

## John J. White

Partner

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Legal Assistant: Lee Cowan x4005

### Practice Emphasis

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Appeals

Business Law

Estate Planning & Probate

Tax

Campaign Finance and Elections



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John White advises closely held companies and business owners in a variety of matters including partnership agreements, tax issues, succession planning and more. He also advises individuals and businesses on tax and collection issues, estate planning and probate matters. John has extensive experience in campaign finance and election law. This includes advising clients on government regulations relating to political speeches and disclosure obligations.

## Tax and Business Law

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John White's practice focuses on advising closely-held companies and their owners in business related transactions. This includes partnership matters, contracts, federal and state tax issues, succession planning, and others. He also represents individuals and businesses in audits and administrative actions, relating to state and federal tax matters and collection efforts, and assists individuals with estate planning and probate matters.

## Campaign Finance and Election Law

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John has advised numerous regional and national clients on campaign finance matters, government regulation of political speeches, and compliance with disclosure obligations. He represents business and political clients before government agencies and the courts.

## Appellate Representation

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John co-chairs the firm's appellate practice. He has argued before the U.S. and Washington Supreme Courts and intermediate appellate courts, and since 1992 he has served as an Adjunct Professor in Golden Gate University, Braden School of Taxation, regulation of political speeches, and compliance with disclosure obligations. He represents business and political clients before government agencies and the courts.

## Personal

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John and his wife enjoy recreational cycling and weather permitting, John often bikes to work. They are also avid gardeners. When not enjoying the beauty of the northwest by bikes, they can be found reveling in their vegetable and flower gardens.

## Education

- > LL.M. in Taxation, New York University, 1986
- > J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 1983
- > B.A., University of Washington, *with honors*, 1980

## Honors & Awards

- > Selected for inclusion in Washington Super Lawyers for tax law, 2003, 2007-2019
- > Recognized as a “Super Lawyer” in taxation law multiple times by Washington Law & Politics
- > Outstanding Graduate Tax Faculty Award, Golden Gate University, 2004

## Bar Admissions

- > Washington
- > U.S. Supreme Court
- > U.S. Court of Appeals – Ninth and Federal Circuits
- > U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Washington
- > U.S. Tax Court
- > U.S. Court of Federal Claims

## Professional & Civic Involvement

- > Washington Bar Association (Taxation Section; Real Property, Probate and Trust Section)
- > King County Bar Association (Real Property, Probate, Trust and Taxation Section)
- > East King County Bar Association

## Representative Matters

- Represented several smaller to mid-sized companies providing goods and services including architectural and engineering firms, a local air carrier, automobile dealers, and healthcare providers on a variety of legal issues such as corporate formation, partnership and limited liability company agreements, employment contracts, financing, acquisitions, and asset sales.
- Represented businesses and individuals before the IRS and state taxing authorities at all stages of the audit and collection process, and has achieved a successful resolution of tax disputes before the U.S. Tax Court.
- Retained as local counsel for national organizations regarding Washington campaign finance and public disclosure law.

## Representative Matters Cont.

- Represented individuals, businesses, political organizations and governmental bodies before federal and state appellate courts. Successfully defended political organizations' First Amendment rights to speak on public issues and recovered for them fees from government agency; successfully challenged agency campaign finance regulation for exceeding its authority; argued on behalf of Washington's major political parties before U.S. Supreme Court in litigation over Washington's primary election system.
- Developed and implemented estate and succession plans for local businesses to pass active management to second and third generations in business. Assisted numerous clients in minimizing estate tax burden as they provide for family after death.
- Successfully defended \$57 million verdict against Washington State for breach of contract with home health care workers.