

Environmental & Natural Resources Practice



Photo by Jan Flynn



Photo by Skyyler Herzog

Tonkon Torp is a leading business and litigation law firm serving public companies, substantial private enterprises, entrepreneurial businesses, and individuals throughout the Pacific Northwest.





OUR ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES PRACTICE

Tonkon Torp lawyers help clients anticipate and address environmental issues and acquire the natural resources they need to achieve their objectives. We help clients comply with complex federal, state, and local environmental regulations, reduce their risk exposure, minimize costly delays, maintain goodwill with government regulators and third parties, and pursue or defend litigation when necessary.

Counseling

Preventive, strategic counseling is central to our practice. We advise clients on environmental issues arising in real estate transactions, property use, business operations, mergers and acquisitions, loan transactions, and securities offerings.

Compliance

We assist our clients in complying with the multitude of environmental regulations affecting their operations, including:

- Clean Air and Clean Water Acts
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and other hazardous waste laws
- Toxic Substances Control Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
- Lacey Act

Acquiring Needed Resources

We work closely with our business and real estate practice groups to help clients obtain all of the natural resources necessary for their enterprises, including suitable interests in land, water rights, and all necessary permits. We also help clients add environmental value to their businesses through green building practices, environmental certification programs, sustainability initiatives, and tax credits for renewable or alternative energy sources.

Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

When litigation is required to protect client interests, Tonkon Torp builds teams of skilled litigators and lawyers with deep understanding of environmental laws. We are experienced in presenting complex environmental issues in settlement negotiations, administrative proceedings, state and federal courts, arbitrations, and appeals.



OUR EXPERIENCE



Hazardous Substances and Waste Matters:

- Large multi-party federal and state Superfund sites
- Oregon DEQ hazardous waste actions
- Risk-based, negotiated closures of groundwater contamination sites
- EPA-directed closure of waste injection wells under RCRA
- Aftermath and clean-up of a PCB boiler fire
- EPA-directed emergency removal actions
- Decommissioning and redevelopment of lumber mills and mill ponds in Oregon, Idaho, and Montana
- Sale and purchase of contaminated commercial and industrial properties
- Mining waste cleanups
- Asbestos removal
- Radioactive waste investigations

Water rights:

- Purchase, sale, transfer, and protection of water and water rights
- Representation of water users in administrative and court proceedings
- Purchase and sale of hydroelectric and pulp mill facilities

Permitting and compliance matters:

- Facility audits
- Water permits
- Air permits
- Wetlands permits
- Forest practices permits
- Water utility regulatory matters

Litigation:

- Representation of plaintiffs and defendants in private cost-recovery actions under CERCLA and state environmental statutes
- Defense against EPA and DEQ enforcement actions and penalties
- Challenges to agency rulemaking
- Prosecution of coverage actions for recovery of cleanup expenses
- Defense against Clean Water Act citizen suits
- Defense of an operator of formaldehyde plants against alleged hazardous waste violations resulting in a withdrawal of federal indictment
- Defense of a forest products company against alleged air quality violations resulting in withdrawal of DEQ enforcement action
- Representation of both plaintiffs and defendants in private cost-recovery actions related to leaking underground storage tanks



ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES ATTORNEYS



Jeanette Schuster • jeanette.schuster@tonkon.com • 503.802.2114
Environmental & Natural Resources Practice Group Chair

Jeanette's practice includes a broad range of environmental and natural resource matters. She resolves problems related to environmental cleanups and compliance with water quality and hazardous waste laws, environmental insurance claims, land use and zoning laws, and the impacts of endangered species on renewable energy projects.



Ryan Bledsoe • ryan.bledsoe@tonkon.com • 503.802.2120

Ryan is a partner in the Environmental & Natural Resources practice group. He has a wide-ranging trial practice representing individuals and companies of all sizes. His experience includes working on environmental cases in both federal and state courts.



Paul Conable • paul.conable@tonkon.com • 503.802.2188

Paul is a partner in Tonkon's litigation department. He has represented companies and local governmental bodies in a variety of environmental litigation matters, including hazardous waste cleanups and disputes over tribal fishing rights.



Max M. Miller, Jr. • max.miller@tonkon.com • 503.802.2030

Max works with regulatory agencies in several states, using his extensive knowledge in environmental, natural resources, energy, and land-use law to help businesses resolve a wide range of disputes, and to buy and sell contaminated properties.



Janet Neuman • janet.neuman@tonkon.com • 503.802.5722

Jan's practice focuses on water law and other natural resource issues. She was formerly Director of the Department of State Lands, a member of the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission, and a professor of water law at Lewis & Clark Law School for nearly 20 years.



Steven Olson • steven.olson@tonkon.com • 503.802.2159

Steve is a trial lawyer with expertise in environmental, land use, manufacturing, real estate, and construction litigation. He regularly handles disputes involving a broad range of environmental issues before Federal and State courts and regulatory agencies.



Kimberlee Stafford • kimberlee.stafford@tonkon.com • 503.802.2062

Kim is a member of both the Real Estate & Land Use and Environmental & Natural Resources practice groups. Her practice involves a wide range of commercial real estate transactions, environmental law, forest products, and land use matters.



Zachary Wright • zach.wright@tonkon.com • 503.802.2041

Zach's practice is in complex business, securities, regulatory, and insurance coverage litigation, including claims under state and federal environmental laws. He has significant experience defending against criminal and civil environmental enforcement actions.