Van Ness Feldman LLP

vnf.com

CONTACT

awg@vnf.com

206.802.3830

PRACTICES

Litigation & Investigations
Real Estate
Water

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center
Brown University
Kalamazoo College

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar

ADAM W. GRAVLEY

PARTNER



Professional Background

Adam Gravley has over three decades experience representing both public and private clients in environmental law with a particular focus on resolving water issues in operational, transactional, litigation, and public policy settings. His comprehensive practice includes water rights permitting, transfers, and appeals; general stream adjudications; settlement, mediation, and collaborative resolutions; water supply agreements; public water system and drinking water regulation; water quality regulation and resource protection; entity and regional governance; legislation and agency rule-making; and related real estate, municipal, and public utility law matters.

Complementing his natural resources experience, Adam has significant experience leading transactional due diligence teams and providing strategic advice for complex real property and natural resources transactions. Clients benefit from Adam's unique experience representing clients in transactional matters involving complex industrial and commercial facilities and heavily-regulated, publicly-owned, or aquatic lands.

Representative Experience

- Leads due diligence teams in connection with purchase or sale of industrial, commercial, public utility, and agricultural properties for timely analysis and negotiation of real estate, environmental, land use, and water assets and risks.
- Serves as legal counsel to state association of municipal water utilities. In this role, Adam engages a diverse array of issues including state administrative policy; legislative proposals and stakeholder processes; water availability, water banking, and stream flow protection; drinking water regulation; and litigation of statewide importance.
- Serves as water resources counsel to numerous municipal water entities, including large wholesale water suppliers and small communities.
- For individual and business clients, evaluates existing water rights and water assets for legal and regulatory status and provides strategic advice.
- Represents water-dependent industrial complex on a range of real estate, natural resources, and regulatory matters.
- Represents port district in acquisition, permitting, and assembly of commercial and industrial sites and related water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Represented an institutional investor in due diligence, acquisition, management, and disposition of over 25,000 acres of irrigated agricultural property investments in Washington State.
- Clean Water Act issues, particularly at the crossroads of water pollution and water resources law and policy, such as water reuse and recycling. Represented state agency in connection with setting water quality standards for temperature and emerging parameters.
- Represented Fortune 10 company in negotiating regional solution to secure water supply for a large commercial development.

Awards and Honors

Super Lawyers

Van Ness Feldman LLP
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2004-2016

"Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers*

Water Law, 2022 & 2024 & 2026

"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers*

Environmental Law, 2007-2027
Litigation-Environmental, 2011-2027
Utility Law, 2017-2027
Water Law, 2010-2027

Lawdragon – The Green 500

Water Law, 2023 - 2025

Articles and Presentations

- 2nd Annual Water Law in Eastern Washington Conference, Spokane WA, 05/21/2025
- 2022 Spring Conference and Trade Show, Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, 04/08/2022
- Water Law in Washington, Law Seminars International, Seattle WA, 07/27/2015

Alerts

- Court Reinforces Finality of Water Rights Determinations and Avoids Ownership Dispute, 09/19/2018
- Washington Legislature Adopts a "Hirst Fix," and Department of Ecology Considers Comments on Its Interpretation of the New Legislation, 02/27/2018
- Western Water/Growing Cities: An Examination of 11 States' Approach to the Issue, 11/14/2017
- State Supreme Court Roils Rural Water Supply in Growth Management Decision, 12/12/2016
- Rural Water Strategies: The Saga Continues, 11/19/2015
- Washington's Extreme Drought Stresses Water Users, Regulators, and Legal System, 08/13/2015