Van Ness Feldman LLP
vnf.com

CONTACT

amv@vnf.com
202.298.1941

PRACTICES

Government Advocacy & Public Policy
Native Affairs
Public Lands

EDUCATION

The George Washington University Law School
Lewis & Clark College

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Alaska State Bar
District of Columbia Bar

ANDREW M. VANDERJACK

PARTNER

Professional Background

Andrew provides legal counsel and lobbying services to clients on a wide range matters, including energy and environmental law and policy, the federal government's regulation of public lands and natural resources, federal grants and appropriations, and American Indian and Alaska Native law and policy. He serves as co-coordinator of the firm's Native Affairs practice.

Andrew grew up in Craig, Long Island Logging Camp, Ketchikan, and Juneau, Alaska. Before pursuing a law degree, Andrew worked as staff to the late Senator Ted Stevens. He worked in his home state as a wildland firefighter, a substitute teacher, a deckhand on a purse seiner, and a naturalist and kayak guide. During law school, Andrew held legal internships with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency. He has also volunteered for the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Missionaries of Charity, DC Legal Aid, and the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management.

Representative Experience

Current representative matters include:

- Drafting and advocating for legislation that would create a statutory set aside within the New Markets Tax Credit program for Tribes and Native-owned and -controlled entities;
- Working with federal, state, local and tribal government stakeholders to develop support for, authorize and fund a large coastal erosion mitigation project;
- Advocating for federal funding to support port infrastructure;
- Drafting and advocating for legislation to resolve the outstanding aboriginal land entitlement of five Alaska Native communities;
- 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;
- Drafting and advocating for Member-directed spending (i.e., earmarks) for a range of transportation, infrastructure, research and education projects;
- Advocating on behalf of rural communities in support of certain energy development projects and programs;
- Advocating on behalf of rural communities in support of certain timber development and forest conservation programs;
- Advocating for the conveyance of certain Native sacred sites into trust;
- Drafting and advocating for legislation that would create a package of federal tax incentives to support the return of sacred objects held by private collectors to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities;
- Drafting and advocating for legislation that would provide certain COVID-related economic assistance, including funding for participants in a loan guarantee program.

Past representative matters include:

- Advocated for an increase of more than $40 million annually in federal funding to support the

implementation of an international fisheries treaty;

- Drafted and advocated for legislation to reinstate direct appropriations for the Department of Defense Indian Incentive Program;
- Advocated for federal legislation and administrative actions that provided temporary relief from the Passenger Vessel Services Act for large cruise ships serving Alaska;
- Advocated for legislation that identified 70,000 acres of federal land for conveyance to, and resolved the outstanding land entitlement of, an Alaska Native corporation;
- Advocated for legislation, a secretarial order, a presidential memorandum, and other federal legislative and administrative actions that have strengthened Alaska Native subsistence and related rights as established by international treaty and federal law;
- Advocated to stop the advance of federal legislation that would have undermined the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian businesses;
- Drafted and advocated for legislation that required the Federal Government to study the impact of certain international treaty obligations on U.S. Arctic coastal communities;
- Advocated for legislation that authorizes certain resource leasing activities on federal lands;
- Advocated for legislation that requires the clean-up of certain contaminated sites on federal lands;
- Advocated for the authorization of and federal funding for a coastal erosion mitigation project for which funding had previously been denied;
- Drafted and advocated for legislation that resulted in the award of more than $5 million in federal grant funding to the client for Native education programs; and
- Advocated for administrative waivers for educational grant programs serving Native Americans, resulting, in one case, in the preservation of more than $7 million in grant funding for the client.

Government Service

President's Council on Environmental Quality

Legal Intern to the General Counsel, 2006-2007

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Legal Intern, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, 2006

Office of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK)

Legislative Correspondent, 2001-2003

Awards and Honors

Legal 500 - Recommended Attorney

Native American Law, 2021

"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers*

Native American Law, 2027

Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, 2017-2019

Chambers USA

Native American Law, 2026

Articles and Presentations

- 38th Annual Alaska Native Law Conference, Alaska Bar Association, 11/17/2022
- Arctic Encounter Symposium 2016, Seattle WA, 01/15/2016

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Alerts

- National Ocean Council Releases Final Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, 04/25/2013
- FEMA Developing Procedures for Tribal Governments to Request Disaster Declarations, 04/02/2013