



## Greg Wong

PARTNER

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation                      Public Policy and Political Matters  
Municipal Law                School Districts  
Nonprofits

Many of the Pacific Northwest's leading public entities, businesses, and nonprofits trust Greg Wong with their most complex legal issues. Greg is an experienced litigator and appellate attorney, producing significant wins for his clients in settings from trial courts to the Washington Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Greg also provides strategic and general counsel advice in several areas, including constitutional law, legislation and public policy, elections and ballot measures, private-public partnerships, municipal law, public records, student data privacy, business strategy, and nonprofit governance.

Greg's experience spans a diverse array of legal issues that impact the region's people, politics, and communities. He has been involved in litigation ranging from the trial to keep the Sonics in Seattle to the constitutionality of requiring supermajority votes in the legislature. He has drafted and defended multiple laws and ballot measures, including ones focused on gun violence prevention, raising the statewide minimum wage, establishing universal high-quality preschool, combating climate change, protecting endangered species, updating public records laws, and balancing the tax code. Some of his work involves novel questions under the U.S. and Washington State Constitutions, while other work involves accurate drafting or interpretation of contracts in commercial and transactional settings. Regardless of the context, Greg strives to deliver the highest quality legal representation to his clients. He finds that his background as a public school teacher helps him translate complex legal concepts into practical solutions for clients, judges, and juries.

Greg also is passionate about pro bono services and civic engagement. In his work as President of the Schools First Coalition, he headed the successful 2013 and 2016 Seattle School District levies campaigns, for which he received the Seattle Council PTSA's Golden Acorn Award and the Seattle Public Schools' Citizen Service Award. Greg's community involvement has included serving as Board President for the Washington State Budget & Policy Center, as a Seattle City Council appointee to the City of Seattle Families and Education Levy Oversight and Planning Committees (he also worked on the successful 2011 and 2018 levy renewal campaigns), various executive board roles in his children's PTAs, as a Regional Advisory Board Member for Teach for America – Washington, as an Elder at Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church, and as a Board Member for the Municipal League of King County.

Greg spent four years at a large, international law firm prior to joining Pacifica Law Group. Before becoming an

attorney, he worked in homeless services, taught eighth grade science in the Mississippi Delta, and coordinated a tutoring center for immigrant children living in Seattle's public housing. When not practicing law, Greg spends as much time as he can with his three wonderful children and his wife (who also is wonderful), playing sports, overanalyzing the Seahawks, and talking himself into home improvement projects.

#### Bar Admissions:

- Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

#### Education:

- Western Washington University, B.A., Human Services
- University of Washington, J.D., with honors (Order of the Coif, *Washington Law Review*, Notes & Comments Editor; selected by peers as student Commencement Speaker)

#### Honors:

- *Washington Super Lawyers*, 2019-2021
- *Washington Rising Stars*, 2012-2017
- Seattle Public Schools – Citizen Service Award, 2016
- Seattle Council PTSA Golden Acorn Award, 2013

#### Speaking Engagements & Presentations:

- Alternative Dispute Resolutions: Real Tools You Can Use (The Seminar Group, Suing and Defending Government CLE)
- Constitutional Limits on the Use of Public Funds: A New Look at the Case Law in Light of Current and Emerging Public Priorities (Pacifica Law Group Briefings)
- Contract ABCs & Student Privacy in Community Partnerships (Wayfind Training)
- Data Sharing Between Entities and the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) (Gates Foundation, Friends of Education Data Forum)
- FERPA: Knowing is Half the Battle (Washington Attorneys Assisting Community Organizations Training)
- FERPA: Sharing Student Information (Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund Convening)
- FERPA: Updates and Data Sharing in the Age of Collective Impact (Council of School Attorneys Workshop)
- Getting to "Yes" – Negotiating to Share Data on Opportunity Youth (Aspen Institute, Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund Convening)
- Local is National: A discussion of national issues being tackled at the local level, including gun legislation and net neutrality, among others (Federal Bar Association CLE)
- Minding Your Ps & Qs with the PDC: Avoiding Common Pitfalls When Running a Ballot Measure (Washington School Public Relations Association School Elections Conference; Washington Association of School Business Officials Conference)
- Municipal Gun Laws: Limits and Possibilities (Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys Conference)
- On Whose Authority? Recent Court Cases Regarding Commission Authority and Recovery of Attorney Fees

(Civil Service Conference)

- PDC Pitfalls for the Unprepared: Ballot Measures (Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys Conference)
- Proactive Litigation under Washington’s Public Records Act (Washington Association of Public Records Officers Conference)
- Public Records: Social Media and Texting (Washington Association of Public Records Officers Conference)
- System-Level Challenges to Addressing Homelessness (The Seminar Group, Public/Private Partnerships CLE)
- The Trump Administration: How Washington State and Local Governments are Responding (The Seminar Group)
- Update on the Public Records Act and Prisoner Injunctions (Washington Association of Public Records Officers Conference)

Publications:

- “Intent Matters: Assessing Sovereign Immunity for Tribal Entities,” 82 Wash. L. Rev. 205 (2007)

Community Involvement:

- President, Schools First Coalition
- Board President, Washington State Budget & Policy Center
- Appointee, City of Seattle Families and Education Levy Oversight and Planning Committees
- Regional Advisory Board Member, Teach for America
- Elder, Madrona Grace Presbyterian Church
- Board Member, Municipal League of King County