



PORTER FOSTER RORICK
LLP

Jeffrey Ganson

Attorney

Jeff Ganson advises school districts, cities and other municipalities on a broad spectrum of legal issues. He has extensive appellate court experience on matters ranging from public works and land development to public records and personnel issues. Jeff serves as the Woodinville City Attorney, and also devotes a large portion of his time to working on special education and other student disability issues.

CONTACT

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Attorney, Porter Foster Rorick, 1996-present

EDUCATION

University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington, J.D., with honors, 1996

Managing Editor, *Washington Law Review*

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, B.A., 1993

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys

Washington Council of School Attorneys

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Municipal law
- Public works and utilities
- Real estate, land use & construction
- Eminent domain
- Employee discipline and discharge
- Employee accommodations and leaves
- Special education and Section 504
- Civil litigation and tort defense
- Public records and open meetings
- Business services and transactions

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Negotiated and managed \$28 million property sale and leaseback transaction.
- Negotiated and developed contract and other documents for complex property transaction and mixed public-private redevelopment project.
- Obtained dismissal of board member recall charges arising out of application of judgment in approving contract and alleging conflict of interest.
- Successfully defended school district against neighboring district's territory transfer petition.
- Assisted fire district in negotiation and implementation of joint operating agreement with city.
- Assisted city in navigating complex legal issues related to evolving law on local regulation of medical marijuana, including collective gardens.
- Assisted city through process of annexing city fire department to fire district.
- Assisted city with series of annexations conducted via petition and election methods, and defense of same against growth management and boundary review board challenges.
- Assisted city with prosecution of claim for liquidated damages against contractor, and defense of contractor claims, arising out of catastrophic bridge failure during city construction project.
- Defended city against wireless carrier's lawsuit claiming effective prohibition under the Telecommunications Act.
- Assisted sewer district in acquisition of neighboring jurisdiction's utility.
- Assisted school district in response to county planning activities impacting district's options for development of a new public school site.
- Assisted school district with coach's claim of religious discrimination arising out of district direction not to lead students in prayer.
- Conducted and supervised investigations of suspected employee misconduct in a number of public agencies.
- *Federal Way School District No. 210 v. Vinson*, 172 Wn.2d 756 (2011). Represented school district in termination of teacher for material misrepresentations during workplace investigation.
- *Abbey Road Group, LLC v. City of Bonney Lake*, 167 Wn.2d 242 (2009). Successfully represented city in vested rights doctrine challenge to city's rezone of property following developer's submission of site plan.
- *Bellevue John Does 1-11 v. Bellevue School District*, 164 Wn.2d 199 (2008). Successfully defended Federal Way School District in Public Records Act case brought by employees; obtained and successfully defended award of sanctions against The Seattle Times in response to newspaper's frivolous request that court order school districts to pay its attorney's fees.
- *Milestone Homes, Inc. v. City of Bonney Lake*, 145 Wn. Ap. 118 (2008). Successfully defended city's denial of preliminary plat application.

- *IUOE Local 286 v. Dieringer School District*, No. 18720-U-04-4757 (PERC 2007). Successfully appealed and overturned Public Employment Relations Commission hearing officer's finding that district engaged in unfair labor practice.
- *Tahoma School District v. S&S Enterprises of Maple Valley*, No. 51839-9-I (unpublished opinion), *petition denied* 152 Wn.2d 1021 (2004). Obtained and successfully defended order of public use and necessity for school district's taking of land for development of a transportation center.
- *Parkland Light & Water Co. v. Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health*, 151 Wn.2d 428 (2004). Represented City of Bonney Lake in successful challenge to board of health order to fluoridate city water supply.
- *American Safety Casualty Ins. Co. v. City of Bonney Lake*, No. 02-36021 (Mem. Dec., 9th Cir. 2003). Obtained dismissal of surety's subrogation claims against city following public works contractor's default.
- *Weems v. North Franklin School District*, 109 Wn. App. 767 (2002). Successfully defended school district's termination of special education director for falsification of official documents.
- *Coca-Cola Bottling Co. v. Federal Way School District*, No. C00-1430, W.D. Wash. (2001). Secured summary judgment in breach of contract and injunction claim by Coca-Cola over exclusive rights to market beverages in schools.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Do's & Don'ts of Special Education" and "Student Behavior: Discipline, Suspension & Expulsion," *West Sound Summer Institute*, Bremerton School District, August 2018.
- "Vesting: *Snohomish County v. PCHB*," *Spring Conference*, Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys, April 2017.
- "Public Employees and Free Speech: What Recent Court Decisions Mean for Local Governments," *Teleconference*, National Business Institute, February 2017.
- "Coach Religious Activity in District Athletic Programs," *Spring Workshop*, Washington Council of School Attorneys, May 2016.
- "Isolation & Restraint" and "Student Discipline," *West Sound Summer Institute*, Bremerton School District, August 2015.
- "Scrounging For Every Penny: Non-Traditional Revenue Sources," *Annual Conference*, Washington Association of School Business Officers, May 2012.
- "Personnel Records," *Public Records Officers: Celebrating Open Government*, Washington Association of Public Records Officers Annual Conference, October 2011.
- "Vested Rights—A Matter of Perspective?," Washington State Bar Association Environmental and Land Use Law Section Mid-year Seminar, May 2010.