

Jennifer S. Robertson Attorney at Law Dir: 425.450.4204 jrobertson@insleebest.com

November 28, 2023

City of Medina Attn: Aimee Kellerman, City Clerk 501 Evergreen Point Road P.O. Box 144 Medina WA 98039

Re: Proposal for Contract City Attorney Services

Dear Ms. Kellerman:

Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder, P.S. is pleased to submit six copies of the enclosed proposal to provide general legal services to the City of Medina. We believe that our extensive experience in the areas of law affecting municipalities make us particularly well qualified to provide legal services to Medina. In addition, our close vicinity to Medina City Hall (our office is located just minutes away in Downtown Bellevue) means that it will be expedient for us to serve Medina in person at office hours (if requested), Council meetings, staff meetings, Planning Commission meetings, etc.

Attorneys at Law Charlotte A. Archer Kay L. Brossard Curtis J. Chambers Marcia Hyunjin Cho AnnaLisa C. Danysh Daniel G. Findley Eric C. Frimodt J. Todd Henry Anneliese E. Johnson Rosemary A. Larson David J. Lawyer Mark S. Leen James C. McGuire Kathryn Felice Peterson Christopher W. Pirnke Dawn F. Reitan Jennifer S. Robertson Randi L. Shaffer Daniel N. Shin Gregory L. Ursich Katherine F. Weber Brett N. Wiese Juliana U. Wong Jessica N. Yu

As described in the enclosed proposal, our experienced firm and our experienced Municipal Group are well-suited to fit the needs of Medina. Our firm has a deep bench of attorneys skilled in all areas that impact your community, from labor and employment to cyber security to land use to intellectual property. We propose **Jennifer Robertson** serve as the lead City Attorney and **Curtis J. Chambers** serve as the Assistant City Attorney. Ms. Robertson is an experienced municipal attorney who has successfully represented Washington cities for over 25 years. Mr. Chambers is a seasoned attorney, exceptional at resolving tough code enforcement matters, and highly skilled as both a municipal advisor and litigator. Further, the City would have access to our entire Municipal Group and full-service law firm, allowing the City to benefit from our substantial experience serving cities and providing legal services to municipalities. Attorneys in the Municipal Group have a history and tradition of working cooperatively with each client to provide excellent, cost-efficient, and timely service. We would welcome the opportunity to represent Medina.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information with you about our firm. We wish the City every success in serving the community of Medina. If you need supplemental information or wish to schedule an interview, please contact me at (425) 450-4204.

Main: 425.455.1234

Inslee Best Doezie & Ryder P.S.

Fax: 425.635.7720

insleebest.com

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We appreciate the opportunity to be considered by Medina for these services.

Sincerely,

INSLEE BEST DOEZIE & RYDER, P.S.

Jennyfer S. Robertson

Enclosure



# Proposal for Contracted City Attorney – General Municipal Legal Services City of Medina, Washington

# From:

INSLEE, BEST, DOEZIE & RYDER, P.S. 10900 NE 4th Street, Suite 1500 Bellevue, WA 98004

Contact Person: Jennifer S. Robertson Phone: (425) 450-4204 Fax: (425) 635-7720 jrobertson@insleebest.com

# Presented to:

City of Medina
Attn: Aimee Kellerman, City Clerk
501 Evergreen Point Road
P.O. Box 144
Medina, WA 98039

December 1, 2023

#### A. INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRM AND ATTORNEYS

Inslee Best is a full-service law firm of 28 attorneys providing a wide range of legal services to its municipal clients located throughout the Pacific Northwest. These services include municipal, real estate, construction, environmental and land use, labor and employment, taxation, intellectual property, bankruptcy, general business, general litigation, and mediation. To better serve municipal clients, Inslee Best has formed a Municipal Group, comprised of seven attorneys with practices focusing on the representation of municipalities, and four other attorneys who provide services to municipalities in their specific areas of law.

The Municipal Group attorneys serve as City Attorney for the Cities of Bonney Lake, Brier, Kenmore, Newcastle, Orting, Pacific, Port Orchard, Ruston, and Vader. We have represented the City of Bainbridge as Special Legal Counsel on a variety of matters, and the Cities of Kirkland, Anacortes, and Twisp as Special Legal Counsel on land use matters. In addition, attorneys in the Municipal Group have served as general and special counsel to many other cities and agencies, including Redmond, Sammamish, Duvall, Covington, Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Black Diamond, North Bend, Everett, Ellensburg, Gig Harbor, Kent, Lakewood, Mukilteo, Mount Vernon, Mountlake Terrace, Blaine, Tukwila, Puyallup, Friday Harbor, Roy, Sumas, Olympia, Vancouver, the Seattle Public Safety Service Commission, various entities through AWC-RMSA insurance, Renton Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, over 30 water-sewer districts, a flood control district, and two conservation districts.

Jennifer Robertson, Charlotte Archer, Eric Frimodt, Rosemary Larson, Dawn Reitan, Curtis Chambers, and Chris Pirnke are the attorneys in the Municipal Group who focus their practices primarily or exclusively on municipal law. In the area of municipal law, these attorneys have extensive experience representing public agencies in Washington. Through our representation of municipalities, we have gained extensive experience in all aspects of municipal law, including the following areas:

Intergovernmental contracting

Open public meetings

Ordinance/resolution drafting Personnel and labor relations

Competitive bidding and construction

Boundary Review Board matters

Mergers, consolidations and assumptions

Annexations

Real estate/easement transactions

**Interlocal Agreements** Land Use and permitting

**SEPA** 

Compliance with COVID emergency orders

Public liability

Public records disclosure

Moratoria and interim official controls Litigation, mediation, and arbitration

Finance and taxes

Eminent domain (condemnations) Developer extension agreements

Lien foreclosures

Local improvement districts

Utilities rate setting, connection fees, and taxes

Growth Management Act compliance

Development Agreements

**Public Ethics Rules** 

In addition, the firm's attorneys with experience in pertinent areas of law to municipalities work closely with the Municipal Group. Kathy Weber assists the firm's municipal clients in employment and labor law matters. Curtis Chambers and Chris Pirnke provide legal services in

the areas of construction and public works, as well as general litigation. **Kay Brossard** and **Daniel Shin** provides legal services in the area of real estate. The firm also has a robust intellectual property practice group, and the firm's clients benefit from that knowledge base as well.

# B. PROPOSAL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF FIRM AND ATTORNEYS

## Firm's Approach to Representing Municipalities.

Inslee Best's Municipal Group is guided by the following philosophy: provide high quality and timely services at a reasonable cost. To accomplish these goals, the attorneys in the Municipal Group focus on two implementing principles: maintain excellent communications with the client and utilize appropriate attorneys whenever possible. By applying this philosophy, the Municipal Group has an exceptional record in retaining our municipal clients.

Depending on staff levels, budget constraints, types of projects and resident expectations, the legal needs of public clients differ widely. For this reason, constant and open communication between the client and the lead attorney is critical to the successful delivery of legal services. To foster good communication, the Municipal Group attorneys listen carefully. Usually, a client has a general understanding of the desired outcome of a situation and has a preferred way to reach the outcome. By listening carefully and conversing with, not at, a client, the attorneys can guide the client to an appropriate response and conclusion that is cost effective.

Open communication must also occur through targeted and efficient contact. A lead attorney should be familiar with most of the legal subject areas encountered by a public client and should be proficient in them. The client should be able to call the lead attorney and receive answers to most questions over the telephone. Therefore, the Municipal Group has a policy of answering all telephone calls or emails the same day, with the goal of answering them within two hours. To be responsive, a lead attorney must be available in the office. Nothing is more frustrating to a client than to learn that the attorney is in an all-day meeting, deposition, or trial. In order to increase our office availability, the Municipal Group's lead attorneys delegate to appropriate attorneys all work that can be efficiently and appropriately performed by them. Examples of candidates for delegation are lawsuits, in-depth and complicated issues in a particular area of law, and legal research. However, lead attorneys still need to be gone from the office at times. Therefore, trained backup attorneys, including other Municipal Group partners, are available whenever a lead attorney is absent. These attorneys have the experience and background to answer most of the questions and handle most of the urgent matters.

As attorneys who primarily provide services to public clients, the Municipal Group recognizes the importance to municipalities of adhering to a budget. Thus, we strive to keep our clients' legal costs to the minimum necessary to accomplish their goals. We have found that cost containment can be accomplished through a number of techniques that do not in any way diminish the result achieved for the client. For instance, appropriate delegation of work, whether to an attorney with substantial prior experience in a pertinent area of law or to an associate who can provide services on a routine matter at a lower cost, decreases a client's legal costs. Moreover, the negotiation of disputes to a resolution that meets the client's goals reduces or eliminates litigation costs.

# Specific Proposal and Qualifications.

As detailed below, we propose that **Jennifer Robertson** serve as the primary City Attorney, and that **Curtis Chambers** serve as Assistant City Attorney. They will be assisted by the other attorneys in the Municipal Group, and non-Municipal Group attorneys where appropriate due to their experience and expertise with the advance consent of Medina.

1. **Jennifer Robertson** has served as general legal counsel to cities and special purpose districts for over 25 years. She has also served several cities as special counsel in land use matters. She currently serves as the City Attorney for the Cities of Bonney Lake, Ruston, and Vader, and specialty land use counsel for the City of Port Orchard. She further assists as counsel for several of the firm's other agency clients and does land use and other work for cities insured by AWC-RMSA.

Jennifer has experience in all aspects of municipal law, including open meetings, public records disclosure, conflicts of interest and the municipal code of ethics, land use and zoning, environmental and SEPA compliance, finance, contracts and interlocal agreements, franchises, utility and rate issues, eminent domain, employment, administrative procedures, code enforcement, public works and bidding, development agreements, real estate, and code and statutory interpretation. Jennifer has drafted, reviewed, and analyzed hundreds of local resolutions, ordinances and code provisions covering a wide variety of legislative topics, including zoning, critical areas, environmental, shorelines, franchises, finance, telecommunications, utilities, and administrative procedures. In addition, she has worked extensively with her municipal clients on issues related to Public Records Act response, Open Public Meetings Act compliance, and ethics/conflicts of interest issues.

Jennifer's municipal practice has included a wide variety of land use issues. She assists planning departments with drafting and revising development regulations, with the comprehensive planning process, and with permit processing and other land use approvals. She has negotiated, drafted, and reviewed a number of development agreements. She has represented cities before hearing examiners and courts on matters such as code enforcement appeals and land use decision appeals (primarily under the Land Use Petition Act), abatement of dangerous buildings and other code enforcement matters, and takings and other constitutional claims.

In addition, **Jennifer** has been a policy maker for the City of Bellevue since 2003, serving 6 years on the Bellevue Planning Commission and 14 years on the Bellevue City Council. She did not run for re-election this year, so her time as a Bellevue Council Member will end on December 31, 2023. Her extensive involvement in regional committees as a Councilmember also means that she is well informed about issues that impact cities in King County and within the PSRC area. Thus, her 20 years of work for Bellevue provides her with a broader view of municipal issues and helps her provide better guidance to and advocacy for her clients.

2. **Curtis Chambers** is a member of Inslee Best's Municipal Group and has been practicing law in Washington since 2010. **Curtis** serves as the City Attorney for the City of Newcastle, supports the Firm's other city clients, serves as general counsel for a number of water and sewer districts, and other local government agencies by providing a full range of legal services,

including drafting and reviewing ordinances and resolutions; advising city councils, boards of commissioners, and staff; drafting and reviewing contracts and interlocal agreements; advising on public works projects, including surety, bonding, and insurance matters; and advising on land use decisions and development regulations. He represents municipal entities in trial and appellate courts on a wide range of litigation, including contract and property disputes. **Curtis** also represents municipalities at the agency level, by, for example, defending actions in front of the Growth Management Hearings Board. **Curtis** is also active in code enforcement, from removal of junk vehicles to the abatement of dangerous buildings.

### More Information on Relevant Areas of Firm's Legal Expertise.

Through their representation of cities and special purpose districts, Inslee Best attorneys have gained extensive experience in all areas of law that impact municipalities. This section summarizes our experience in some of the most pertinent areas of law.

# 1. Land Use and Environmental.

As attorneys for municipalities, many of which are experiencing significant development activity, Inslee Best has developed extensive knowledge and experience in a wide range of land use and environmental matters, from assisting City staff in processing applications for large subdivisions or commercial redevelopment projects, to defending city land use approval decisions before the administrative agencies and courts, or city comprehensive plans and development regulations before the Growth Management Hearings Board, and all levels of code enforcement. Jennifer has extensive experience will all aspects of land use law. Curtis has extensive experience with land use litigation and all aspects of code enforcement, including chronic nuisance abatement.

As a firm, we have been called on to prepare or review all types of land use and environmental ordinances, including ordinances relating to building codes (fire, building, plumbing, mechanical, abatement of dangerous buildings, and energy codes), street vacations, SEPA, critical areas, shoreline management master programs, subdivisions, impact fees, boundary line adjustments, planned unit developments, zoning codes and storm, sewer and water utilities. By writing and reviewing these laws, we have also become familiar with the principles and case authority governing them. We reviewed and revised draft ordinances implementing the Land Use Regulatory Reform Act (1995), which required us to analyze the entire land use permit application processes of clients in view of the new requirements of the Act. We prepared one of the first school impact fee ordinances in the State and have worked on numerous impact fee ordinances since that time. We further have prepared ordinances on high profile topics such as telecommunication facilities, adult businesses, development moratoria and interim official controls. Recently, we have also been updating our clients' code regarding permanent supportive housing, missing middle housing, emergency housing, accessory dwelling units, as well as source control and sewer pretreatment programs.

Our land use work has involved the full spectrum of environmental review under SEPA regulations, critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, and planned action ordinances. We have reviewed countless SEPA environmental documents, from draft mitigated determinations of non-significance to environmental impact statements, and none of them has been successfully

challenged in court or in administrative agencies. We have developed SEPA notices for clients. We have worked on shoreline substantial development permit matters. An interesting aspect of our critical areas ordinance work has been assisting cities to develop procedures for granting reasonable use exceptions to stringent sensitive areas requirements, in order to avoid takings.

One of the most challenging yet satisfying aspects of our land use practice has been working with planning department staff to resolve the full range of issues that arise during land use permit processing. On a daily basis, we advise planners and building officials on the unusual issues that arise in the thousands of applications that are processed. We have written hundreds of legal opinions on a wide array of issues such as vesting, impact fees, variances, lot aggregations, nuisances, plat requirements, mitigation, setbacks, sign codes, nonconforming uses and structures, authority to regulate state development, and general statutory and code interpretation.

We also have assisted cities in developing comprehensive plan policies and development regulations for downtown and general redevelopment, such as sub-area plans, vision plans and design guidelines. We have also assisted cities in negotiating, drafting, and processing development agreements under Chapter 36.70B RCW.

We have been involved in many appeals from decisions of planning department directors, hearing examiners and city councils. We are experienced in representing municipalities before courts, boundary review boards, shorelines hearings boards, and growth management hearings boards. Many of the decisions involved highly controversial projects and several parties, including citizens groups and other agencies.

# 2. <u>Employment</u>

Inslee Best's attorneys have extensive experience advising municipal clients on labor and employment issues, serving as general counsel to agencies throughout Washington. In addition, shareholder **Kathy Weber** has over 20 years of experience and works closely with municipalities, including cities, water-sewer districts, fire districts and other special purpose districts, on a wide variety of employment, personnel, and labor matters. **Charlotte Archer** frequently advises the firm's clients on these issues, has served as special counsel to the cities of North Bend and Tukwila on employment issues, and has successfully litigated employment matters on behalf of public agencies throughout her 10-year career. **Curtis Chambers** has likewise litigated numerous employment matters, resulting in favorable outcomes for his clients.

Both Kathy and Charlotte have extensive experience in advising municipalities on public employment and personnel issues, including but not limited to: hiring, separation and termination of employment, wage and hour issues, employee benefits, discrimination issues, disciplinary measures, employment policies and rules, employee rights and privacy, occupational safety and health issues, worker's compensation and public disclosure requirements as they apply to personnel records. They also regularly advise and represent municipal employers in labor matters, including union elections, labor grievances, unfair labor practice charges, collective bargaining and the decertification process. Charlotte likewise advises current clients on labor issues, including collective bargaining. Charlotte and Kathy regularly guide employer clients through

sensitive workplace investigations, and Kathy also frequently serves as an independent investigator in workplace investigations.

Kathy and Charlotte spend a significant amount of time helping clients avoid labor and employment problems. They educate employees, particularly supervisors, on employment topics, which results in fewer employment claims and a harmonious work environment. They also frequently organize seminars and training for clients covering areas such as COVID-19 response strategies, sexual harassment, the Americans with Disabilities Act, family medical leave, and federal and state wage and hour requirements, including maintaining exempt classifications for employees. They work with clients to take preventive measures designed to reduce potential employment exposure.

If, however, a claim is brought by an employee against a client, the Firm has the expertise to defend the claim and to respond quickly and effectively as employment issues arise, and work closely with insurance-appointed defense counsel where applicable. As a team well versed in municipal law and well as labor and employment law, both **Kathy** and **Charlotte** understand and appreciate the employment nuances that public entities face. Furthermore, they have the resources and collective wisdom of the firm's Municipal Group when municipal issues and employment issues overlap.

## 3. Construction/Public Works

Inslee Best has developed a substantial construction and development practice. The Municipal Group attorneys are experienced with issues surrounding public works projects. Construction Group attorneys assist the Municipal Group depending upon the nature of the project. Due to the number of municipal entities that we represent, a significant portion of our Construction Group's work involves representation of public owners on public works projects.

The Construction Group's services to municipalities span the entire public works process, including site acquisition and permitting; preparation and interpretation of contracts; advice on compliance with public works statutes and regulations including alternative public works contracting procedures, prevailing wages, intergovernmental disposition of property, and architectural and engineering contracts; advice on the bidding process, bid disputes and issues of non-responsive bids; legal opinions on the merits of claims arising during construction; negotiation of claims in a prompt manner to insure successful, timely project completion; and, when necessary, mediation, arbitration or litigation of the myriad of disputes that arise in the public works context. The Group also successfully defended, at both trial and appeal, a utility district on a water reservoir project that involved an issue of first impression for the Washington State Supreme Court as to whether adjacent owners are entitled to compensation for view impacts.

Chris Pirnke often assists municipal clients on public works contracting, bidding and construction issues. Chris has 9 years of extensive experience in construction law, including litigation of claims. He regularly counsels our municipal clients with regard to bid protests and other construction issues. Chris and Curtis all have extensive experience in assisting municipalities with public works, public bidding, and construction contracting and project management.

### 4. Real Property Transactions

Kay Brossard, a member of the Municipal Group whose practice focuses on transactional real estate issues, including easements, license agreements and purchases. In addition, the Business Transaction Group is available to assist our municipal clients with real property transactions. The Business Group attorneys have extensive experience in all aspects of large real estate development, leasing, and maintenance projects, which has proven invaluable to our municipal clients. The Business Group attorneys also have had extensive involvement in planning, structuring, negotiating and drafting agreements necessary to acquire and develop all types of land development projects. In connection with these projects, the Business Group attorneys have been legal counsel in charge of negotiating and drafting real property purchase and sale agreements; option agreements; ground leases; project development agreements; architectural design agreements; construction contracts; joint venture and partnership agreements; long term facility leases; and management agreements. The Business Group attorneys assisted Bainbridge Island in acquiring a large number of open space parcels, pursuant to a bond issuance authorized by that City's voters.

### 5. Police Issues

Several of our clients have their own police departments, while some contract with King County for services. Police issues are complex and often need guidance from an expert attorney. **Charlotte Archer** works closely with public safety department leadership on every aspect of their work, providing counsel on issues ranging from policy development and implementation to labor relations issues and Civil Service Commission hearings. The firm strives to keep abreast of the ever-changing legal landscape for law enforcement in Washington, pushing out legislative updates and policy recommendations as new laws emerge.

Charlotte is experienced in navigating issues involving mutual aid and multi-jurisdiction taskforce efforts, engagement with the unhoused community and homestead issues, and the Certification Division of Washington's Criminal Justice Training Commission, including investigative processes and decertification proceedings. Charlotte serves as the Chair of the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys' Association's Amicus Committee and, in that capacity, she has authored numerous briefs at the state and federal level pertaining to public safety issues. As a result of her experience in this area, Charlotte has a deep understanding of the law enforcement community in Washington and beyond, which enables her to advise her clients on key issues.

### 6. Public Records and Open Public Meetings Act

This office has worked extensively with cities and special districts on assisting, training and drafting policies relating to the Public Records Act, codified at Chapter 42.56 RCW (PRA). Almost on a weekly basis, we assist agency staff on numerous legal issues that arise under the PRA. In addition, this office has drafted PRA legislative policies and provided training to staff and officials. Our attorneys routinely present at conferences for elected officials and other attorneys on these issues, including the Municipal Research and Services Center and the Association of Washington Cities.

More specifically, **Jennifer** and **Curtis** routinely assist staff in responding to public records requests, including drafting 5-day letters, identifying adequate searches, reviewing potential exempt records, drafting exemption logs for exempt records, drafting third-party notice letters, and helping staff to efficiently produce responsive records to a request. **Jennifer** has provided training to city staff, planning commissions, and city councils on the PRA. She frequently works with staff to develop procedures and policies with the goal of avoiding PRA claims.

# C. STATEMENT OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

The firm has an insurance policy with \$2,000,000 per occurrence coverage, plus an additional umbrella policy. The firm also carries Errors and Omissions coverage with \$4,000,000 per occurrence coverage.

### D. CLIENT REFERENCES AND REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

# **References for Jennifer Robertson**

Bruce Hopkins, Mayor
City of Ruston
City
5219 N. Shirley Street
Ruston, WA 98407
Port
BruceH@rustonwa.org

(253) 759-3544 (360)

Jason Sullivan, Development Services

Manager

City of Bonney Lake 9002 Main St E

Bonney Lake, WA 98391

sullivanj@ci.bonney-lake.wa.us

(253) 447-4355

Nick Bond, Community Development Director

City of Port Orchard 216 Prospect Street Port Orchard, WA 98366 nbond@cityofportorchard.us

(360) 876-7049

Joe Schey, Mayor City of Vader 317 Eighth Street PO Box 189 Vader, WA 98593

Jschev.cityofvader@gmail.com

(360) 295-3222

# **References for Curtis Chambers**

Scott Pingel, City Manager City of Newcastle Newcastle City Hall 12835 Newcastle Way, Ste. 200 Newcastle, WA 98056 (425) 649-4444 Randall M. Black General Manager Lakewood Water District 11900 Gravelly Lake Dr SW Lakewood, WA 98499 (253) 588-4423

#### E. FEE PROPOSAL

We propose to provide legal services to Medina based on a straight hourly fee structure which we feel is best suited to the types of legal services to be provided. In addition, the Firm bills through costs such as postage, filing fees, and the like as well as other routine out-of-pocket expenses incurred on the City's behalf.

A proposed Fee Schedule is below. The names of the attorneys most likely to work with Medina are identified in the Fee Schedule. Since the bulk of the legal services will be performed by members of our Municipal Group, we have identified a special "municipal rate" that is less than what we would normally charge our private clients. The Municipal Group rates will remain firm through the end of 2024.

If legal assistance is needed from partners outside of the Municipal Group (e.g., for construction litigation, personnel/employment, or large business or real estate transactions) all other partners and contract attorneys would charge their regular hourly rates less 10%, subject to client approval. Any fees that are charged through from the City to other parties (i.e., development work, franchise review, etc.) will be charged at our standard rates.

Inslee Best bills on a monthly basis. All invoices summarize the date and description of legal services performed, the attorney performing the services, the time spent on the services, and the charge for the services.

INSLEE, BEST, DOEZIE & RYDER, P.S. Attorney Billing Rates for 2023 and 2024

ATTORNEYS	HOURLY RATES
Jennifer Robertson	\$ 325
Curtis Chambers	\$ 325
Charlotte Archer	\$ 325
Dawn Reitan	\$ 325
Kay Brossard	\$ 325
Chris Pirnke	\$ 325
Other municipal group partners (if added)	\$ 325
Municipal associates	\$ 245
Other firm partners	10% less than regular firm rates, rounded to next lowest \$5 increment, adjusted annually
Fees charged to other parties (i.e., developers, franchisees, etc.)	Regular firm rates



# Jennifer S. Robertson

jrobertson@insleebest.com

direct: 425-450-4204 fax: 425-635-7720



### Bio

Jennifer's primary practice focus is municipal and land use law. Over the course of her career, Jennifer has served as legal counsel to over 20 Washington municipalities and has spent the majority of her career working for and on behalf of cities, including advising on land use and zoning regulations, SEPA, permitting, utilities, franchise agreements, contracts, interlocal agreements, real estate, public works construction, competitive bidding issues, and the Open Public Meetings Act/Public Records Act. In addition to serving municipalities as an attorney, Jennifer has also held a number of appointed or elective positions in city government. She has served the City of Bellevue as a regional representative, a planning commissioner, and as a four-term city councilmember. Her wide-range of experience gives her a 360-degree view of municipal issues, which provides her clients with a more comprehensive advice on a broader array of topics.

# **Education**

- J.D., Willamette University, cum laude, 1993
- . B.S., University of Puget Sound, 1990

### **Professional & Civic Involvement**

- Bellevue City Councilmember (2009-present)
- · AWC Large Cities Advisory Committee, Board Member
- King County Eastside Transportation Partnership, Board Member
- · King County Regional Transit Committee, Board Member
- PSRC Transportation Policy Board, Board Member
- PSRC Executive Board, Board Member (Alt.)
- · Washington State Bar Association, Member
- Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, Member

# Honors, Awards & Special Recognition

- · Lifetime Achievement Award, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, 2023
- Dynamic Woman Leader, 425 Business, July 2017
- · Doris Bronson Morrill Award for Distinguished Service, October 2015



# **Curtis J. Chambers**

cchambers@insleebest.com

direct: 425-450-4266 fax: 425-635-7720



# Bio

As a partner at Inslee Best, Curtis' practice encompasses a large range of civil, transaction and litigation issues, with a focus on municipal, construction, and employment law. Curtis acts as general and special counsel for a number of municipal agencies around the State, and assists municipalities in all aspects of law, including OPMA and PRA issues, as well as contract drafting, eminent domain, property acquisition, administrative appeals, litigation, and appellate work. Curtis is an experienced negotiator, and has obtained favorable results for his client at mediation, in arbitration, and at trial.

The experience of representing a diverse client group – from municipalities to individuals to Fortune 500 companies – has given Curtis the ability to efficiently identify the needs of his client and propose cost effective and common sense solutions.

# Education

- . J.D., Seattle University School of Law, cum laude, 2010
- . B.A., Western Washington University, 2003

# **Publications & Presentations**

• Co-Author, Understanding New Fuel Standards (2016)

# **Bar/Court Admissions**

- · Admitted Washington, 2010
- · Admitted U.S. District Court, 2013

### **Professional & Civic Involvement**

- · East King County Bar Association, Member
- King County Bar Association, Member
- Washington State Bar Association, Member

# Honors, Awards & Special Recognition

Named Rising Star by Super Lawyers, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020