



Gerry Johnson

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

Municipal Law
Nonprofits

Public Policy and Political Matters

Pronouns:
he, him, his

Gerry Johnson's law practice focuses on major community projects, particularly those involving the participation of the public and private sectors. Gerry has been counsel to projects ranging from initial development and expansion of the Seattle Art Museum; the recovery of the downtown Seattle retail core anchored by the Nordstrom flagship store and Pacific Place; T-Mobile Park and Lumen Field; the Museum of Flight; the Pike Place Market, including the recently completed MarketFront addition; and the transfer of the Washington State Convention Center from state control to a county public facilities district and its substantial expansion currently under construction.

He counseled the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) with respect to all aspects of its move to its highly acclaimed new home in Lake Union Park; Seattle Opera on its new facility at the Seattle Center; and the Seattle Art Museum on the complete renovation of its Seattle Asian Art Museum at Volunteer Park. Gerry also works with many smaller communities throughout Washington including Tacoma (redevelopment of Foss Waterway uplands); and Port Townsend (long-term lease of the historic campus at Fort Worden from State Parks for use as an independent Lifelong Learning Center). He recently supported the Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium Public Facilities District in its T-Mobile Park lease negotiations with the Seattle Mariners. Gerry also represents a joint venture of the Tacoma Rainiers and the Seattle Sounders pursuing the development of a professional grade soccer stadium in Tacoma.

Gerry is a past board chair of the (Pike Place) Market Foundation and Forterra (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy), both of which he helped to form. For years, Gerry has been prominent within regional leadership of numerous initiatives to preserve open space and natural areas and create and support public parks. He also is past chair of the Woodland Park Zoological Society board, and was instrumental in the transition of the management of the Zoo from the Seattle Parks Department to the Society. Gerry served 12 years as a trustee of the Bullitt Foundation, a substantial regional foundation focused on the environment. He currently serves on the boards of the Seattle Parks Foundation and the Downtown Seattle Association. After many years of providing citizen leadership on the evolution of the City of Seattle's central waterfront project that will transform the relationship of the Seattle CBD with its historic waterfront in the wake of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Gerry now serves as co-chair of City's Oversight Committee advising the Mayor and City Council on project implementation.

Gerry is Managing Partner of Pacifica Law Group. Established in 2011, the now 40+ lawyer firm received a Seattle

Metropolitan Area, Tier One ranking in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News – Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” in the areas of Appellate Practice, Education Law, Municipal Law, Public Finance Law and Real Estate Law, and Tier Two for Construction Law and Litigation - Construction. Pacifica Law Group also received a National Tier 2 ranking for Appellate Practice and Public Finance Law.

Gerry completed a five-year term as managing partner of Preston Gates & Ellis, a predecessor firm to K&L Gates, at the end of 2004. He also co-founded and served as board chair of Attenex, a successful Seattle-based legal services software developer, that was acquired by FTI in 2008. Earlier, he was a legislative assistant to the Seattle City Council, and legislative assistant and administrative assistant/chief-of-staff to former U.S. Senator Warren G. Magnuson.

Bar Admissions:

- Washington
- District of Columbia (inactive)

Education:

- Dartmouth College, A.B., *summa cum laude*; Phi Beta Kappa; Senior Fellow
- Georgetown University Law Center J.D., *cum laude*

Honors:

- Selected for *Washington Super Lawyers*, 2006-2019, 2022
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2007-2021 and 2023, in the fields of Municipal Law and Real Estate Law, and as Lawyer of the Year in Municipal Law in Seattle for 2016 and in 2020 (Copyright by Woodward/White, Inc., of Aiken, SC)
- Selected for *Chambers & Partners, USA*, in Real Estate in Washington, 2022
- Recipient of Forterra's 2014 Visionary Game Changer Award
- Recipient of the Municipal League of King County's James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award in 2005 and its Doug Mason Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Community in 1981