyers Guild chapter.

In his free time, Nick enjoys cooking, taking his dogs for walks, and playing board games.

Representative Experience

- Represents public utilities in land use permitting processes across multiple jurisdictions.
- Provides due diligence evaluations for project development sites.
- Assists clients to resolve local enforcement actions.

Awards and Honors

"Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch" by *Best Lawyers*
Land Use and Zoning Law, 2027

Articles and Presentations

- Permitting Strategies in the Northwest 2025, The Seminar Group, Seattle WA, 10/02/2025