



Maureen L. Mitchell

Partner

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Maureen helps companies and individuals resolve complex disputes and legal issues. A seasoned litigator and trusted adviser, she handles high-stakes disputes from first assessment through resolution, with extensive experience in natural resource and environmental matters, Indian law, contract and trade secret disputes, and litigation involving fiduciary duties.

Colleagues and clients rely on her to step in quickly, take ownership of the problem, and bring structure and judgment to matters that are already moving fast.

Maureen's approach to litigation is pragmatic and risk focused. From the outset, she works with clients to define objectives and assess exposure candidly. She guides clients to map out realistic paths forward — whether that means positioning a case for early resolution or preparing to litigate through appeal. Throughout a matter, Maureen helps clients weigh not just potential outcomes, but cost, time, stress and the value of finality.

In court, Maureen has handled matters at both the trial and appellate levels in state and federal forums, including the Ninth Circuit and the Washington Court of Appeals where she clerked. Maureen is also well-versed in Alternative Dispute Resolution forums, such as mediation and arbitration. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Environmental

A significant portion of Maureen's work involves disputes with an environmental or regulatory dimension. She regularly handles contaminated-site and natural-resource matters, brownfields redevelopment, water issues, and agency enforcement and compliance proceedings, working closely with clients seeking to navigate the local, state, and federal regulatory framework.

Her practice also includes administrative and health-and-safety matters that unfold outside traditional courtrooms but carry equally high stakes. These issues are not treated as specialties in isolation, but as part of an integrated litigation practice shaped by regulatory realities.

Indian Law

Maureen is Chair of the firm's American Indian Law Practice Group. Her work in this area focuses on disputes involving jurisdiction, sovereignty, and treaty rights, often at the intersection of tribal, state, and federal authority. She represents tribes, tribal enterprises, and non-tribal entities navigating those boundaries, bringing a litigation mindset to matters that demand both legal precision and cultural awareness.

Services

- Litigation
- Environmental
- Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)
- Retail Industry

Representative Matters

- **CERCLA/RCRA Matters**
Representation of major chemical company at Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site with complex issues related to CERCLA, RCRA, and Indian tribe jurisdiction. Company's property is located on fee land within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Hall Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
- **RCRA and Waste-Related Litigation**
Represented major chemical company in litigation before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that resulted in vacated District Court order regarding third-party beneficiary status of Indian tribe to enforce RCRA Consent Decree. Involved with appellate litigation of tribal ordinance regarding company's waste activities, after successfully obtaining Tribal Court decision in favor of company and against tribe.
- **Complex Superfund Sites**
Defending former owners of waterfront sites in Superfund sites in the Pacific Northwest, including the Thea Foss Waterway, Portland Harbor, and the Lower Duwamish, from Natural Resource Damage and remedial action cost claims.
- **Brownfields**
Representation of joint clients seeking redevelopment of Brownfield site in Seattle, Washington, with historical dry-cleaning operations and DNAPL solvent in soil and groundwater.
- **Contamination Litigation**
Defended contract-based recovery claim brought against a public company in which plaintiff sought lost rent and diminution of value (stigma) damages for contaminated site. Plaintiff dropped claims after defense filed Motion for Summary Judgment.
- **Clean Air Act**
Representation of several clients with issues related to NAAQS PM-10 compliance, redesignation of non-compliant airshed, and compliance with Washington State toxic and nuisance emissions requirements. Served as local counsel for nine state agencies in Clean Air Act Consent Decree matter against St. Gobain Containers, Inc.
- **Water Issues**
Representation of private-sector clients on water banking, water rights, and Clean Water Act.
- **Commercial Litigation and Arbitration**
Extensive litigation and arbitration experience, including three-phase AAA arbitration resulting in complete dismissal of \$200 million damage claims. Experience in international arbitration under International Chamber of Commerce Rules of Arbitration. Successfully arbitrated and settled through mediation numerous commercial claims and enforced judgments through garnishment and other means.
- **Commercial and Residential Lease Disputes**
Advise and represent customers in landlord-tenant disputes.

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- Idaho

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, District of Idaho

Education

- University of Washington School of Law (J.D., 2000)

- Smith College (B.A., 1995)

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Washington Bar Association
- Idaho Bar Association
- King County Bar Association
- American Bar Association's House of Delegates
- Law360 Environmental Editorial Advisory Board

Languages

- Russian

Honors & Awards

- Named an "Energy & Environmental Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal* (2021)
- Selected to the "Best Lawyers in America" list for Natural Resources Law in Seattle, WA by *Best Lawyers* (2013-2017, 2019-2026)
- Named to the list of "Super Lawyers" for Environmental Law in Washington (2016-2020, 2022-2023, 2025)
- Named to "The Best Lawyers in America - Lawyers of the Year" list for Natural Resources Law (2015, 2019)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating (5.0 out of 5) for Environmental Law, Litigation and General Practice (2015)
- Named to the list of "Super Lawyers Rising Star" for Environmental Law in Washington (2010-2013)
- Named among Washington's "Super Lawyers Top Women Attorneys"