



Erika H. Spanton

Principal

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Erika maintains a robust mixed practice of litigation, regulatory, and white collar defense work focused on water quality, Safe Drinking Water Act, and marine decarbonization matters.

Erika has significant litigation and appellate experience in both federal and state courts. Her work includes a range of high-stakes state and federal matters at each stage of litigation, including settlement negotiations, mediations, arbitration, discovery, and trial. She has first-chaired numerous arbitrations and trials, as well as supported large, complex trial teams. Recent successes include successfully excluding a critical adverse expert witness from a federal court trial in a contaminated site matter, successfully defeating class certification in high-stakes litigation in California, and negotiating an early, favorable resolution of citizen suit actions alleging Clean Water Act violations in California and Washington.

Erika also has deep regulatory expertise with federal and state stormwater, wastewater, spill prevention and countermeasure (SPCC), and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. This includes assisting clients with environmental, health, and safety audits, compliance assessments, and internal investigations, providing counsel on high-stakes enforcement and compliance matters, foreclosing enforcement escalation, and successfully negotiating penalty reductions. Additionally, Erika has a strong command of international, national, and state treaties, laws, and regulations impacting the fisheries and aquaculture industries. She also frequently counsels clients on how best to navigate complex state and federal permitting requirements implicated by marine carbon dioxide removal operations.

Erika co-leads B&D's Water Practice, and co-founded and leads B&D's Fisheries & Aquaculture industry group. Her strong background in environmental sciences continually informs her legal practice.

Education

- Middlebury College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2004)
 - Environmental Studies (high honors)
 - Political Science
- Lewis & Clark (J.D., 2008)

- Certificate in Environmental & Natural Resources Law
- Lead Articles Editor, Lewis & Clark Law Review
- First Year Honors Appellate Brief
- Pro Bono Honors Award

Bar Admissions

- Washington

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court – Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court – Eastern District of Washington

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Water Resources Committee Year in Review, Vice Chair
- D.C. Environment & Energy Associations
- ELI Emerging Leaders Initiative Steering Committee
- ELI Women in Environmental Law & Leadership Steering Committee
- King County Bar Association, Environmental & Land Use Section
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- National Association of Women Lawyers, Energy and Environmental Law Affinity Group, Co-Chair
- Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association, Government Affairs Committee
- Washington State Bar Association, Environmental & Land Use Law Section
- Women in Environment, Education Committee

Honors & Awards

- "Best Lawyers: Ones To Watch," a Best Lawyers® publication, recognition in Environmental Law and Environmental Litigation (2025)