

Jeff Beelaert

Partner

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Jeff helps energy and natural resources clients protect their projects, permits, and operations, drawing on experience as a senior litigator and adviser at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Jeff's practice focuses on natural resources litigation, with particular emphasis on permit and project challenges. He represents clients in state and federal courts throughout the region and across the country, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Jeff litigates novel and contested issues arising under environmental, energy, administrative, and constitutional law, most often centering around challenges to environmental permits and project approvals. He advises clients on rulemaking and rulemaking challenges under environmental statutes such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. He also handles general commercial litigation, as well as matters involving telecommunications, technology, and appeals.

Before entering private practice, Jeff held several positions at the U.S. Department of Justice. As Deputy Associate Attorney General, he advised senior DOJ leadership on high-profile matters in environmental litigation, civil rights, and federal programs. As an appellate attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division, he briefed and argued dozens of cases as lead counsel for federal agencies, including administrative law challenges, natural resources disputes, clean air and water matters, endangered species and land management cases, and Indian law and takings claims. Jeff also served as nominations counsel in the Office of Legal Policy, assisting with the judicial nomination and confirmation process for scores of nominees, including two Supreme Court Justices.

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court

Education

- University of North Carolina School of Law (J.D., 2021)
- Duke University (M.P.P., 2011)
- United States Naval Academy (B.S., 1999)
– *with merit*

Bar Admissions

- Idaho
- District of Columbia
- Montana

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, D.C., and Federal Circuits
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

Professional Affiliations

- Board of Trustees, Florida Polytechnic University, 2025 – present
- Adjunct Professor, University of Idaho College of Law, Administrative Law, 2024 – 2025
- Barrister, Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court, 2017 – 2026

Clerkships

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Hon. David B. Sentelle
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Hon. Margaret A. Ryan