

Bonnie J. Paskvan

Partner

paskvan.bonnie@dorsey.com

Anchorage – 907.257.7813



Bonnie draws upon her over three decades of in-house and private practice legal experience to find strategic solutions for her Alaska native corporation, telecom, municipal, and commercial clients.

Bonnie's primary goal as outside general counsel or City Attorney to her clients is to provide timely, practical, and cost-effective advice and strategic solutions, with a focus on effective enterprise risk management. Her practice includes complex commercial, M&A, board governance, corporate compliance, municipal, finance, and other transactional matters within a variety of industries, including telecom, banking and finance, among others. She has significant experience working with Alaska Native Corporations and Municipalities, and currently serves as Co-chair of Dorsey's firm-wide Indian & Alaska Native Law Practice Group.

Prior to joining Dorsey in 2018, Bonnie was general counsel for Anchorage-based Calista Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation representing over 24,000 shareholders that serves as parent to dozens of subsidiaries engaged in a wide range of industries, including government contracting, construction, real estate, telecommunications, environmental and natural resource development, and oil field services.

Bonnie also previously served as the chief legal officer for The Alaska Wireless Network, a startup wholesale wireless telecommunications company, and as corporate counsel for General Communication, Inc., the largest telecommunications and technology company in Alaska. Prior to her in-house roles, Bonnie spent 14 years in private practice at Hartig, Rhodes, Norman, Mahoney & Edwards, P.C.

Two of Bonnie's ground-breaking advocacy accomplishments include initiating the Alaska Model Entities Transaction Act, and co-initiating SB24, the bill to allow virtual and hybrid corporate shareholder and non-profit member meetings, both of which have been enacted into Alaska Statute for increased business and non-profit flexibility, moving

Education

- Stanford Law School (J.D., 1986)
 - Stanford Law Review, Associate Editor, 1983-1986
- Stanford University (B.A., 1983)
 - International Relations, with Distinction

Bar Admissions

- Alaska

Alaska law into the 21st Century.

Bonnie currently serves as Dorsey's Anchorage Office Head and is the Diversity Partner for the Anchorage office.

Select Experience

- Lead and local, outside then in-house counsel for multiple large, international participation loans, including \$425,000,000, \$250,000,000, \$230,000,000, \$70,000,000 senior credit facilities issuances and refinancings for GCI, with as many as 17 participants.
- City Attorney for multiple municipalities.
- Service as Inspector of Elections and Parliamentarian.
- Create election rules and director candidate application packages in compliance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Co-Chair, Alaska State Bar, Corporate Counsel Section.
- Director, Girl Scouts of Alaska Board.
- Chair of the Board Development Committee, Girl Scouts of Alaska.
- Initiated Alaska Model Entities Transaction Act – Enacted into Alaska Statutes.
- Co-initiated, drafted, testified, and lobbied for unanimous passage of the Virtual and Hybrid meeting provisions – Enacted into Alaska Statutes for for-profit, non-profit and Alaska Native Corporations.
- President, Turnagain Elementary PTA & Chair, Turnagain Legislative Advocacy Committee – raised \$220,000 in State Appropriations, transformed school into robust wireless environment, deployed computers in classes and interactive white boards in all classes; survived two Governor's vetoes with extensive lobbying efforts.
- Co-Chair, Read-a-Thon, Turnagain Elementary PTA – students read over 300,000 pages annually in 30 days; significant funding source, encouraging student literacy.
- Member, UAA Truman Scholarship Nominee Panel (annually for over 20 years).
- Director, Secretary, Treasurer – The Aleut Foundation.

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Corporate/M&A; Native American Law, Alaska, 2025-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2026
- Martindale-Hubbell®, Rated Distinguished, 2026
- *Alaska Super Lawyers*®, 2026
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- *Forbes*, Best In-State Lawyers List, Alaskan Native Law in Alaska, 2025
- *Alaska Business Legal Elite*, Alaska Native Law, 2023-2024
- Harry S. Truman Scholar For Alaska – National Competition; \$20,000 Scholarship for Academic Excellence and Service
- GCI/UUI Terra Southwest Award – "In recognition of your outstanding project leadership and contributions"
- GCI Terra Northwest Award – "In recognition of your contributions and to honor the tremendous accomplishments of all involved with the historic completion of Phase 1 of Terra Northwest"

- Kodiak Kenai Cable Co. Recognition – For support of the Kodiak Kenai Fiber Link Project
- Miss Manners Award – From “The Staff” at Hartig, Rhodes, Norman, Mahoney & Edwards, PC
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (Alaska Virtual Meeting Law), 2021

Select Presentations

- Co-presenter, *Caselaw Update, Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association Annual Conference*
- Co-panelist, *Dorsey's Glass Smasher's Lab, Through the Ceiling and Behind the Doors; Navigating the Board Room*
- Co-presenter, *Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association Annual Conference – Interesting Alaska Municipal Law Decisions*
- Co-presenter, *Insurance Requirements, Additional Insureds, Waivers of Subrogation, Oh My . . . What Does It All Mean for Agreements with Providers and Vendors?*
- Co-presenter, *Force Majeure Clauses (in a post-COVID litigation world)*
- Co-presenter, *Alaska Bar Association CLE – The Accidental Lawyer: Terms of Engagement How to Stay Out of Trouble When You Are Out of the Office*
- Numerous presentations on Officer and Director Fiduciary Duties for various private employers
- Presenter, *City Council Workshop on Effective Governance – Roles & Responsibilities of Public Officials; Robert's Rules and Professionalism; Open Meetings Act; Ethics and Conflicts of Interest; Municipal Governments & Religion*
- Presenter, *Committee Chair Orientation: Chairs' Roles & Responsibilities*
- Presenter, *Employment Preferences – Alaska Native Corporations' Limited Exception from the Civil Rights Act Title VII*
- Presenter, *Federal Bar Association Minnesota & New Mexico Chapters Indian Law Seminar – Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation: Alaska Native Corporations' Access to CARES Act Funding*
- Presenter, *The Aleutian Marketplace – Legal Aspects of Starting a Business*
- Presenter, *Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers – Practical Tips for Negotiating Salaries, Benefits, and Perks*
- Presenter, *Cyber Threats: Scoping the Project, Contract Provisions, and Responses, Alaska State Bar Association CLE*
- Presenter, *First National Bank of Alaska Annual Lenders' Conference- The Hidden Costs of Sexual Harassment*
- Presenter, *Alaska Bar Association CLE – The Hidden Costs of Sexual Harassment*
- Moderator, *Alaska Bar Association CLE – The Many Hats of In-House Counsel - Understanding & Safeguarding the Attorney-Client Privilege*
- Presenter, *National Bank of Alaska to Commercial Lending Officers – Creation and Perfection of Liens on Collateral*
- Presenter, *National Business Institute – Liens and Credit Issues Affecting Real Estate – Advanced Real Estate Law in Alaska*
- Presenter, *Alaska Natives: From Settlers Across the Bering Strait to Global Economic Powerhouses*

Insights

July 13, 2026

Alaska HB 126: What Changes for Alaska Native Corporations, Proxy Filings, and Annual Reports

April 14, 2026

SBA Upends 8(a) Eligibility: What Alaska Program Participants Need to Know

March 31, 2026

Effective Collaboration Between In-House and Outside Counsel

January 27, 2026

Trump Administration's Anti-DEI Effort Comes for Section 8(a) Program—Small Businesses and Alaska Native Corporations May be the Next Targets of Significant Federal Change and Scrutiny

August 5, 2025

Bonnie Paskvan and Danika Watson Featured in Alaska Business on the Role of Litigators in Alaska

January 27, 2025

ANC Shareholder Preferences Should Continue Despite Executive Order Revoking Affirmative Action and DEI Initiatives in Federal Contracting