



William Mercer

Partner

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Bill relies on twenty-one years of government service to represent clients in litigation involving the federal government or the State of Montana, criminal and civil matters investigated by the federal government or the State of Montana, and federal and Montana regulatory matters.

His civil litigation and regulatory work is focused on environmental issues. Bill's work on behalf of clients under government investigation is focused on allegations of violations of health care and environmental laws.

Bill previously served as a senior Justice Department official in the Bush Administration in two positions: Acting Associate Attorney General and Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. As Associate Attorney General, he served as the third-ranking official in DOJ and had oversight responsibility for five litigating divisions (Antitrust, Civil, Civil Rights, Environment and Natural Resources and Tax) with criminal and civil cases. Bill served as United States Attorney in Montana from 2001 to 2009 and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1994 to 2001. In these roles, he was responsible for natural resources litigation, prosecution of criminal cases, and appellate practice on behalf of the United States.

PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources
Litigation
Environmental Compliance and
Enforcement
Government Investigations and White
Collar Defense
Healthcare Law
State and Local Tax
Environmental and Natural Resources

INDUSTRIES

Mining
Healthcare

EDUCATION

George Mason University School of Law,
J.D., 1993

Harvard University, M.P.A., 1988
John F. Kennedy School of Government

University of Montana, B.A., 1986
Harry S. Truman Scholarship,
Recipient, 1984

BAR ADMISSIONS

Montana

EXPERIENCE

Bill has significant experience representing clients before:

- United States Department of Justice and U.S. Attorneys' Offices
- Montana State District Courts
- Montana Supreme Court
- United States District Court in Montana
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- State of Montana Executive Branch agencies, particularly the Department of Environmental Quality
- Montana Board of Environmental Review
- United States Department of the Interior agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs

CLIENT RESULTS

In six years at the firm, Bill has managed teams and achieved optimal results for clients in cases involving the National Environmental Policy Act, the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the Montana Water Quality Act, the Montana Air Quality Act, federal and Montana criminal statutes and the

False Claims Act, the Montana Consumer Protection Act, a rulemaking involving Montana's numeric nutrient criteria, administrative enforcement actions, and a bid protest brought pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Investigations and Prosecutions of Health Care Fraud and Overpayments: Trends, National Priorities, and Predictions," *Montana Hospital Association*, September 2011

RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Natural Resources & Environment, 2016-2020
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Natural Resources Law, 2019-2021; Commercial Litigation, 2021
- George Mason University School of Law, Distinguished Alumni Award

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- University of Montana Foundation, Board of Trustees, Trustee
- Billings Symphony Society, Board of Directors, Director
- Big Sky Senior Services, Board of Directors, Director