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Denise Stiffarm: Pacifica Law Group's New Managing Partner is a Leader in the Firm and the Community

Seattle, WA — Pacifica Law Group recently announced that [Denise Stiffarm](#) assumed the role of firm managing partner as of January 1, 2023, succeeding [Gerry Johnson](#), the firm's first managing partner since the firm's inception in 2011.

Denise joined Pacifica in 2015 and has been an active leader both at Pacifica and in the broader legal and business communities. With a statewide and regional reputation for serving entities that are building the future in their communities, Denise 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.

"I've had the incredible honor of building trusting relationships over the years with my clients, and those relationships, in addition to those with my colleagues at Pacifica, make my job highly fulfilling," said Denise. "I look forward to embracing my new role within the firm while continuing uninterrupted service to my clients, all with the support of my colleagues."

With an eye on the future, Denise is stepping into the role of managing partner with the goal of helping Pacifica navigate the post-pandemic realities in the business and legal industries. "I have the benefit of stepping into a stable foundation and working collaboratively with my partners to reinforce that foundation," she said. Her goal is to leverage Pacifica's many strengths and to consider how the firm further evolves to prioritize the connectivity and interests of Pacifica attorneys and staff while also continuing to provide the best value and service for clients.

"It's an exciting time to assume this role. I have a lot of learning at the front end and I'm open to listening and thinking creatively about how we move forward," said Denise. "Our firm is committed not only to doing the highest caliber legal work but also to ensuring that we each enjoy a life balance that allows space for family, friends and community."

Denise is an enrolled member of the Gros Ventre (Aaniiih/White Clay) Tribe and is an active member of Seattle's Urban Native community. "I was raised by my grandparents and parents to be very thoughtful about my place in the community," said Denise. "I was very intentional early in my practice to find a role for myself beyond my legal practice and to engage with the community."

I'm passionate about serving in spaces that focus on work in BIPOC and vulnerable communities, and which emphasize leadership, generosity and empathy." Denise has received recognition for her leadership within the Native community and in 2020, she was awarded the Chief Seattle Club's inaugural Stiffarm Visionary Leadership award for her leadership.

In addition to her participation in the Seattle Urban Native community, Denise also serves as Chair of the Board of the YWCA of Seattle-King-Snohomish County, as a Trustee for the Seattle Art Museum, as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of King County, as a Trustee of College Spark Washington, and as a Trustee of One Roof Foundation.

In reflecting on her new role and what makes Pacifica unique, Denise explained, "I accepted this role knowing that I have broad support across the firm and with the knowledge that I'm working with a team that's not afraid of evolution and forward thinking. We enjoy our clients and our sophisticated legal practices, we are active in the community and we genuinely enjoy each other. It seems simple, but it's incredibly unique."

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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