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NEWS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2023

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Pacifica Law Group: Women in Leadership Roles Inside and Outside the Office

Seattle, WA — Pacifica Law Group is proud of the firm's ongoing commitment to supporting the advancement of women both within the firm and in the business and legal communities more broadly.

"International Women's Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the firm's commitment to ensuring that women and people from underrepresented communities play a key role in the firm's direction and in its leadership strategy going forward," said [Denise Stiffarm](#), Pacifica's recently-appointed managing partner.

In addition to the managing partner role, three out of five practice group leader positions are held by women, two of the three-person management committee are women, and 50% of the firm's equity partners are women. Pacifica also prioritizes in decision making direction from the firm's Equity & Inclusion Team. The legal industry overall has been slower to advance women and people of color. Industry-wide, male lawyers continue to out-pace their female counterparts by a wide margin in terms of both salary and partnership. A [recent report](#) noted that women comprise approximately 25% of the partners in law firms and people of color only 10%. Pacifica is proud to depart from these trends in its practices and promotion of women and BIPOC lawyers.

"We've been passionate about and intentional since our founding in 2011 in providing meaningful advancement opportunities in all aspects of the partnership and firm. Our firm leadership is just one marker of our progress toward that end," said Denise. "There is more work to do, but we've made some important progress," she added.

Women at Pacifica are working hard on behalf of clients and the communities in which they live and work. "Our female colleagues are leaders in and out of the office," said Denise.

A few examples of the ways in which Pacifica's attorneys are demonstrating leadership:

- [KyMBERly EVanson](#) was recently nominated to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington. She advises clients in a broad range of constitutional and litigation matters, and has represented clients before the U.S. Supreme Court, and state and federal trial and appellate courts.

- [Alanna Peterson's](#) practice focuses on helping public, private, and nonprofit clients navigate complex statutory, regulatory, and constitutional issues. She also regularly provides pro bono counsel to various state and national nonprofit organizations advocating for issues related to reproductive, environmental, immigrant, and economic justice, and provides direct representation to people facing systemic barriers to justice. She also co-chairs the firm's community service program. Alanna recently had her first child and became a partner at Pacifica the same year.
- [Faith Pettis](#) serves as bond counsel to state agencies, housing authorities, local school districts, cities and counties, and is active in housing policy and education. In 2018 Governor Inslee appointed Faith to a six-year term on the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University and the Mayor of Seattle appointed Faith in 2014 to co-chair the City's Housing Affordability and Livability task force. She received the Senator Scott White Regional Leadership Award in recognition of her contributions to the task force.
- In addition to her active litigation practice at Pacifica, associate [Meha Goyal](#) maintains a robust pro bono practice. Since graduating from law school, she has represented in immigration court an individual seeking asylum in the United States, assisted a client to prepare a petition for U-nonimmigrant status, and helped minor children detained at the border to reunite with their family members in the United States. At the time that the United States pulled its military out of Afghanistan, she helped clients apply for humanitarian parole for their family members in Afghanistan. Additionally, Meha helped secure a remand for an Army veteran, who was denied VA benefits, before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- In addition to her role as Pacifica's managing partner, [Denise Stiffarm](#) provides counsel to school districts and other nonprofit and special purpose public entities on matters including real estate transactions, project permitting, and policy matters related to regional and local land use planning. With a long history of community service, Denise serves currently on several nonprofit and community foundation boards. In 2020 she received the Chief Seattle Club's inaugural Stiffarm Visionary Leadership award.

Pacifica's commitment transcends recognition days and internal committees. "I want to continue moving us forward in line with our stated values and to further internalize our commitment to equity and inclusion," said Denise. "We can only do more. I'm focused in the near term and the long term on the business and the continued delivery of excellent legal service to our clients, which of course includes E&I, community service, post pandemic realities and so much more."

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Pacifica Law Group LLP is a law firm committed to serving public and private clients in the Pacific Northwest with focused talent, intellect, creativity and unwavering integrity. The firm helps clients address their most pressing needs with a range of legal services, including appellate and civil litigation, constitutional law, construction law, education and school districts law, municipal law, non-profit law, politics and policy, public financing, public/private project counseling and real estate law. Representative clients include Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co., City of Seattle, Pike Place Market, the University of Washington, Port of Seattle,

Seattle Art Museum, Sound Transit, Teachers Insurance & Annuity Association, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Woodland Park Zoo and numerous other cities, counties, municipalities, public utility districts, public and private companies, school districts and universities. www.pacificallawgroup.com