



Christina A. Elles

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Christina Elles is an associate in the environment, land and natural resources group in the Seattle office. Christina's practice focuses on regulatory compliance, litigation, and transactions involving environmental, land use, natural resource, and energy issues. Her practice also involves advising and representing clients on issues related to large infrastructure projects, including permitting and licensing, construction, operation, and purchase or sale of energy facilities, including wind, solar, and hydropower facilities.

Christina also has experience advising public and private clients on matters relating to wireless communication facilities, greenhouse gas regulations, the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), the Washington Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Lacey Act, and the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Christina maintains an active pro bono practice, including as a member of a team representing an Indian tribe seeking federal recognition and as a member of a team representing a class of inmates challenging a county jail's failure to provide medication-assisted treatment as a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates, Christina was a Rule 9 licensed legal intern for University of Washington Student Legal Services and was also a summer legal extern at the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. She was a K&L Gates summer associate in 2015. Prior to law school, Christina worked for the Union of Concerned Scientists on climate change policy in Washington, D.C.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 2016 (*Notes and Comments Editor, Washington Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*)
- B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2009

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 2 September 2021, Carbon Quarterly – Volume 4 (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 21 January 2021, To Kill a Mocking Bird - Trump Administration Finalizes Rule Narrowing Migratory Bird Treaty Act (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 10 October 2019, Trump Administration Finalizes New Endangered Species Act Regulations (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 7 May 2019, States Race to Align on Industrial Hemp (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 9 January 2019, Tax Developments Provide Opportunities for Economic Growth in Indian Country (*BlogPost*)
- 4 January 2019, Tax Developments Provide Opportunities for Economic Growth in Indian Country (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 31 August 2018, Trump Administration Releases Clean Power Plan Replacement Proposal (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 14 August 2018, Putting California on a Water Budget (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 28 June 2018, Implementing California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 12 March 2018, SCOTUS Rules United States May Pursue Its Interstate Water Compact Claims in Texas v. New Mexico and Colorado (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 12 February 2018, SCOTUS Wades into Water Wars (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 16 June 2017, United States Announces Intent to Withdraw From Paris Climate Accord: What is the Real Impact? (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 11 May 2017, Exploring Tribal Sovereign Immunity with *Lewis v. Clarke* (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 7 April 2017, UPDATE: California's Cap-and-Trade Program Upheld by the California Court of Appeal (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 6 April 2017, The Future of California's Landmark Cap-and-Trade Program is Uncertain (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 29 March 2017, Oregon Lawmakers Consider Carbon Pricing Legislation (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 23 March 2017, Washington Continues to Consider a Carbon Tax and Defends Clean Air Rule (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 25 October 2016, Paris Agreement to Enter into Force: Implications for Enforcement in the United States and Internationally (*Alerts/Updates*)

- 27 August 2015, Greater Sage-Grouse and Land Use in the Inter-Mountain West (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “The Vested Rights Doctrine: How a Shield Against Injustice Became a Sword for Opportunistic Developers,” *Ohio State Law Journal*, vol. 78, no. 2 (2017), 443-470.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environment, Land, and Natural Resources