

James M. Richardson, III

LICENSES

Member in good standing, Washington State Bar Association; Inactive status, Oregon State Bar Association

EDUCATION

Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, OR May 2009
J.D., Environmental Law Certificate

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA June 2006
B.A., Liberal Arts, Focus in Biology

EXPERIENCE

Washington State Attorney General August 2016-present
Assistant Attorney General

- Represented DSHS and DCYF in dependency cases in Mason and Lewis Counties
- Represent DSHS and DCYF in contested administrative hearings
- Advised agency clients on matters related to child safety
- Serve as Co-Chair of the Washington State Bar Association's Juvenile Law Section's Child Welfare Sub-committee

Madison Law Firm September 2012-August 2016
Associate Attorney

- Represent clients in family law matters
- Represent clients in estate planning and probate matters
- Represent children in dependency matters

Indian Estate Planning Project, Seattle University, Seattle, WA May 2012 – September 2012
Intern

- Draft wills, powers of attorney, and living wills for members of the Squaxin Island Tribe
- Consult with and advise clients regarding estate planning and draft estate planning documents

Squaxin Island Indian Tribe, Shelton, WA November 2011 – December 2011
Law Clerk

- Drafted tribal policy on garnishment demands
- Researched and drafted legal memorandum regarding endangered species act for use in litigation

Summer Law Clerk Summer 2008

- Researched and drafted sample tribal probate code
- Reviewed intervener defendant submissions in treaty rights shellfish settlement
- Coordinated with tribe's Department of Natural Resources and communicated with local landowners concerning exercise of treaty rights

James M. Richardson, Ontario, OR September 2009 – September 2011
Attorney at Law

- Represented clients in variety of civil and criminal litigation matters

I am interested in continuing in my appointed position as chair-elect of the Juvenile Law Section. I have served the section as the dependency and child welfare committee co-chair since 2019. I served as chair from 2023-2024. I am excited for the future of this section. I want to continue expand my role in the section to help ensure that all sides are represented in the section, and that everyone gets the support that they need to do these difficult jobs well. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in providing my colleagues with the resources they need to perform better in their jobs and help the system better protect youth and families. And I look forward to the opportunity to continue lead these efforts in the coming years. Juvenile law is extremely important to me because there are amazing kids who have the potential to do great things, and there is nothing better than providing the support they need to reach their potential. I want to have a role in helping the system meet those children's needs.

From August 2016 through January 2019, I represented DCYF in dependency cases in Lewis and Mason Counties. In February 2019, I began working at my current position with the AGO, advising DCYF headquarters. Prior to my employment with the attorney general's office, I worked in private practice in Thurston County, where, as my career progressed, a larger and larger portion of my practice went to representing youth in dependency proceedings. From my roles as an assistant attorney general and as a child's attorney, I understand the mental and emotional labor that all the players in the juvenile legal system put into protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities.