# Spokane CLE ***speaker bios***

DAVE ANDERSEN

Dave Andersen serves as the Senior Managing Director for the Growth Management Services unit at the Washington State Department of Commerce. He has been with Commerce since 2001, serving as Senior Planner, Plan Review Manager and Eastern Regional Manager. Dave was the principal author in the 2012 update to the department’s Transportation Element Guidebook. Dave has also served as an adjunct lecturer in the Urban and Regional Planning program at Eastern Washington University and is the past president of the Inland Empire section of the American Planning Association.

In 2010, Dave was awarded the Washington APA’s Meyer Wolfe Award for Professional Achievement for his work updating the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) implementing the Growth Management Act.

In 2022, Governor Inslee awarded Dave the Governor’s Outstanding Leadership Award for is work with the legislature to modernize Washington’s planning laws, including major updates to address housing and climate.

Dave holds a master’s in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa, and a bachelor’s degree in planning from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

RIA BERNS

Ria Berns has served as the Department of Ecology’s Water Resources Program Manager since 2023. In this position she leads a statewide team of water managers who oversee water right permitting and compliance, ensure dam safety and proper well construction, and implement a range of granting programs to improve stream flows, rehabilitate dams, and plan for and respond to drought. Ria began her Ecology career in 2013, working on water resources issues in northwest Washington. She has appreciated the chance to work with and better understand water issues unique to Eastern Washington in her current role. Previously, she worked for a Seattle-based environmental firm as a public sector management consultant. Ria serves as the governor’s delegate on the Western States Water Council. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Williams College and master’s degrees from the University of Michigan in public policy and in natural resources management.

KEVIN BROWN

Kevin Brown is the current Columbia Basin Watermaster for the Washington State Department of Ecology based out of the Eastern Regional Office. He earned an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering from the Yakima Community College. He has worked in various aspects of the water resources program since June of 1988. He will be retiring from Ecology in June of 2025.

BILL CLARKE

Bill Clarke is an attorney and lobbyist in Olympia, Washington representing clients on legislative, regulatory, and legal issues. His government affairs practice focuses on lobbying the Washington State Legislature and state agencies on a variety of policy and budget matters. His law practice emphasizes water and natural resources, utility, and local government issues. Bill represents business, government, and non-profit clients. He often works in collaboration with other attorneys, lobbyists, and consultants to develop strategies and solutions in all branches of government.

Bill is a native of Washington State, and is a graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla and the University of Montana Law School in Missoula. He previously clerked on the Environment & Public Works Committee in the U.S. Senate, worked for major trade associations and a Seattle-based law firm, and was a member and Chair of the Washington State Pollution Control/Shorelines Hearings Board. He established his own law and lobbying firm in 2007.

JIM DAVENPORT

Jim Davenport, a lawyer in his 48th year of law practice, is a fourth-generation Washingtonian, After attaining degrees from the University of Puget Sound, University of Washington and Willamette University College of Law, his legal work has primarily involved land and water, from both private and public agency perspectives. He is the author of “Western Water Rights and the U.S. Supreme Court” (2020) and several articles about the constitutionality of western water law. He is a past assistant attorney general in Washington and in Nevada, and has been a city planning commissioner, county civil service commissioner, state historical association president, library board member and counsel to state and county agencies. Jim lives in Yakima and Whatcom counties.

AARON DUNHAM

Aaron Dunham is a Partner at WHC Attorneys, a Spokane Valley law firm serving the Inland Northwest. Aaron heads up the firm’s utilities and real estate practice sections. WHC represents thirteen water utilities and two electric utilities. The water utilities include water districts, irrigation districts, as well as non-profit and for-profit corporations. Aaron’s experience with utilities has been shaped by the different roles in which he has served. In addition to being the utilities’ counsel, Aaron has previously served on the board of his local irrigation district, and he also represents real estate developers seeking utility service. These different experiences provide Aaron a unique perspective and guide his commonsense approach to providing legal advice.

MARLENE FEIST

Marlene Feist is the Public Works Division Director for the City of Spokane. Marlene directs the City’s major utility operations, including water, wastewater, and solid waste, along with streets, engineering, and capital programs. She leads a staff of about 760 employees and manages operating and capital construction budgets totaling more than $300 million a year. Marlene’s team is responsible for ensuring basic services that citizens rely on, including the distribution of clean water, the treatment of wastewater, the collection and disposal of garbage and recycling, and the maintenance of the street system. In addition, the Public Works team manages the City’s capital infrastructure construction with work to improve the City utility systems and implement the 20-year Street Levy, which was passed in 2014.

Marlene has worked for the City of Spokane for more than 25 years. Until taking the position of Public Works Director in 2021, she was the Director of Strategic Development for the Division. She moved to Public Works in 2013 after serving as the City’s Communications Director. She recently completed two terms as a Board Member for YWCA Spokane and co-chaired the YWCA’s successful 2017 and 2018 Women of Achievement Luncheons. She currently serves on the board for the Spokane Regional Transportation Management Center (SRTMC) and the Northeast Public Development Authority (NEPDA). Previously, she served on the Women Helping Women Fund Board, the Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors Board, and the Spokane Public Schools’ Public Affairs Advisory Committee. She has a bachelor’s degree in journalism and political science from the University of Montana, and she is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Spokane.

ADAM GRAVLEY

Adam Gravley has over three decades experience representing both public and private clients in environmental law with a particular focus on resolving water issues in operational, transactional, litigation, and public policy settings. His comprehensive practice includes water rights permitting, transfers, and appeals; general stream adjudications; settlement, mediation, and collaborative resolutions; water supply agreements; public water system and drinking water regulation; water quality regulation and resource protection; entity and regional governance; legislation and agency rule-making; and related real estate, municipal, and public utility law matters.

Complementing his natural resources experience, Adam has significant experience leading transactional due diligence teams and providing strategic advice for complex real property and natural resources transactions. Clients benefit from Adam’s unique experience representing clients in transactional matters involving complex industrial and commercial facilities and heavily-regulated, publicly-owned, or aquatic lands.

DANIEL R. HALLER, PE, CWRE

Daniel R. Haller, PE, CWRE, is a Senior Principal Water Resources Engineer with Geosyntec Consultants. He is a state-recognized water rights expert, and his background includes management of storage and conservation projects, water banking and water rights transfers, and water system design and financial planning experience.

Before joining Geosyntec in 2012, Mr. Haller spent more than a decade with the Department of Ecology where he worked on hundreds of water rights and managed multi-million-dollar grant projects for the Office of Columbia River.

JIM HEFFERNAN

Jim Heffernan received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. He worked seasonally for the U.S. Forest Service in timber sale layout and preparation in Idaho, Southeast Alaska, and Northern California for several years before returning to school for a law degree. He earned a Juris Doctor and Certificate in Environmental Law from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College (now Lewis and Clark Law School). Jim now works as a Policy Analyst with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, where he focuses his work on the regional effort to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. Under direction from tribal governments, he worked with federal and state representatives on the Sovereign Review and Technical Teams on the regional collaborative process. That process led to U.S. Entity Regional Recommendation on the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024, submitted to the U.S. Department of State on December 13, 2013. Jim continues to work with tribal leaders and staff for the 15 tribes in the Columbia Basin Tribes Coalition to ensure that ecosystem-based function, of which fish passage and reintroduction to Canadian spawning grounds is an integral element, is integrated as a third key element of a modern Columbia River Treaty, equal to coordinated flood risk management and hydropower production.

Education

B.S. Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University

J.D., Certificate in Environmental Law, Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College

JOHNNY JONES

Johnny Jones is the incoming Columbia Basin Water Master for the Washington Department of Ecology based out of the Eastern Regional Office. He earned his PhD from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2018 and his JD from Gonzaga University in 2023. Before joining Ecology, Johnny worked in private practice as a real-property litigator in Spokane County. He currently lives in Spokane with his wife and two small children.

SHANE M. LEONARD

Shane M. Leonard is a native of Arizona, born in Mesa, and raised in southeastern Maricopa County. He retired from Roosevelt Water Conservation District in 2023 as a 4th generation employee, having served the last 10 years as the General Manager. In January of 2024, he embarked on a new journey, accepting the position of Secretary/District Manager of Kennewick Irrigation District. He currently resides in Richland, Washington with his wife Susan, 2 of their 4 children, 3 rescue dogs, and 1 boss of a cat.

Shane is a graduate of Arizona State University’s Morrison School of Agribusiness & Resource Management, having majored in finance and rural economics.

His areas of expertise are resource management, utility planning, environmental policy/law analysis, and agency coordination.

KEVIN LINDSEY, PhD, LHG Principal Hydrogeologist, Geoengineers, Inc.

Ph.D., Geology, Washington State University

M.S., Geology, Idaho State University

B.S., Geology, University of Missouri-Columbia

REGISTRATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Geologist and Hydrogeologist: Washington

Professional Geologist: Idaho

Kevin has 35 years of technical experience in geology and hydrogeology, including water supply well siting, design, oversight, rehabilitation, sampling, and testing; hydrogeologic characterization; and groundwater supply investigations and basin studies. He has managed several multiphase hydrogeologic and interdisciplinary investigations and has experience as a project manager and/or senior technical staff member, focusing on projects assessing groundwater quality, quantity, and supply; controls and characteristics of surface water-groundwater continuity; and aquifer impacts from shallow groundwater development. Kevin’s water-well project experience, gained in planning, implementing, and managing well projects that in total exceed 30,000 feet of production well drilling, gives him a range of knowledge related to assessing groundwater quality, quantity, and supply; controls and characteristics of surface water groundwater continuity; aquifer impacts from groundwater development; and managed aquifer recharge.

SARAH MACK

Sarah Mack practices at Foster Garvey PC in Seattle. Her practice focuses on water rights and water supply, including permitting, environmental review, Water Code compliance, water right changes and transfers, water system planning, and administrative and judicial appeals. She represents municipal water suppliers, property owners, and developers of commercial and residential projects throughout Washington. Sarah represented the water right owners before the Washington Supreme Court in Cornelius v. Ecology and R.D. Merrill Company v. PCHB. She also advises public and private sector clients on proposed legislation and regulations affecting water rights and water supply planning. A proud water law nerd, Sarah enjoys writing and speaking on water resource law and policy issues. She can be reached at [sarah.mack@foster.com](mailto:sarah.mack@foster.com).

JUDGE DAVID S. MANN

Judge Mann was appointed to Division 1 of the Court of Appeals in August 2016, was retained by election in 2017 and reelected in 2020. Mann is currently the senior judge on Division 1 and served as Chief Judge from 2020 to 2022. Judge Mann also serves on the statewide Board of Judicial Administration and Judicial Information Systems Committee.

Judge Mann received a degree in geophysics (geology and physics) from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He then worked as a professional geophysicist for 6 years exploring for oil in frontier areas in the U.S. and Africa. During that time Mann completed the coursework for a masters in groundwater hydrology. Looking for new challenges and a desire to return to the West Coast, in 1988 Judge Mann decided to attend law school. He graduated with honors and a certificate in Environmental Law from Lewis and Clark Law School (Portland, OR) in 1991 and moved directly to Seattle. For 26 years before his appointment to the appellate bench in 2016, Judge Mann had a statewide practice as a trial and appellate lawyer with an emphasis on state and federal environmental, land-use, real property, water, and administrative law. His accomplishments included a successful argument before the U.S. Supreme Court representing the appellant in a Freedom of Information Act case in 2011.

Judge Mann currently lives in Seattle’s Ravenna neighborhood in a 120-year-old craftsman home. Formerly a track bicycle racer, Mann currently enjoys trail running, hiking, travel, live music, and building arts and crafts furniture.

LARRY MATTSON

Director, Office of Columbia River, within the Washington Department of Ecology

My career began as a land use planner, helping Yakima County draft its first comprehensive plan to implement the newly adopted Growth Management Act. I was elected to the Yakima City Council in 1999, serving one term. From 2001 to 2014, I worked on environmental documentation, permitting, and mitigation for the Washington State Department of Transportation. Notable projects include the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East project, and the four-laning in US 12 in Walla Walla.

In 2014, I became the executive director of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, serving the valley for 4 years. I then worked for over three years with Jacobs as a client account manager, marketing engineering services to public and private agencies across eastern Washington. After a layoff, I spent two years with the State Energy Office, leading a team of renewable energy grant managers. In February 2025, I was appointed director of the Office of Columbia River by outgoing Ecology Director Laura Watson.

**Education**

BA, Political Science, Washington State University

MS, Natural Resource Management, Central Washington University

STEVE NORTH

Steve North is a managing Assistant Attorney General with the Water Resources Section of the Ecology Division of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office. Steve serves as lead counsel to Ecology’s Water Resources Program. Steve has represented the Water Resources Program since 2001. In addition to providing litigation support, Steve advises the Program on numerous matters, including adjudications, administrative rulemaking, changes and transfers, municipal water rights, permit exempt wells, relinquishment, trust water rights, artificially stored ground water, and enforcement issues.

NATALIE REID

Natalie represents both public and private sector clients on a wide range of environmental topics. Natalie’s practice includes litigation, permitting, and regulatory compliance related to major state and federal environmental statutes such as the Clean Water Act (CWA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Natalie also practices in the area of eminent domain, and she has broad experience in both negotiating and litigating takings for public and private sector clients. Additionally, Natalie’s practice includes strategic counseling and advice relating to water rights, natural resources, and federally licensed hydropower projects.

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PRACTICES - Endangered Species & Wildlife Hydropower - Litigation & Investigations Water

EDUCATION - Seattle University School of Law University of Washington

BAR ADMISSIONS - Washington State Bar

KATIE SALTANOVITZ, PE

Katie is a Principal Engineer and Director of Permitting and Engineering Design at Landau Associates. She has over 20 years of environmental consulting experience, with a specialty in stormwater and wastewater NPDES permitting. She has helped clients operate under State and Federal NPDES regulations in a range of industrial sectors including animal feed manufacturing, prefabricated metal buildings, marine cargo handling, abrasive products, warehousing and storage, boatyards, and Port facilities. Katie earned her BS in engineering from Swarthmore College, and her MS in civil and environmental engineering from UC Berkeley. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

*Fun fact: Katie and her co-presenter Ian Toevs both worked with the same research professor in the Cornell University Agricultural and Biological Engineering program over 20 years ago, but because their timing didn’t overlap, only realized this recently. (Katie’s summer internship involved artificial rainfall and collecting fresh cow manure. Enough said.)*

KAIT SCHILLING

Kait Schilling is an attorney in the Wenatchee Office of Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC. Her legal practice focuses on municipal law, land use and development, and water law. She primarily represents a mixture of code cities, towns, and special purpose districts across Central and Eastern Washington. Kait’s water law practice focuses on helping public and private clients navigate the complex legal framework governing water rights in Washington State. She works with clients on a wide range of water related issues including water right changes, acquisitions, relinquishment/abandonment analyses, and water system planning.

NORMAN SEMANKO

Norman Semanko has more than 30 years of experience with water resources, environmental, natural resources, land use, public lands and regulatory issues. Mr. Semanko is admitted to practice law in Washington and Idaho.

Mr. Semanko represents clients from Parsons’ Boise and Idaho Falls offices on water law, environmental and land use matters before government agencies and in state and federal courts. He has been an adjunct professor and lecturer at several law schools and colleges and is a frequent conference speaker. He has testified before Congress, State legislative committees and other governmental bodies on numerous occasions.

Mr. Semanko has represented clients in Endangered Species Act, National Forest Management Act, NEPA and APA litigation in federal courts, involving salmon, steelhead and caribou as well as recreational access issues.

Mr. Semanko currently serves as general counsel for the Family Farm Alliance and as vice chairman of the Litigation Review Committee for the National Water Resources Association (NWRA). He is also a member of the Litigation Advisory Committee for the Mountain State Legal Foundation. He is a past president of NWRA and was previously chairman of NWRA's Federal Affairs Committee. He has served as a member of the Western States Water Council and the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force.

Mr. Semanko previously served as executive director and general counsel for the Idaho Water Users Association, monitoring water issues, analyzing federal and state legislation and regulations, advocating in the State Legislature, before Congress, and various agencies and provided legal advice and services to the Association, including litigation and appeals. He also served as a legislative assistant in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, handling water, environment and natural resource issues.

Mr. Semanko has been recognized as an “Idaho Leader in Law” by *the Idaho Business Review*.

Mr. Semanko is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center where he served as Student Bar Association vice president and was a member of the Craven Constitutional Law Moot Court team. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Idaho.

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JAIME SHORT

Jaime Short serves as the Eastern Region Section Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Water Resources Program. Before joining the Water Resources team, she worked as a planner with Ecology’s Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program. With more than 20 years of experience working on water issues in eastern Washington, she continues to enjoy the challenges and complexities that come with water management in our area.

CHAD STUART

Chad has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation as the Yakima Field Office Manager since 2015. As Field Office Manager, duties include balancing water deliveries to a $4.5 Billion-dollar agricultural community, 3 power plants, critical aquatic resources, and other critical priorities in the Yakima Basin. Prior to Reclamation, Chad worked for the Corps of Engineers as a Natural Resource Manager in California and Oregon. He currently lives in Washington with his wife and two daughters.

CHRISTOPHER SWANSON

Christopher Swanson was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee in 2023 to serve on the Pollution Control and Shorelines Hearings Boards. Before his appointment, he served as an assistant chief industrial appeals judge with the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals (BIIA) and worked as a mediation and review judge and a hearings judge with the BIIA, a health law judge with the Washington state Department of Health, and an assistant attorney general serving in the Utilities and Transportation and Agriculture and Health divisions. In all, he has worked in administrative law for twenty-three years and served as an administrative adjudicator for fifteen years.

Mr. Swanson graduated magna cum laude from California State University, Chico, with a bachelor of arts in political science and received his law degree from Willamette University College of Law.

In his spare time, Mr. Swanson enjoys hiking and cycling especially in the Mount Rainier area as well as international travel.

IAN TOEVS

Ian Toevs [pronounced Taves] has had a lifelong passion for water and agriculture.  As young boy, out "working" with his father and grandfather, he was in awe of the volume of water that could be produced during a pump test on an agricultural well in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.  Growing up working in the irrigation industry and on the farm gave him a great appreciation for the dependence we have on water in the arid west.

This led Ian to study Agricultural Engineering at the University of Idaho where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and then Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University where he earned a Master of Science degree.  Upon completion of graduate school, Ian worked as a consulting environmental engineer at a mid-sized engineering firm in upstate New York, during which time he completed his professional engineer licensing.

With a desire to get closer to agriculture and back out West, Ian and his wife Vanessa and two young children moved to Twin Falls, ID as he began working for Lamb Weston.  A quick 2 year stop in Twin Falls led to a job as a corporate environmental manager at the corporate offices in Kennewick, WA where Ian has worked for the last 11 years in a number of different roles.  Ian currently leads the Environmental and Sustainability Engineering function within Lamb Weston's Global Engineering group.

TIM TROHIMOVICH

Tim Trohimovich joined Futurewise in January 2001. He is a graduate of Willamette University and the Lewis & Clark College, Northwestern School of Law, *cum laude*. Tim is currently the Director of Planning & Law for Futurewise. At Futurewise he focuses on reviewing comprehensive plans and development regulations, land use and environmental policy studies, education, technical assistance, policy advocacy, and land use and environmental law. As part of his work, he advocates for better comprehensive plan policies and development regulations to match growth with available water resources, protect instream flows, and to addresses the challenges of climate change. He has over 40 years of planning experience. He is a member of the Washington and Oregon State Bar Associations, and the Bar Association of the United States Supreme Court.

Tim represented Futurewise, one of the prevailing parties, in the landmark State of Washington Supreme Court decisions on the Growth Management Act’s water availability and water quantity requirements: *Kittitas County v. Eastern Washington Growth Management Hearings Board* and *Hirst v. Whatcom County*. He is a frequent speaker on planning and land use and environmental law.

SCOTT TURNER

Scott Turner serves as the Operations Section Manager within the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Office of Columbia River. In this role, he leads a team responsible for water resource permitting, contracting, water banking, and advancing the program’s mission to secure new water supplies that support communities, agriculture, and ecological needs across the Columbia Basin.

With over two decades of experience in water resource management, Scott previously held a variety of roles in Ecology’s Water Resources Program, including permit writer, Trust Water Rights Coordinator, Yakima River Basin Watermaster, and Operations and Permitting Unit Supervisor. His career reflects a long-standing commitment to sustainable water management and public service in Washington State.

SHONA VOELCKERS

Shona exclusively represents the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel provides civil legal representation and advice to Yakama Nation elected officials, governmental programs, entities, and enterprises. Shona’s practice focuses on land use planning, water resource management, and large-scale alternative energy projects that impact Treaty-reserved resources. Shona works closely with Yakama Nation technical staff in fisheries, forestry, water resources, cultural resources and wildlife management to advocate for protection and perpetuation of Yakama Nation's Treaty-reserved resources.

ERIC WEBER

Eric graduated with an M.S in Geology from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks in 1987. He has been practicing at Landau Associates since graduation. He is a Washington licensed hydrogeologist and certified water rights examiner and holds similar registrations in Oregon. Besides water rights and water supply, his areas of expertise include contaminant hydrogeology, groundwater modeling, and environmental permitting.