

## **ABOUT VNF SOLUTIONS**

VNF Solutions LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Van Ness Feldman LLP (VNF or firm), a nationally recognized law and government advocacy firm providing legal counsel, thought leadership, and policy strategy to clients navigating the complex intersection between business and government.

VNF Solutions' vision is to provide a unique approach to client representations—one based on substantive knowledge and deep experience with the subject matter, and not just on “insider” access to regulatory agencies and legislators.

Our diverse team draws from decades of experience at the highest levels of the federal government and industry. We apply integrated expertise from a wide range of disciplines to solve clients' multifaceted policy challenges.

VNF has represented numerous cities, local and regional governments, and special districts throughout the State of California and the Western United States. The firm also represents a multitude of cities, counties, and states on advocacy, funding, legislative, and regulatory matters. In addition, we are experienced with building, working with, and managing a wide variety of trade associations and numerous federal policy coalitions.

## **OUR APPROACH**

Through our collective knowledge and experience, we take a uniquely collaborative approach that anticipates trends, adapts to changes in political and regulatory climate, and helps clients achieve their goals. We have built lasting relationships with industry, non-profit organizations, and government entities at all levels. Our professionals work cooperatively with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, Congressional authorizing and appropriations committees, the White House and Executive Branch agencies in both Democratic and Republican administrations, state and local agencies, coalitions, and trade groups to secure federal funding, engage on key legislative and regulatory issues, and to successfully navigate the changing agendas of Congress and the Administration.

## **COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL SUPPORT**

VNF is proud to provide world class representational services to our clients, including:

- Assessment of federal priorities
- Identification of legislative and regulatory opportunities
- Building and leveraging relationships
- Developing advocacy materials
- Identification and pursuit of federal funding opportunities
- Representation with trade associations and coalitions
- Establishing partnerships with likeminded stakeholders
- Tracking legislative and regulatory developments

With over 100 professionals in Washington, DC, Northern California, Seattle, and Denver, Van Ness Feldman represents clients on government advocacy and public policy relating to agriculture, climate change, disaster response, energy, the environment, health care, natural resource, native affairs, transportation and water resources issues. Learn more at [www.vnf.com](http://www.vnf.com) or [www.vnfsolutions.com](http://www.vnfsolutions.com).

## MEET THE TEAM



**Jordan Smith, Principal**

**Team Lead**

Jordan has over 20 years of experience providing government advocacy, public policy advice and representation on federal legislative and regulatory issues, with a special emphasis on energy, environmental, natural resource, and healthcare matters. He offers advocacy, strategic planning, and political communication expertise on issues related to western water policy, healthcare, land and natural resource matters, next-generation advanced climate technologies, and the federal budget and appropriations process. Jordan's experience includes developing and leading education and advocacy coalitions central to some of the most challenging public policy debates in the U.S. and across the globe. He has a proven track record building and maintaining relationships with key policymakers in Washington, lobbying Congress and the Administration on his clients' policy priorities, designing and implementing public relations strategies, and offering comprehensive support and services to diverse memberships and constituencies.



**Richard Agnew, Partner**

**Specialty: Natural Resources, Transportation, Federal Funding**

Rick represents a variety of clients before Congress and federal agencies, particularly on matters relating to federal laws and permits governing energy projects, environmental matters, and natural resources. As Chief Minority Counsel for the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (now the Committee on Natural Resources) of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rick supervised committee staff on a wide array of federal issues involving natural resources, Native Americans, and energy production and use. Prior to that position, Rick served as Staff Counsel to U.S. Representative Don Young (R-AK). Today, Rick assists clients to secure funding and permit authorizations for energy, agriculture, and transportation projects, as well as the redevelopment of communities after significant natural disasters or other economic loss.



**Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Partner**

**Specialty: Environment, Cybersecurity, Criminal Justice**

Gwen has more than twenty years of public sector experience, having served as both an elected and appointed official at the state and local levels as well as in various branches of the federal government including as a principal legal advisor in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and as Chief of Staff to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy during the Obama administration. Gwen's focus as a partner at VNF is on environmental policy and litigation matters, with an emphasis on strategic advice and counsel, national security matters as they relate to the protection of critical environmental systems, audits and special investigations. Gwen's strength in building relationships, managing complex matters, and in-depth knowledge of the Environmental Protection Agency and other branches of the federal government will help clients achieve their business imperatives. In addition to her time at the

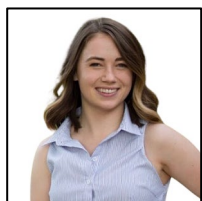
Department of Homeland Security and EPA, Gwen served as Regional Administrator Region 4 for the EPA, where she was responsible for establishing and implementing environmental policy for eight southeastern states including Florida. She was twice elected District Attorney for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit in DeKalb County, Georgia; the first African American and first woman to hold that office.



**Terese (T.C.) Richmond, Partner**

**Specialty: Water Law, Climate Policy, Environmental Land Use**

For over three decades, T.C. has worked with state and local governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations serving the public sector. Her practice focuses on water law, climate change, and environmental and land use law. She has broad experience in natural resource policy, laws and regulations, and the governance of complex organizations, and public-private partnerships. T.C. currently serves as General Counsel for Cascade Water Alliance, a joint municipal utility corporation composed of Puget Sound cities and special-purpose districts that operate a water supply system and regional assets to meet its members' current and future drinking water needs. She advises Cascade on all matters from public agency governance and utility rates to asset management and the environment. She also serves as counsel for a non-profit that combines public and private funding to address family homelessness. T.C. has served as Senior Counsel for the Washington Attorney General's Office, Special Assistant to the Governor, Washington State on federal water resource legislation; as Chief Counsel to the Arizona Department of Water Resources advising both on in-state and Colorado River issues; as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County, Transit and Water Quality Section. She has also served as the Vice-Chair of the National Climate Assessment Development and Advisory Committee where she led the 60-person Federal Advisory Committee that oversaw the development of the Third National Climate Assessment. T.C. currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Dividing the Waters Program of The National Judicial College and as a Convener of Science for Climate Action formed in response to recommendations on improvements to the US Sustained National Climate Assessment addressed to federal science agencies, state and municipal governments, and civil society organizations.



**Jenna Peth, Legislative Assistant**

**Specialty: Legislative and Regulatory Research and Analysis**

Jenna is a public policy professional providing strategic advice and representation on federal legislative, executive, and regulatory issues. She focuses on matters relating to federal energy, environmental, natural resources, transportation, and municipal policy. She provides clients with a comprehensive view of major issues and activities on Capitol Hill and the Executive Branch through the coverage of Congressional hearings and briefings in the energy, natural resources, municipal, and environment sectors. Jenna has experience representing several of the firm's coalition clients, including serving as the Director of Coalition Services for the Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC). On behalf of CURC, she assists with the development of policy and strategy that supports the deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies.