

Matthew D. Wells

Principal

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Matt is an environmental and natural resources compliance attorney with a focus on marine and fresh water resource issues.

He regularly represents public and private sector clients in matters relating to environmental cleanup, due diligence, water rights and project permitting. With more than 30 years of experience practicing law and a strong science and policy background, Matt provides his clients with common sense and perspective to help them achieve their objectives.

Matt has represented municipal entities, utilities, *Fortune 500* companies, local businesses, non-profits and individuals. Before joining Foster Garvey, Matt was a partner at environmental and natural resources firm Doll Mack Wells PLLC.

Education

J.D., University of Washington School of Law (*high honors, Order of the Coif*), 1992

- Washington Law Review, Managing Editor

Master of Marine Affairs, University of Washington, 1986

B.S., Yale University (*cum laude* and with distinction in the major), Geology and Geophysics, 1982

Services

Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental

Environmental & Natural Resources

Ports

Public Finance & Municipal Government

Water Rights

Admissions

Washington
Oregon

Oregon Supreme Court
Washington Supreme Court

U.S. District Court, District of Oregon

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

Clerkships

Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Alan A. McDonald, US District Court, Eastern District of Washington, Yakima, 1992-1994

Honors & Recognition

Chambers USA (Washington) Leading Individual, Environment, 2024-present

The Best Lawyers in America©

- Oil and Gas Law, Water Law, 2026
- Environmental Law, 2008-present

Washington Super Lawyers list, 2008-present

Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating

Professional Activities

Washington State Bar Association, Environmental and Land Use Law Section, Member

- Environmental and Land Use Law Section, Midyear Meeting and Seminar Program Co-Chair, 2009

Washington Water Policy Alliance, Member

Community Activities

Bishop Blanchet High School, Advisory Board Member, 2017-2019

KCBA Central District Neighborhood Legal Clinic, Volunteer Attorney, 1996-2020

Leadership Tomorrow, 2004

Pike Market Childcare and Preschool, Board Member, 2008-2013

Preston, Gates & Ellis LLP, Pro Bono Coordinator, 2003-2007

St. John School, School Commission Member, 2012-2015

News

71 Foster Garvey Attorneys Recognized Among the 2026 Best Lawyers in America; Paul Trinchero Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

8.21.25

19 Foster Garvey Attorneys Named to the 2025 Washington Super Lawyers Lists; Emily Harris Gant Earns Special Recognition

Foster Garvey Newsroom, 8.1.25

Foster Garvey Recognized Among Nation's Top Firms in 2025 Chambers USA Guide; 26 Attorneys and 13 Practices Ranked
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 6.5.25

Foster Garvey Adds Distinguished Environmental Regulatory, Compliance and Litigation Team from Doll Mack Wells PLLC in Seattle
Foster Garvey Newsroom, 8.19.24