

## Bob C. Sterbank

Principal

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Bob has more than 30 years of municipal, land use and litigation experience. He is a veteran city attorney having advised mayors, city council members and other government administrators in cities across the Greater Seattle area.

Prior to joining Foster Garvey, Sterbank served as attorney for the City of Snoqualmie for nearly a decade. He is a frequent speaker on land use and municipal topics, and has been recognized for his leadership by Washington Super Lawyers.

Bob received his bachelor's degree with honors from Northwestern University and his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

### Education

J.D., Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, 1989

B.A., Northwestern University (with honors), 1986

### Honors & Recognition

Outstanding Service Award, Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, 2015

Rising Star, Washington Super Lawyers, 2006

### Services

Public Finance & Municipal Government

Labor, Employment & Immigration

Litigation

Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental

Public Records & Open Government

### Admissions

Washington, 1990

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

U.S. District Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

## Professional Activities

Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys (WSAMA), Member

- Amicus Committee
- Board Member

Washington State Bar Association, Member

## Community Activities

Columbia Metropolitan Choirs, Concord Chamber Choir, 2016-present

## News

Foster Garvey Promotes Bob Sterbank to Principal

*Foster Garvey Newsroom*, 1.6.26

Foster Garvey's Pro Bono Efforts in a Landmark Washington Supreme Court Case

*Foster Garvey Newsroom*, 2.25.25

Bob C. Sterbank Quoted in *The Columbian* About Sonesta International Hotels Corp. Case

*The Columbian*, 11.13.23

Foster Garvey Welcomes Bob Sterbank to its Municipal, Health & Housing Practice

5.1.23

## Speaking Engagements

Law Seminars International 32nd Annual Advanced Comprehensive Conference

Speaking Engagement

Interactive Online Broadcast, February 19-20, 2026

WSAMA 2025 Fall Conference

Conference

Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla, WA, October 15-17, 2025

WSAMA 2025 Spring Conference

Event

Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, WA, April 23-25, 2025

"HR Checkup - Best Practices for Public Employers in 2025," Policy to Practice Educational Series, Session 3

Webinar

2.12.25

The 18th Annual Fall Real Estate Conference  
Speaking Engagement  
Seattle, WA, 10.25.24

"Addressing Homelessness: A Legal and Practical Update," WSAMA 2024 Fall Conference  
Speaking Engagement  
Tacoma, WA, September 25 - 27

Downtown Seattle Association's 2024 MID Annual Meeting & Party  
Event  
Seattle, WA, 6.27.24

WSAMA 2024 Spring Conference  
Event  
Vancouver, WA, April 24 - April 26, 2024

AWC Elected Officials Essentials 2023  
Speaking Engagement  
12.9.23

## Legal Alerts

Washington Supreme Court Sets New Criteria for Closing Public Records Requests  
4.15.24

## Experience

### Appellate Litigation

Decisions representing primary party:

*Heller v. City of Bellevue*, 147 Wn.App. 46 (Div. I 2008)

*City of Federal Way v. Town & Country Real Estate, LLC*, 161 Wn.App. 17 (Div. II 2011)

*Jones v. Town of Hunts Point*, 166 Wn.App. 452 (Div. I 2011)

*Sleeping Tiger, LLC v. City of Tukwila*, 173 Wn.App. 1026, 2013 WL 709825 (Div. I 2013)  
(unpublished)

*BD Lawson Partners, LP v. Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings Board*, 165  
Wn.App. 677 (Div. I 2011)

*Toward Responsible Development v. City of Black Diamond*, 179 Wn.App. 1012, 2014 WL  
295838 (Div. I 2014) (unpublished)

*City of Snoqualmie v. King County Executive Dow Constantine et al.*, 187 Wn.2d 289 (2016)  
*Drebick v. City of Olympia*, 156 Wn.2d 289 (2006)

*Olympia v. Thurston County Board of County Commissioners*, 131 Wn.App. 85 (Div. II 2005)

*Responsible Urban Growth Group v. City of Kent*, 123 Wn.2d 376 (1994)

*San Juan Holding Company v. Skagit County*, 87 Wn.App. 703 (Div. I 1997) (briefed and argued case through Skagit County Superior Court, whose decision was upheld on appeal)

*Sorgenfrei v. Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1*, 87 Wn.App. 1013, 1997 WL 1119583 (Div. I 1997) (unpublished)

Amicus Curiae (aka “Friend of the Court”) briefs:

*University of Washington v. City of Seattle*, 188 Wn.2d 823 (2017)

*Benchmark Land Co. v. City of Battle Ground*, 138 Wn.2d 1008 (1999):

- On remand: *Benchmark Land Co. v. City of Battle Ground*, 103 Wn.2d 721 (Div. II 2000)
- On appeal: *Benchmark Land Co. v. City of Battle Ground*, 146 Wn.2d 685 (2002)

*Isla Verde International Holdings, Inc. v. City of Camas*, 146 Wn.2d 740 (2002)

*City of Everett v. Public Employment Relations Commission and IAFF Local 46*, Case No. 77831-5-1 (Div. I Court of Appeals) (amicus brief filed 9/10/2018)

Significant Trial Court Litigation:

*City of Snoqualmie v. Dow Constantine et al.*, King County Superior Court Cause No. 14-2-29269-4  
SEA (March 4, 2015)

- Order granting in part and denying in part City of Snoqualmie’s Motion for Partial Summary Judgment and denying State Department of Revenue’s motion for summary judgment

*National Wildlife Federation v. Federal Emergency Management Association et al.*, 2014 WL 5449859  
(unpublished October 24, 2014)

- Order Denying Plaintiff’s Motion for Summary Judgment and Granting Federal Emergency

*Snoqualmie Indian Tribe v. City of Snoqualmie*, 186 F.Supp.3d 1155 (W.D. Wash. 2016)

- Management Agency’s and Intervenor Cities’ Motions for Summary Judgment, in Order Granting in Party and Denying in Part Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss