



Perkins Coie LLP

2021 TOP 100 LAW FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

PRACTICE AREA

- #3 Privacy & Data Security
- #7 Environmental Law
- #9 Clean Tech/Renewable Energy
- #11 Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
- #13 Intellectual Property

REGIONAL

- #1 Pacific Northwest
- #3 Mountain States

THE SCOOP

With its largest office still in Seattle, Perkins Coie has stayed true to its Washington roots. But over time, the firm has expanded to include 17 domestic offices—four of which are in California—and three offices in Asia. Perkins Coie likes to say that it provides “counsel to great companies,” and a look at its client list will confirm that’s true. Firm clients include household names like Microsoft, Facebook, Starbucks, Amazon, and Google.

From Birth to Boeing

Perkins Coie got off to a good start: Founded in 1912, the Seattle-based firm’s earliest clients included William E. Boeing Sr., founder of the eponymous aeronautics company. The relationship with Boeing contributed to Perkins Coie’s reputation for representing high-tech and cutting-edge ventures in what has become one of the nation’s technology hotspots. Today, the firm has nearly 1,200 attorneys working across many industries, including aerospace and transportation, energy and natural resources, financial services and investments, life sciences and health care, retail and consumer products, and technology and communications.

Governing Government

The firm has one of the largest and most prestigious political law groups in the country. Its lawyers have experience advising on campaign finance, corporate political matters, voting rights, tax-exempt organizations, election-related litigation, and more. Perkins Coie has represented clients ranging from political parties and affiliated committees to political candidates and elected officials. The firm has been involved in numerous redistricting cases and has taken the lead in challenging efforts designed to limit access to voting.

If You Start Me Up

Perkins Coie has become a go-to firm for tech startups over the past few decades. The firm has courted new startup clients through its “startupPerColator” website that helps new companies generate the legal documents needed to form a Delaware “C” corporation free of charge. And through its Le[a]dBetter program, the firm offers a 15 percent discount off its hourly rates to tech startups with at least one woman in a leadership position, helping to even the playing field in a male-dominated industry.

IN THE NEWS

June 2020

Marc Elias, head of Perkins Coie’s Political Law Group, discussed the 2020 election and the firm’s efforts to combat voter suppression on several TV news programs, including *60 Minutes* and MSNBC’s *The Rachel Maddow Show* and *All in With Chris Hayes*. His work has been mentioned in numerous publications including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Bloomberg News*.

February 2020

Perkins Coie opened an office in Austin, marking an expansion of its Texas operations. Establishing an office in Austin furthers the firm’s momentum in building a strong tech-based practice in Texas.

FIRM INFO

CONTACT INFO

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LOCATIONS

Seattle, WA (HQ) • Anchorage, AK • Austin, TX • Bellevue, WA • Boise, ID • Chicago, IL • Dallas, TX • Denver, CO • Los Angeles, CA • Madison, WI • New York, NY • Palo Alto, CA • Phoenix, AZ • Portland, OR • San Diego, CA • San Francisco, CA • Washington, DC • Beijing • Shanghai • Taipei

MAJOR DEPARTMENTS

Business: Bankruptcy, Emerging Companies & Venture Capital, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, Technology Transactions & Privacy

Commercial Litigation: Antitrust, Privacy & Data Security; Environment, Energy & Resources; White Collar & Investigations

Intellectual Property: Copyright, Internet & Advertising, Patent Litigation, Patent Prosecution, Trademark

Labor & Employment • Personal Planning • Political Law • Product Liability • Real Estate & Land Use

See firm website for complete list of practice areas and industries.

THE STATS

No. of attorneys: 1,118 (U.S.)

No. of offices: 17 (U.S.)

Managing Partner: William G. Malley
Hiring Partners: Sarah Gillstrom (Anchorage), Donna Barnett (Bellevue), Erika Malmen (Boise), John Schreiner (Chicago), John Hardin (Dallas), Brian Kinnear (Denver), Lara Dueppen (Los Angeles), Autumn Nero (Madison), Alan Howard (NY), Victoria Smith (Palo Alto), Karin Aldama (Phoenix), Tom Johnson (Portland), Joseph Reid (San Diego), Sunita Bali (San Francisco), Abha Khanna (Seattle), Kate Keane (DC)

EMPLOYMENT CONTACT

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The addition of the Austin office broadens the firm's ability to counsel companies across the state, including those in computer electronics and other technology industries as well as those in the retail, transportation, health care, and pharmaceutical industries, as they increasingly adopt technology-related platforms and applications.

January 2020

Perkins Coie was recognized as a leading U.S. law firm by Diversity Lab in a new industry standard that scores law firms and sets specific targets for diversity and inclusion. Over 70 law firms participated by providing and tracking their diversity and inclusion efforts. Perkins Coie ranked among the top 13 firms nationally that scored highest for diversity representation and inclusion initiatives.

OUR SURVEY SAYS

ASSOCIATE LIFE

- “The firm’s culture is warm and friendly in the office. There are some outside social activities, but they are not too many and there is little-to-no pressure to attend. Lots of people have families, and the firm culture respects that.”
- “I have great relationships with the partners, and they all treat me like a valuable asset at the firm, as well as a friend and equal colleague. The firm as a whole seems to value associates and desires to make them happy and want to stay at the firm for the long haul.”
- “I have a more favorable balance of compensation and hourly expectations than any of my friends at other firms, large or small. While I could make slightly more money at other national firms, I do not feel it would be worth the tradeoffs.”
- “In my experiences, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the substantive work I’ve received. As a mid-level litigation associate, I’ve been the primary/sole drafter for numerous appellate briefs, substantive motions and other filings, client memos, etc. I’ve worked on only a few doc-review projects, and most of these were part of a larger client project/memo.”
- “I thought the ‘relaxed and kind’ dynamic in the office might shift after we signed on full-time, but our office is truly that friendly and open-door. Nothing was misrepresented—the impressions I had as a summer were fairly accurate.”
- “It’s been basically as expected. It was sold as an office with strong mentorship, and I have felt that much more than I believed would be the case.”

PRO BONO & DIVERSITY

- “The firm counts as many pro bono hours as one wishes for billable credit. Recently I defended the trademark rights of [an] LGBTQ+ community organization from an infringer.”
- “The firm is undergoing a strategic diversity planning initiative that is in its infancy. I believe the plan will produce results over time, but because it has not been fully implemented yet, it is too early to tell. I give the firm full marks for their commitment to and efforts in this area, though. This is one of the primary reasons I committed to pursuing a career with the firm early in the summer associate process.”
- “The Women’s Forum has been increasingly active, and the firm is extremely receptive to discussions about how to improve recruitment and retention of women at all stages. There is work to be done, but the firm is moving in the right direction. Same with other affinity groups.”
- “The firm is actively engaged with diversity and inclusion. It is not for statistics, but the drive for diversity is genuine and for the sake of the business.”

SUMMER PROGRAM

- “As a summer associate, I handled the exact same type of assignments I handle now as a junior associate. The only difference was that I had a lighter workload as a summer while I was coming up to speed on things. That was a great training period that made the transition from what you do in a law school classroom to daily practice much smoother. I was also blown away by the amount of time partners were willing to spend explaining changes they made to a final work product/providing comments and feedback.”
- “There were many training sessions and training that came along with work completed. The work was substantive and necessary for firm clients.”
- “It was great. The firm really made an effort to make us comfortable and the associates and partners were very gracious and relaxed about our lack of experience. There was no sense of competition among the summers.”