



Jeffrey A. O. Freimund
Partner

Since 2002, Mr. Freimund has been recognized with the national peer reviewed ranking of “AV Preeminent,” Martindale-Hubbell’s highest possible rating for legal ability and ethical standards. He is a former Senior Counsel and Assistant Division Chief for the Torts Division of the State Attorney General’s Office (AGO). Jeff joined the AGO in 1987 after graduating from Willamette Law School. He worked in the Social and Health Services Division and then transferred to the Torts Division in 1990, where he defended a variety of civil rights, employment, tort, and personal injury cases against the Department of Social and Health Services and other state agencies.

Jeff has tried over 30 jury trials to verdict and handled numerous appeals in state and federal courts, including more than 15 that have resulted in published decisions. In 2007, he left the Torts Division to become a partner in the Freimund, Jackson & Tardif law firm where he continues to defend a variety of governmental and private entities in tort, civil rights, employment, school law, public records, regulatory, and administrative law matters. He also represents health care agencies and professionals in various administrative and judicial proceedings, including Certificate of Need litigation, licensure and credentialing, and government bid protests.

Professional Experience

Jeff served from 1987 to 1990 as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington, in the Department of Social and Health Services Division. Jeff handled public welfare class action litigation and appeals, assorted administrative hearings, bankruptcy and collection actions, parole revocation hearings, client advice, and mental health commitment trials and appeals. While there, Jeff conducted over 20 jury trials involving mental health commitments.

In 1990, Jeff transferred as an Assistant Attorney General to the Torts Division, a position he held until 2007. In the Torts Division, Jeff’s practice encompassed all aspects of civil litigation, including

Areas of Focus

- Administrative Law
- Civil Rights & Employment
- Health Care
- Law Enforcement & Corrections
- Personal Injury Defense
- School Liability
- Transportation

Practices

- Civil Rights
- Employment Law
- Government Tort Defense
- Law Enforcement
- Litigation
- School Law

Education

Western Washington University,
B.A. 1982
Willamette University College of Law,
J.D. 1987
Class Standing: Top 20%.
Associate Editor, Willamette Law
Review
Moot Court Board, ABA Mock
Trial Competition



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discovery, motions, negotiations/mediations, trials and appeals. He handled complex, high exposure civil rights, employment, tort and personal injury cases against a variety of State agencies and employees. Jeff tried 13 tort cases to verdict and received defense verdicts in all but four (two of the plaintiff verdicts resulted in losses of \$150,000 or less even though the plaintiffs' lawyers requested several million dollars in each case; the other two were multi-million dollar awards that were reversed on appeal). Jeff had several other trials that resulted in directed verdicts, voluntary dismissals, or settlements during trial. He was the principal lawyer for over 20 appeals, including at least 15 that resulted in published decisions (listed below). His clients prevailed in almost all of the appeals he has handled.

In 2007, Jeff became a founding partner in Freimund Jackson & Tardif, PLLC, where he defends a variety of governmental and private entities in tort, civil rights, employment, school law, public records, regulatory, and administrative law matters. He also represents health care agencies and professionals in various administrative and judicial proceedings regarding Certificates of Need, licensure and credentialing, and government bid protests. Mr. Freimund has handled several Certificate of Need cases from the application stage through administrative hearings, judicial review, and appeals involving hospitals, hospice agencies, home health agencies, kidney dialysis centers, and ambulatory surgery centers.

Significant Accomplishments

Since 2002, Jeff has received the peer reviewed rating of "AV Preeminent" from Martindale-Hubbell, which places him among a select group of lawyers nationwide who have been recognized by their peers as consistently performing at the highest level, both in terms of legal ability and ethics.

In 1996, Jeff became a trial team leader supervising 7 attorneys, 5



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paralegals and 6 legal assistants. In 1999, he became the Assistant Division Chief sharing in the administration of the entire Torts Division of approximately 36 attorneys and 100 professional staff, in addition to carrying a case load of high exposure, complex cases. In 2001, he returned to being a full-time litigator of some of the most complex, high exposure cases in the Division, with no management responsibilities.

Jeff was the lead attorney defending the Wenatchee sex abuse case that resulted in a defense verdict following a three month jury trial in 1998, which was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the top 15 defense wins in the nation that year. He has also handled four other major jury trials that lasted four weeks or longer.

In 1998, Jeff was awarded the Steward of Justice award from then Attorney General Christine Gregoire. The same year, the Secretary of the State's Department of Social & Health Services, Lyle Quasim, awarded him the Secretary's Award, the Department's highest honor. In 2002, Jeff was appointed Senior Counsel by then Attorney General Gregoire.

Over the years, Jeff has been a speaker and the author of material for dozens of Continuing Legal Education programs concerning governmental tort liability, risk management, discovery, trial practice, appellate practice, and a variety of other topics.

Reported Appellate Decisions

- *Lee v. Hamilton*, 56 Wash. App. 880, 785 P.2d 1156 (1990);
- *Johnson v. Dept. of Soc. & Health Services*, 80 Wash. App. 212, 907 P.2d 1223 (1996);
- *White v. State*, 131 Wash.2d 1, 929 P.2d 396 (1997);
- *McKinney v. State*, 134 Wash.2d 388, 950 P.2d 461 (1998);
- *Price v. State*, 96 Wash. App. 604, 980 P.2d 302 (1999), *review denied*, 139 Wash.2d 1018 (2000);



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Reported Appellate Decisions, *cont.*

- *Devereaux v. Abbey*, 218 F.3d 1045 (9th Cir. 2000), *reconsidered en banc*, 263 F.3d 1070 (9th Cir. 2001);
- *Everett v. Abbey*, 108 Wash. App. 521, 31 P.3d 721 (2001);
- *Price v. State*, 114 Wash. App. 65, 57 P.3d 639 (2002);
- *Braam v. State*, 150 Wash.2d 689, 81 P.3d 851 (2003);
- *M.W. v. Dept. of Soc. & Health Services*, 149 Wash.2d 589, 70 P.3d 954 (2003);
- *Gausvik v. Abbey*, 126 Wash. App. 868, 107 P.3d 98, *review denied*, 155 Wash.2d 1006 (2005);
- *Aba Sheikh v. Choe*, 156 Wash.2d 441, 128 P.3d 574 (2006);
- *Porter v. Seattle School Dist.*, 160 Wash. App. 872, 248 P.3d 1111 (2011);
- *Hugh Sisley v. Seattle School Dist.*, 171 Wash. App. 227, 286 P.3d 974 (2012), *review denied*, 176 Wash.2d 1015 (2013);
- *King County Public Hosp. v. Odyssey Healthcare*, 178 Wash.2d 363, 309 P.3d 416 (2013);
- *Hospice of Spokane v. Dept. of Health*, 178 Wash. App. 442, 315 P.3d 556 (2013);
- *Drake Sisley v. Seattle School Dist.*, 180 Wash. App. 83, 321 P.3d 276, *review denied*, 180 Wash.2d 1024 (2014).

To contact Jeffrey, call 360.534.9960.