

Kari L. Vander Stoep

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Kari Vander Stoep is a partner and a member of the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice and Energy practice group. Kari represents a range of clients in state and federal courts and administrative tribunals, including independent power producers, hydropower owners, utilities, resource industries, manufacturers, transportation and shipping companies, and government agencies.

Kari has significant trial court experience, having conducted complex civil bench trials, felony jury trials, administrative hearings, and a wide variety of motion hearings. Kari's appellate practice focuses primarily on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where she served as a law clerk for the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown. Kari also represents clients in the Washington and Montana state appellate courts. Kari regularly utilizes cutting-edge technologies and resources to manage complex discovery for federal and state court proceedings.

Kari's practice involves litigating and advising clients on Washington state utility laws and regulations, the Federal Power Act, Northwest Power Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Washington State Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, federal and state constitutional law, Native American law, and municipal law, including Washington's Public Records Act. Kari's administrative experience includes extensive proceedings at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Bonneville Power Administration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as state regulatory bodies. Her FERC experience includes licensing, re-licensing, and compliance for hydropower facilities.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Clerkship, Hon. M. Margaret McKeown, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2004-2005
- Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senator Slade Gorton, Washington, D.C., 1998-2000 (staffed Senator Gorton's Energy and Natural Resources, Indian Affairs, and Appropriations committee assignments)
- Deputy Eastern Washington Director and Staff Assistant, U.S. Senator Slade Gorton, Spokane and Bellevue, Washington, 1995-1997

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by Chambers USA for Energy & Natural Resources in Washington, 2021-2026
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Seattle, WA
  - Commercial Litigation, 2024-2027
  - Energy Law, 2021-2027
  - Litigation - Environmental, 2020-2021
- King County Prosecutor's Office Trial Fellowship (completed six jury trials during six-week fellowship), 2008
- K&L Gates Jim Ellis Award (for pro bono work on behalf of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and King County Court Appointed Special Advocates), 2006

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer, Arthritis Foundation's Washington Advisory Board, 2012-2016
- Leadership Tomorrow, Class of 2013
- Board Member, Washington Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, 2009-2013

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panel Moderator, “Infrastructure Reforms,” K&L Gates D.C. Women in Power Event, Washington, D.C., November 16, 2017
- Panel Moderator, “Coal and Oil Transport by Rail,” Law Seminars International's Buying & Selling Electric Power in the West 20th Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, January 26, 2015
- Presenter, “Recent Developments in Public Records and Public Meetings Cases,” Law Seminars International's Open Government and Anti-SLAPP Litigation Third Annual Seminar, Seattle, Washington, January 21, 2015
- Panel Moderator, “The Politics of Clean Energy,” Northwest Environmental Business Council's Washington Future Energy Conference, Sea-Tac, Washington, November 5, 2014
- Panel Moderator, “Pacific Northwest Energy Planning,” Northwest Environmental Business Council's Washington Future Energy Conference, Sea-Tac, Washington, October 30, 2013
- Panel Moderator, “Utility and Transco Plans and Transmission Projects,” Infocast's 5th Annual Transmission Summit West, San Diego, California, Sept. 25, 2013
- Presenter, “Environmental Redispatch and the Fight for Comparable, Non-discriminatory and Non-preferential BPA Service,” Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC) Annual Meeting, September 12, 2011

- Panel Moderator, “Shaping the Courts: Presidential Efforts to Mold the Judiciary,” Western Washington Federal Bar Association CLE, Seattle, Washington, December 10, 2008

EDUCATION

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2004 *magna cum laude*
- B.A., University of Washington, 1995 *magna cum laude, Political Science and Communications, Phi Beta Kappa*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Montana
- Bar of Washington
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- June 2026, ESG and the Sustainable Economy Handbook
- 1 July 2024, FERC Seeks to Update Clean Water Act 401 Certification Procedures for Hydropower Projects—What You Need to Know
- 25 January 2023, Litigation Minute: New Year's (Dispute) Resolutions
- 13 December 2022, Litigation Minute: Year in Review—Trending Topics Across the 2022 Litigation Spectrum
- 19 July 2022, Litigation Minute: Litigation Targeting Companies' "Carbon-Neutral" and Renewable Energy Representations
- 12 July 2022, Litigation Minute: Third-Party Certifications: ESG Friend or Foe?
- 15 January 2021, Litigation Minute: Don't Get Disqualified - Representing Current and Separated Employees in Depositions
- 9 June 2020, No More Delay?: EPA Rulemaking Clarifies Timelines and Scope of State Authority in the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Process
- 12 March 2020, COVID-19: Federally Regulated Energy Businesses

- 17 February 2020, Certain Uncertainty at FERC: Areas to Watch in 2020 for Natural Gas Pipelines and LNG and Hydropower Facilities
- 28 July 2016, Puget Sound Energy Reports to the Washington UTC on the Progress of its Efforts to Join the CAISO Energy Imbalance Market; CAISO Releases Study Chronicling Benefits of a Regional Energy Market
- 28 August 2015, Washington Supreme Court Applies Public Records Act to Public Employees' Private Cell Phones

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author and editor of the Indian Law Chapter of the King County Bar Association's Washington Lawyer Practice Manual (2007 - 2014 editions)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates' Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources Practice, Lawyers Named Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 20 and 27 April 2021, Fires in the Pacific Northwest: A Two Part Series

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Sauk-Suiattle Tribe Loses Challenge To Seattle Dam, For Now," *Law360*, 3 December 2021
- "Jurisdictional Defect Sinks Tribe's Suit Seeking Fish Passage At Washington Dam," *Mealey's Native American Law*, 6 December 2021

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes

- American Indian Law
- Appellate Litigation
- Environment and Energy
- ESG - Litigation
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Energy Storage and Distributed Resources
- Manufacturing
- Power
- Transportation and Logistics

EMERGING ISSUES

- ESG - Sustainability and Responsible Business