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JOEL F. MURRAY

ATTORNEY

Washington State

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DYNAMIC. EFFICIENT. KNOWLEDGEABLE. RESOURCEFUL.

Legal Counsel for Business

- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & APPEALS • BUSINESS & CORPORATE • EDUCATION • EMPLOYMENT •
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & LEGISLATION • LIQUOR & CANNABIS • LITIGATION •
- STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT • TAX • TRADEMARK(S) • TRANSPORTATION •

In a 21st century economy, attorneys must evolve and streamline their offerings to meet the ever-changing needs of clients and industry. Joel provides cost-effective and results-oriented legal counsel and government affairs services to businesses of all sizes and industries. A combination of dynamic, efficient, knowledgeable, and resourceful legal counsel is utilized to advance client goals, overcome challenges, and maximize return on investment.

Joel has a broad range of experience that includes administrative law, appeals and rulemaking, business and corporate law, consumer protection, government affairs and legislation, government investigations, education, election law, employment law, litigation, local government and municipal law, real property law, tax law, trademark law, tribal law, and transportation and logistics law. Joel is detail oriented and interested in new and “emerging” industries and areas of law.

Local government experience includes cities and counties as well as state agencies on Ecology, Employment Security (“ESD”), Financial Institutions (“DFI”), Human Rights (“HRC”), Labor and Industries (“L&I”), Legislature, Liquor and Cannabis (“LCB”), Revenue (“DoR”), Social and Health Services (“DSHS”), and Utilities and Transportation (“UTC”).

Federal agency experience includes Agriculture, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”), Maritime Commission (“FMC”), Congress, Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), Trademark(s) (“PTO”), and Transportation.

Joel maintains relationships with current and former local, state and federal elected officials of all political affiliations. He has held positions on multiple pro-education political campaigns, advocated for increased funding for higher education (chairing a 30,000 person+ member organization at the University of Washington, and lobbying Congress and the Washington State (“WA”) Legislature for education funding), completed a legal externship and fellowship in the United States (“US”) Senate, and chaired a national legal and political organization. Joel maintains acquaintanceships and friendships with current and former elected officials throughout WA and the US.

In addition to his broad legal practice experience and political activities, Joel has published several academic articles in law journals, and taught several continuing legal education (“CLE”) seminars.

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EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE AREAS

Attorney, JFM Law

August 2023 - Present

Vancouver, Washington

- Administrative Law and Appeals
- Business Law and Commercial Litigation
- Election Law
- Hospitality, Liquor and Cannabis
- Local Government and Land Use
- Real Estate
- State and Local Taxation
- Transportation and Logistics

Attorney, McKean Smith

July 2022 - August 2023

Vancouver, Washington

- Administrative Law and Appeals
- Business Law and Commercial Litigation
- Election Law and Government Affairs
- Hospitality, Liquor and Cannabis
- Local Government and Land Use
- State and Local Taxation
- Transportation and Logistics
- Represented Congresswoman and her campaign in prominent 2022 race for WA's Third Congressional District.
- Settled highly contentious dispute over real property between family members
- Resolved commercial real estate and business dispute over the sale of real property (convenience store), and UCC-1 secured property
- Convinced opposing party to dismiss a products liability action based on the grounds of lack of personal jurisdiction over client

Attorney, JFM Law

February 2019 - July 2022

Tacoma and Vancouver, Washington

- Administrative Law and Appeals
- Business Law and Commercial Litigation
- Government Affairs and Legislation
- Hospitality, Liquor and Cannabis
- Local Government and Land Use
- Reviewed and analyzed city and county codes and legislation, and recommend updates and changes to said codes
- Political and Public Policy Law and Consulting: Represented sponsor(s) of successful statewide ballot initiative in constitutional and legal challenges against initiative brought by local governments and other organizations
- Represented the sponsor of a successful ballot initiative that passed in lawsuit challenging the ability of the Attorney General's Office to defend the initiative competently, diligently and ethically (without bias)
- State and Local Taxation
- Transportation and Logistics

Attorney, MDK Law

June 2011- July 2018

Bellevue, Washington

- Multi-practice law firm that provides legal services to closely held businesses of varying sizes
- Practice areas included administrative appeals and rulemaking, employment, general business, government relations, legislative history, land use, liquor and cannabis, municipal, public policy, real property, tax, trademarks, and transportation
- Provided digital legal research via LexisNexis as well as print legal research
- Drafted demand letters and briefs as required, depending on the client's circumstances
- Generally had three to six cases in active litigation in superior court
- Depositions, discovery, motions to compel discovery, declarations, motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss 12(b)(6), responses, replies, summons and complaints, discovery requests, and related documents
- Appealed an assessment of unemployment charges to a client/employer by the ESD and settled a claim of failure to garnish wages for child support made against the client with DSHS for less than 33% of the amount claimed
- Litigated and settled shareholder and employment law dispute involving mortgage fraud
- Litigated and settled dispute for demurrage fees against a well-known national rail carrier for less than 15% of the amount purportedly due after filing a Motion for Summary Judgment. Statistical regression analysis that I created was the primary reason for the settlement
- Appealed ESD assessments of unemployment benefits for terminated employees
- Researched legislative and administrative history on sales and use tax which led to the settlement of a back-tax assessment from DoR against a prominent Seattle nightclub. The settlement amount was less than 15% of the six-figure amount of sales and use tax that was purportedly not collected by the nightclub
- Negotiated, drafted, and edited purchase and sale agreements, security agreements, settlement agreements, and miscellaneous other contracts and "deals"
- Repeatedly organized successful political fundraisers for candidates for public office, including those running for statewide office and/or other highly prominent races
- Successfully defended franchise food business owner from discrimination claim filed against it with the EEOC and HRC. The dispute settled for \$100

Legal Counsel Intern, Sound Transit

May - August 2010

Seattle, Washington

- Tri-county transit benefit district for the Central Puget Sound region of Washington State
- Projects dealt with issues involving land use, federal and state regulations, transportation law, and mass transit development
- Helped develop initial land use plans to allow for the construction of light rail from Seattle, WA to Bellevue, WA
- Drafted an agency board of director's motion and staff report authorizing sale of a bankruptcy claim against Lehman Brothers, legislative session summary, and multiple memorandums on land use and public law

Law Clerk, Tulalip Tribes

June - August 2009

Tulalip, Washington

- Drafted memorandums on federal legislation that resulted in Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010
- Legal research and drafted memorandums on civil and criminal jurisdictional issues involving Public Law 280
- Drafted a variety of pleadings for prosecutorial matters

Communications Director, YES on EHJR 4204

June - September 2007

Seattle, Washington

- Successful statewide referendum campaign to allow public school levies to pass with a 50% majority in WA
- Responsibilities included advance and organizing media events, coalition building, drafting press releases, elected official outreach, and representing campaign at events throughout WA

Young Voters Outreach Coordinator, NO on I-920

June - November 2006

Seattle, Washington

- Successful statewide anti-ballot initiative campaign to prevent repeal of the estate tax in WA and maintain funding for public education
 - Organized students and young voters against anti-higher education ballot initiative
 - Represented campaign at events throughout WA
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EDUCATION

J.D., University of California at Davis School of Law

2011

Davis, California

- Member, UC Davis Law Review
- Legal Extern, US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
 - Congressional Investigation into for-profit colleges and universities
- National President, Law School Democrats of America
- Member, UC Davis Business Law Journal

Visiting Student, Georgetown University Law Center

2011

Washington, District of Columbia

- Completed final semester of law school at the Georgetown University Law Center
- Legal Fellow (previously Legal Extern), US Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
 - Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Partnership Act of 1998

MSc, London School of Economics and Political Science

2008

London, England

- Philosophy and Public Policy (Philosophy Department)
- Studies focused on economic theory, and government regulation of the market
- Dissertation critiqued socialist economic theory

BA, University of Washington

2007

Seattle, Washington

- Political Science (Departmental Honors); Economics
 - Honors thesis analyzed effort to repeal US estate tax
 - Active in student government and lobbied for increased federal and state funding for public higher education
 - Chaired a 30,000 plus student organization that advocated for increased funding for higher education at state and federal levels, and organized an annual lobbying day for college students in Olympia, Washington
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PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- “Drafting Commercial Goods Warehousing Agreements on Behalf of Warehouseors or Customers”, (*with* Mark D. Kimball and John F. Horvath), Strafford Publications, Inc. (Feb. 2016)
- “Drafting Legal Documents”, (*with* Mark D. Kimball), Center for International Legal Studies, University of Szeged, Szeged, Csongrád County, Hungary (Oct. 2014)
- Policing the Ballot: Citizens for Tax Reform vs. Deters and Prohibitions on Volume-Based Compensation for paid Signature Gatherers, 71st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America (April 2013)
- *Policing the Ballot: Citizens for Tax Reform v. Deters and Prohibitions on Volume-Based Compensation for Paid*

Signature Gatherers, JOURNAL OF LAW & POLITICS, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Fall 2012)

- *Professional Dishonesty: Do U.S. Law Schools That Report False or Misleading Employment Statistics Violate Consumer Protection Laws?*, JOURNAL OF CONSUMER & COMMERCIAL LAW, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Summer 2012) (*cited by Cooley v. Kurzon Strauss, LLC, et al.*, Opinion and Order, Case No. 1:11-CV-844, United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Southern Division (2013))
 - Applying Consumer Protection Laws to Law School Advertising, Thomson Reuters (West) Continuing Legal Education Seminar (Aug. 2011)
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AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Rising Star, Super Lawyers** 2022 - 2024
 - **Superb Rating (9.3/10), Avvo**
 - **Member, UC Davis Law Review** 2009 - 2010
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PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS, LICENSES AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Washington State (Bar Association) (WSBA No. 44786) 2012 - Present
 - United States District Court for the Western District of Washington 2015 - Present
 - United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington 2022 - Present
 - United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit 2019 - Present
 - United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington 2015 - Present
 - Registered Lobbyist, Washington State Public Disclosure Commission 2019 - Present
 - Tulalip Tribal Bar Association 2009 - Present
 - Clark County Bar Association 2024 - Present
 - University of Washington Alumni Association 2007 - Present
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INTERESTS

- Aerospace, business and economics, current and foreign affairs, politics and public policy, land use, mass transit, urban planning, Aboriginal and Native Rights, economic and political philosophy, satire, technology, defense and military policy, *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, the Salish Sea (Puget Sound), New Orleans, golf, University of Washington Athletics, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and travel