



## Rachel Melissa | *Associate Attorney*

Rachel Melissa specializes in advising industrial, commercial, and agricultural clients on complex environmental compliance matters. Since she began working with Pearl Legal Group in 2009, Rachel has focused her practice on the laws related to contaminated site cleanup under CERCLA and Oregon Superfund, hazardous waste handling and disposal issues under RCRA, and permit compliance under the Clean Water Act. Rachel also has experience conducting environmental audits and representing clients in enforcement actions involving the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

After completing law school at the University of Oregon School of Law, Rachel clerked at the Lane County Circuit Court for The Honorable Karsten H. Rasmussen, and at the Oregon Court of Appeals for The Honorable David Schuman. In 2006, she moved to Washington, DC and joined the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP as a litigation associate. Rachel also took on a number of pro-bono projects during her time at Skadden, including work for the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and the Humane Society of the United States.

When she's not in the office, Rachel and her family enjoy hiking, traveling, skiing, reading, listening to live music, and baking pies. Rachel's interest in a sustainable lifestyle motivates her to visit the farmers' market regularly, maintain a small garden, and eat a lot of vegetables.

### Professional Experience

Pearl Legal Group, PC (Portland, Oregon) - 2009 - Current

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Washington, DC) - 2006-2009

The Honorable David Schuman, Oregon Court of Appeals (Salem, Oregon) - 2005-2006

The Honorable Karsten Rasmussen, Lane County Circuit Court (Eugene, Oregon) - 2004-2005

### Education

University of Oregon School of Law, Juris Doctor (Order of the Coif) (2004)

University of Puget Sound, Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) (2000)

### Admissions

Oregon State Bar

United States District Courts, District of Oregon