

James D. Howsley

Shareholder

Services: Environmental and Natural Resources, Litigation, Land Use, Water

Industries: Commercial Real Estate, Construction and Development, Homebuilding, Local Governments and Special Districts



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OVERVIEW

Land use law is not only Jamie Howsley's career, but his passion. Jamie had the great fortune of growing up around land use and eventually following in the footsteps of his father, who was a respected planner and land use attorney. This unique upbringing provided a basis to understanding the evolution of the regulatory environment surrounding land development.

A land use attorney is an integral part of any development team and Jamie prides himself on being a dedicated professional who knows how to navigate the myriad of complex rules and relationships encountered in land development. He is known for finding creative, cost-effective solutions to challenges that could hamper a project.

Jamie represents companies, developers, and builders throughout the Pacific Northwest. He is widely recognized for the depth and breadth of his knowledge of the law around real estate development. He has successfully represented clients in a range of complex land use/development projects, including advocacy for large scale master planned developments throughout Washington and Oregon, getting new land into urban growth areas, and working with local governments on complex and creative financing tools to build necessary infrastructure.

Jamie believes the private sector and local governments should work collaboratively to turn a community's vision for growth into reality.

Jamie loves the chance to get out whitewater rafting, skiing, and exploring the Northwest with his family. Jamie is also passionate about music. He has a huge collection of music and frequently spends his evenings going to concerts or traveling for festivals.

Education

- B.A., History and Political Science, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA, 1996
- M.A., Political Science, American University, Washington, DC, 1997
- J.D., Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR, 2001

Membership and Activities

- City of Camas Transportation System Plan Project Advisory Committee (2022–Present)
- Clark County Buildable Land Advisory Group (2019–2021)
- Metro Portland Home Builders Association, Board Director and Past Chair of the Government Relations Committee (2018–2022)
- City of Vancouver Strategic Plan Oversight Committee, Member (2017–2022)
- Clark County Project Delivery Stakeholder Group, Member (2017–2022)
- Washington State Bar Association Real Property and Probate Trust Section, Real Property Council Director (2017–2019)
- Oregon Home Builders Association, Board Director (2017–2019, 2021–Present)
- Columbia River Mental Health Services, Board of Trustees (2009–Present), President (2015–2016)
- Building Industry Association of Washington, Legal Committee
- Building Industry Association of Clark County, Board Member and State Director to BIAW
- Clark County Development Engineering Advisory Board (DEAB 2009–Present)
- Multnomah Athletic Club, Land Use Committee (2022–Present)
- Clark County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Southwest Washington Contractors Association
- CREDC, Lands for Jobs Committee
- Greater Vancouver Chamber
- Rotary Club of Vancouver

Awards and Honors

- Oregon 250: recognizes the most influential people in Oregon
- Building Industry Association of Washington 2025 Star Associate
- The Best Lawyers in America®, Real Estate Law, 2021-2026
- Chambers & Partners, Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use, 2021 – 2025 (First Tier)
- “Top 10 Most Influential Oregon Real Estate & Land Use Lawyers in 2023,” Business Today
- “2022 Industry Advocate of the Year,” Building Industry Association of Clark County
- “Associate Appreciation Award,” Building Industry Association of Washington, 2020
- “Protection of Industry” Award, Building Industry Association, 2014
- Portland Business Journal 40 Under 40 award winner, 2014
- Washington Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2011–2014
- “Industry Advocate of the Year” Award, Building Industry Association, 2013
- “Protection of Industry” Award, Building Industry Association, 2013
- Daily Journal of Commerce Leadership in the Law Finalist, 2012
- Martindale Hubbell® AV Preeminent® Attorney