

# NEXT GEN IN LAW

Attorneys leading their profession into the future

Are you part of the next generation of lawyers making an impact in the field? Or do you know someone who is? The Puget Sound Business Journal invites you to be part of a new feature we're introducing called Next Gen in Law. The monthly feature will spotlight some of the rising stars in the Puget Sound region. Here are our inaugural group of attorneys including details of their accomplishments.



## Hillary Roberts-Griffith

McKinley Irvin | Senior Attorney

**Areas of practice:** All areas of family law, including divorce, child custody, child support, domestic violence, legal separation and relocation

**Years in the profession:** 9

Hillary Roberts-Griffith was recently promoted to senior attorney in the McKinley Irvin Everett office. She has been called a Washington Rising Star by Super Lawyers every year since 2020, and in 2022 she was included in the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch list. She maintains a 10.0 "Superb" rating on Avvo.com.

Roberts-Griffith is passionate about making our community safer. She volunteers with the King County Bar Association legal clinics and is a mentor attorney for Seattle University School of Law's domestic violence protection order clinic. She served as an adjunct professor for SU's Applied Family Law and Applied DVPO Practicum, providing pro bono family law services.



## Kennard L. Noyes

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP | Counsel

**Areas of practice:** Corporate law

**Years in the profession:** 9

Ken Noyes recently represented Zap Energy in its \$160 million Series C funding round. This milestone investment could help change the energy future and go a long way toward de-fossilizing the economy. It's the latest in a string of important renewable energy deals in which Noyes has played a leading role.

Noyes is a key player in financings, acquisitions and other deals that are transforming our region's dynamic industries. He has worked on numerous transactions for Washington's largest health care provider and also lends his expertise pro bono on behalf of small startups through the University of Washington Law School's Entrepreneurial Law Clinic. Noyes is dedicated to helping diversify the legal profession and regularly mentors local, diverse first-year law students.



## Lucio Maldonado

Corr Cronin LLP | Associate Attorney

**Areas of practice:** complex commercial litigation and appellate law

**Years in the profession:** 4

When Steven González was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington, he tapped Lucio Maldonado to be his official presenter at the swearing-in ceremony with Washington Gov. Inslee. Since then, Maldonado has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in business litigation. He was selected to participate in Lumen's legal diversity program, designed to give diverse associates a "voice at the table" through substantial partner-level management of cases.

Maldonado's aptitude as a litigator is beyond his years. He is also a first-generation U.S. citizen and first-generation attorney. Maldonado now volunteers in Supreme Court clerk mentorship programs, in addition to mentoring students from his hometown, Tonasket, Wash.



## Kristina Southwell

Ahlers Cressman & Sleight PLLC | Associate Attorney

**Areas of practice:** Construction litigation

**Years in the profession:** 7

Kristina Southwell played a key role in several recent legal victories, including obtaining a massive \$32 million judgment in favor of a contractor client after a 28-day jury trial in King County Superior Court, successfully prosecuting and defending against construction contract and tort claims totaling \$50 million in a two-week arbitration, and winning an appeal in the Washington Supreme Court.

Southwell is a rising star in the construction law field. Her understanding and application of the law to the facts of the cases she works on is second to none. Southwell works extremely well with clients and is able to take challenging construction concepts and make them understandable to a decision maker with limited experience in construction.



## Alexander J. Pierson

Reed Longyear Malnati Corwin & Burnett PLLC | Attorney

**Areas of practice:** Family law

**Years in the profession:** 2

Alexander Pierson is a litigation attorney with dedicated experience in family law litigation, including issues such as dissolution, parenting plan modifications and domestic violence. Pierson works hard to ensure that the legal profession is represented by diverse perspectives.

Pierson is a member of the King County Bar Association, Family Law Section. This year he serves as the Washington state regional co-chair for the American Bar Association's Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, where law students are mentored to ensure that the legal profession continues to recognize and reflect distinct perspectives. Pierson was chair of the program in 2021 and participated as an intern in 2017. Pierson is also a member of the National LGBTQ Bar Association.



## Toby J. Ligon

Seed IP Law Group, LLP | Senior Associate

**Areas of practice:** Patent prosecution — chemistry, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals

**Years in the profession:** 6

Toby Ligon was promoted to senior associate at Seed IP last year and is a member of the Washington State Patent Law Association. He is known for excellent service to clients, large and small, and his unwavering worth ethic and integrity.

The most important piece of advice Ligon has for attorneys in the early days of their careers is "be curious – ask a lot of questions. Try to soak in as much knowledge as you can from folks around you, be they other practitioners, legal assistants, paralegals or administrative staff. Over time, select tactics and strategies that work for you and discard things that do not. When you've gained a wealth of experience, be sure to pass it along," Ligon advises.