

CONTACT

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PRACTICES

Endangered Species & Wildlife
Hydropower
Land Use
Public Lands
Renewable Energy
Water

EDUCATION

University of California College of
Law, San Francisco
University of Colorado at Boulder

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar

TIFFANIE A. ELLIS

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Tiffanie Ellis (she/her) is an Associate Attorney at Van Ness Feldman with extensive experience partnering with in-house legal teams on complex energy infrastructure and Department of Energy ("DOE") and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") regulatory compliance matters. Her practice focuses on providing practical, business-oriented counsel to help companies navigate federal, state, and tribal regulatory frameworks while achieving their development objectives. In particular, Tiffanie works on distilling requirements for a number of key environmental statutes and regulations including the the Federal Power Act ("FPA"), the National Environmental Protection Act ("NEPA"), the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (MBTA/BGEPA), the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), and Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA"), among others.

Accordingly, she works with a number of agencies outside of FERC and DOE, including the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), the U.S. National Park Service ("NPS"), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA"), as well as other Department of the Interior ("DOI") bureaus, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service.

At Van Ness Feldman, she serves as a strategic advisor to corporate legal departments, helping assess regulatory risks and develop compliance frameworks for major infrastructure projects. Tiffanie regularly translates complex regulatory requirements into actionable business guidance, developing corporate training programs, and establishing compliance procedures for commercial operations. Her experience includes performing comprehensive reviews of corporate assets and agreements, evaluating regulatory implications of corporate restructurings, and managing cross-functional legal projects involving multiple stakeholders.

Tiffanie routinely counsels businesses on regulatory changes that impact their operations, monitoring and analyzing federal rulemakings to help companies anticipate and prepare for new requirements. She has particular expertise in energy infrastructure development, including completing due diligence processes for large renewable energy projects, evaluating permit requirements, and developing strategic responses to evolving regulatory landscapes. Her work encompasses crafting and implementing consultation strategies and providing strategic guidance on infrastructure development to business teams.

Drawing from her experience at Downey Brand, where she served as outside general counsel to public agencies, Tiffanie understands the importance of providing timely, practical advice that aligns with business objectives. Furthermore, her judicial clerkship with the Washington State Court of Appeals gives her valuable insight into risk assessment and litigation strategy, which she applies when advising clients on regulatory compliance and dispute resolution.

Outside the office, Tiffanie contributes to the legal community through mentoring initiatives while enjoying time with her rescue dogs, reading fiction, and traveling.

Representative Experience

- Assisting developer in preparation for hydropower dam relicensing before FERC
- Performing a water rights inventory and related strategy for optimization for a local public utility district
- Assisting in various litigation matters related to, among other issues, wetlands, pumped storage

hydropower, and property disputes

- Acting as liaison between client and relevant tribes for pre-development consultation
- Performing state and federal due diligence reviews for transmission line developments and innovative energy infrastructure projects

Government Service

Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Lori K. Smith, Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I

2019 - 2021

Extern to Senior Judge, United States District Court, Western District of California, San Francisco

Fall 2018

Legal Extern, Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region

2018

Articles and Presentations

- Permitting Strategies in the Northwest, The Seminar Group, Seattle WA, 12/06/2023

Alerts

- CEQ Finalizes "Phase 2" Revisions to NEPA Implementing Regulations, 05/13/2024
- Biden-Harris Administration Debuts Inaugural Ocean Justice Strategy, 12/28/2023
- Supreme Court Rules Against Navajo Nation in Tribal Water Rights Case, 07/06/2023
- UPDATED: Biden Administration Redefines "Waters of the United States," Expanding Regulation Under Clean Water Act, 01/18/2023
- Backstop Siting: FERC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 12/22/2022
- BOEM's First Offshore Wind Lease Sale on the West Coast, 11/02/2022