

LAWSON E. FITE**PARTNER****CONTACT**

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AREAS OF FOCUS

Environmental Litigation
Natural Resources & Endangered Species
Agribusiness
Project & Property Development

EDUCATION & CLERKSHIP

J.D., Harvard University School of Law (2005)
B.A., Harvard University (2000)
Law clerk to the Honorable Justice Walter L. Carpeneti, Alaska Supreme Court (2005-06)

ADMISSIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

State Bars of Washington, Oregon, Montana
U.S. Supreme Court
Courts of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, Tenth Circuit,
Fourth Circuit, District of Columbia U.S.
District Courts, Eastern and Western Districts
of Washington, District of Oregon, District of
Columbia, District of Montana
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of
Washington

RECOGNITION & ACTIVITIES

Section Chair and Executive Committee
Member, Oregon State Bar Environment &
Natural Resources Section
Vice Chair-Programs, Corporate and
Association Counsel Committee, Federal Bar
Association
Member, Legal Advisory Committee, Western
Resources Legal Center at Lewis & Clark Law
School
Member, Legal Affairs Committee, California
Forestry Association
Member, Legal Committee, Oregon Forest &
Industries Council

Lawson Fite is the co-chair of Marten Law's Natural Resources practice. For over 15 years, Lawson has successfully represented clients in energy, agriculture, forestry, and shipping, in both regulatory and litigation matters.

Lawson draws on a wealth of experience to address clients' practical, bottom-line business needs. Lawson has worked in private practice and for several years directed the work of a trade association in more than 50 cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. He has testified before Congress regarding proposed reforms to resource management, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Lawson works with industry stakeholders across North America to improve the federal, state, and local regulatory environment. He has served as the voice of natural resource users before the United States Supreme Court in the recent cases of Fish & Wildlife Service v. Sierra Club and Forest Service v. Cowpasture River Preservation Association, where he was the lead author of coalition amicus briefs before the Court.

Lawson began his career at the US Department of Justice with a focus on endangered species and wildlife issues. Lawson received a Special Achievement Award in 2009 from US Attorney General Eric H. Holder. He also represented the US Coast Guard in litigation relating to the response to the Deepwater Horizon spill. Lawson served as a law clerk for Justice Walter L. Carpeneti of the Alaska Supreme Court. He earned a J.D. degree and a B.A. (cum laude) in environmental science and public policy from Harvard University.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- AFRC v. Hammond, 422 F.Supp.3d 184 (D.D.C. 2019); First case to invalidate Presidential proclamation under Antiquities Act.
- Center for Biological Diversity v. Ilano, 928 F.3d 774 (9th Cir. 2019); Upheld use of Farm Bill categorical exclusion to address insect and disease outbreak.
- Wildlands Defense v. Seesholtz, 755 F. App'x 640 (9th Cir. 2018); Affirmed denial of preliminary injunction against post-fire timber harvest.
- Sequoia ForestKeeper v. La Price, 723 F. App'x 481 (9th Cir. 2018); Approved thinning project after 20 years of administrative process and litigation.
- Carpenters Indus. Council v. Zinke, 854 F.3d 1 (D.C. Cir. 2017); Reversed dismissal for lack of standing of challenge to 9.5-million-acre critical habitat designation.
- Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Peña, 865 F.3d 1211 (9th Cir. 2017); Affirmed denial of injunction against collaborative forest restoration project.
- Represented Port of Vancouver USA in environmental litigation regarding Vancouver Energy Terminal proposal (Clark County, Wash. Court of Appeals, Wash. Supreme Ct.)
- Bench trial of conversion claim regarding restaurant equipment. Obtained five-figure judgment in favor of client. (Clark County, Wash.)
- Successfully represented U.S. Coast Guard in ESA litigation regarding the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response (E.D. La.).
- Received Special Achievement Award for successful defense of timber salvagproject in Daniel Boone National Forest (E.D. Ky.).
- Represented FEMA in two simultaneous statewide challenges to the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (D. Ariz., D.N.M.).