



Shelby R. Stoner

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Shelby Stoner is an associate in the firm's Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety practice. As a litigator, she successfully leads the strategy and execution of complex, high-impact cases involving class actions, labor and employment disputes, tribal law issues, environmental issues, and appellate litigation. Shelby works hard, prepares arguments of the highest quality, and as a result has won favorable results for her clients in federal and state court and other tribunals across the country.

Shelby frequently litigates cases involving the Administrative Procedure Act, federal and state employment statutes, federal environmental statutes, and constitutional issues. In addition, Shelby counsels private and public employers on wage-and-hour matters, labor negotiations, fair employment practices, and other workplace issues. Shelby represents a range of clients, including state and local governments, Native American tribes, tribal corporations, businesses (small and large), nonprofit organizations, and school districts.

Shelby previously clerked in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She maintains an active pro bono practice focused on Indigenous rights, immigration justice, and civil rights.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Shelby, a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Middle East, worked for several years in the nonprofit and international development sectors before law school. Shelby speaks conversational Spanish and elementary Arabic.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 2017 (*Order of the Coif; Washington Law Review, Articles Editor*)
- M.A., Columbia University, 2010 (*cum laude*)
- B.A., University of Washington, 2006 (*Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude; ASB Officer*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Quoted in *Seattle's Duwamish Tribe files new lawsuit seeking federal recognition* by Amy Radil, KUOW | NPR (11 May 2022) and *Duwamish Tribe sues government to 'secure its tribal sovereignty'* by Adel Toay, KING 5 News (11 May 2022)
- The Finality Trap: When 'Without Prejudice' Is Actually Prejudicial, *Am Law Litigation Daily* (26 October 2021)
- Key Takeaways from the NLRB's Flip-Flop on Joint Employment Standards, *Alerts/Updates* (29 March 2018)
- Washington State Legislature Passes Pay Equity and “Me Too” Legislation, *National Law Review* (20 April 2018)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety
- American Indian Law
- Appellate Litigation
- Class Action Litigation Defense
- Commercial Disputes

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Successfully defended a multinational food and beverage corporation in a case involving alleged trade secret violations in federal district court in Washington (2023). Currently on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- Successfully defended a government agency against class action claims for wages and penalties in relation to the time thousands of government employees spent commuting between their jobs and their homes in government-owned vehicles. Developed a strategy to dispose of the case through an early motion for summary judgment. After very limited discovery and expense to our client, the court granted our motion and dismissed the plaintiffs' claims in their entirety (2023). Currently on appeal in the Washington State Supreme Court.

- Defending a tribal corporation against a wage-and-hour class action pending in federal district court in Washington.
- Representing a Native American tribe in action seeking federal recognition by the U.S. Department of Interior and asserting Administrative Procedure Act, due process, and equal protection violations in federal district court in Washington.
- Representing an energy company in an Administrative Procedure Act action against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- Representing a fisheries trade association seeking to intervene in a case asserting constitutional violations in a federal district court in Mississippi.
- Representing five Native American Tribes, alongside the ACLU and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), in a putative class action challenging the State of Montana's failure to fulfill its constitutional mandate to teach Montana public school students about the history and culture of the First Peoples of Montana.
- Defending a multinational food and beverage corporation in a putative class action involving alleged false advertisement claims in federal district court in New York.
- Advising energy provider in Texas regarding tribal law, environmental law, and related legal issues.
- Represented a former U.S. contractor from Afghanistan who was granted asylum (2023).
- Represented a domestic violence survivor and her family from Mexico seeking to adjust their status to lawful permanent residents (2023).
- Defended a Washington municipality in 5-week jury trial involving state-law and municipal employment and tort claims, resulting in a partial defense verdict. The court entered partial judgment in our favor, dismissing municipal claims as a matter of law (2022).
- Represented formerly incarcerated client sentenced to life without the possibility of parole in connection with his clemency petition, resulting in the commutation of his sentence by Governor Inslee (2020), the client's release from prison (2021), and orders to vacate his legal financial obligations and for resentencing (pro bono) (2021).
- Successfully defended a municipality and councilmember in action asserting damages for defamation, state-law tort claims, and constitutional violations in federal district court in Washington. The court granted our motion to dismiss and dismissed all claims with prejudice (2018), a decision that was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit (2019).