



## 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  
Mining  
State and Local Tax  
Environmental and Natural Resources

### 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**

"As Judges See It: Best (and Worst) Practices in Civil Litigation," *Three District Court Judges' Panel, Moderator*, March 2016

"Legal Overview: Health Care Fraud and Overpayments," *Montana Osteopathic Medical Association's Primary Care Roundup*, August 2014

"Legal Issues Discussion," *Montana Coal Council Annual Meeting*, July 2014

"All You Should Know About Medicaid And Medicare Fraud," *State Bar of Montana CLE, Health Care Law Section*, May 2014

"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, 2016-2019
- *The Best Lawyers in America*© Natural Resources Law, 2019
- 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