

Alaska Department of Law
List of Federal Litigation For 2008-present**

Dated: February 3, 2014

(Updates since February 12, 2013 are in red.)

Case Name	Case No.	Brief Description	Status
ACCESS AND LAND			
<i>State of Alaska v. U.S.</i>	3:12-cv-00114-SLG	State sought to quiet title to submerged land underlying Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River.	At the trial court level.
<i>Akiachak Native Community v. Dept. of Interior</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(D.C. Dist. Ct.) 1:06-cv-969	The State intervened to maintain the prohibition against taking land into trust for Alaska Natives.	At the court of appeals after the trial court held against the state.
<i>Organized Village of Kake v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(9th Cir.) 11-35517	State intervened to defend the Tongass roadless rule exemption.	At the court of appeals after the trial court struck down the roadless rule exemption.
<i>State of Alaska v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture</i>	1:11-cv-01122-RJL	State challenged the application of roadless rule in Alaska.	At the court of appeals after trial court dismissed case on statute of limitations grounds.
<i>State of Wyoming v. U.S. Dept of Agriculture</i> (State filed amicus briefs in support of plaintiff)	(10th Cir.) 08-8061	State filed amicus briefs in support of Wyoming's challenge to the roadless rule.	Case closed; the court of appeals upheld the roadless rule and the U.S. Supreme Court denied the petitions for review.
<i>State of Alaska v. Bureau of Land Management</i>	IBLA 2010-0136	State appealed BLM's decision denying a recordable disclaimer of interest to the bed of the Stikine River.	Case closed; Interior Board of Land Appeals ruled in favor of the state and remanded the decision back to BLM.

**This list includes all of the litigation that could be identified at this time.

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ACCESS AND LAND CONT.			
<i>Tongass Conservation Society v. U.S. Forest Service (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)</i>	(9th Cir.) 10-35232	State intervened to join the USFS in defending the Logjam Timber Sale in the Tongass National Forest.	Case closed; the court of appeals upheld the timber sale.
<i>Surgeon v. Masica (and Dept. of Interior) (Alaska intervened in support of plaintiff)</i>	(9th Cir.) 13-36165; 13-36166	State intervened to challenge the U.S. Department of Interior's application of National Park Service regulations to state navigable waterways.	At the court of appeals after the trial court upheld applicability of the NPS regulations.
<i>Wilde v. U.S. (State filed amicus briefs in support of plaintiff at the trial court level)</i>	(9th Cir.) 13-30360	The issue is whether the National Park Service has jurisdiction to conduct U.S. Coast Guard style boat safety inspections on navigable waters within units of the National Park System in Alaska and arrest someone who refuses to consent to the boat safety check and fees.	At the court of appeals after the trial court upheld applicability of the NPS regulations.
<i>State of Alaska v. U.S.</i>	4:13-cv-00008	State sued the U.S. and others to quiet title to a number of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way near Chicken, Alaska.	At the court of appeals on the limited issue of dismissal of the Native allotment owners from the suit.
<i>Uintah County v. Jewell (consolidated with State of Utah v. Jewell) (State filed amicus briefs in support of Utah)</i>	(UT Dist. Ct.) 2:10-cv-970	State filed amicus briefs in <i>Utah v. Jewell</i> . The issue is whether BLM's Wild Land's policy violates the Administrative Procedure Act, Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Wilderness Act, and other federal statutes.	At trial court level.
<i>State v. Jewell</i>	4:13-cv-00034	State challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's closure of all refuges in Alaska during the government shut down on the grounds that it violated ANILCA.	At trial court level.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT			
<i>State of Alaska v. National Marine Fisheries Service</i>	4:13-cv-00021-RRB	The state filed a lawsuit challenging the listing of the bearded seal as threatened under the ESA based on climate model projections 100 years into the future.	At the trial court level.
<i>State of Alaska v. Jewell</i>	(9th Cir.) 13-35667	State challenged the final designation of critical habitat for the polar bear.	At the court of appeals after trial court found in favor of the state.
<i>In Re Polar Bear Endangered Species Act Listing et al.</i>	(DC Cir.) 11-5219	State challenged the listing of the polar bear as threatened under ESA.	The court of appeals upheld the listing and denied the motion for rehearing. Third party petition for certiorari pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.
<i>State of Alaska v. Lubchenko</i>	(9th Cir.) 12-35201	State challenged the National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion finding that existing fishing regulations jeopardize the Western Distinct Population of Stellar Sea Lions.	The court of appeals upheld the biological opinion. NMFS is reconsidering its actions in light of the court's holding that it violated the National Environmental Policy Act process.
<i>State of Alaska v. Lubchenko</i>	1:10-cv-00927	State challenged listing of the distinct population segment of beluga whales in Cook Inlet as an endangered species.	Case closed; trial court upheld the listing decision.
<i>Center for Biological Diversity v. Lubchenko</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(9th Cir.) 11-15169	State intervened to support the federal government's decision not to list the ribbon seal as endangered or threatened.	Case closed. Plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed following status review finding that the listing of the ribbon seal was not warranted.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONT.			
<i>Native Village of Chickaloon v. National Marine Fisheries Service (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)</i>	3:12-cv-00102-SLG	State intervened to ask the court to uphold NMFS' decision to allow underwater seismic surveys in Cook Inlet.	Case closed. Trial court, for the most part, upheld NMFS' decision.
CLEAN AIR ACT			
<i>State of Alaska v. Kerry</i>	3:12-cv-00142-SLG	State challenged Secretary of State Clinton's extension of Emission Control Area to coastal areas of Alaska.	Case closed. Trial court granted defendant's motion to dismiss.
<i>White Stallion Energy Center LLC v. EPA (Alaska intervened in support of plaintiffs)</i>	(DC Cir.) 12-1272	Plaintiffs are challenging EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or MATS, which were finalized in the December 2012 rule. The rule sets new Clean Air Act emission standards for power plants. This case was consolidated with several other petitions.	At the court of appeals; this is a direct appeal from an EPA decision.
<i>Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA; appellate case title - Coalition for Responsible Regulation v. EPA (Alaska intervened in support of plaintiff)</i>	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 12-1272	State intervened to join in the challenge to EPA's Greenhouse Gases Endangerment finding.	After the court of appeals upheld the finding, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari.
<i>U.S. v. Alaska Industrial Development Energy Authority (and GVEA)</i>	4:12-cv-00025	U.S., GVEA and AIDEA filed a consent decree resolving disputes over the Healy Clean Coal Plant.	Case closed. The court approved the consent decree in November 2012.

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CLEAN AIR ACT CONT.			
<i>Luminant Generation Co., LLC v. EPA</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 12-1484	State joined an amicus brief supporting plaintiff's petition of certiorari, challenging the EPA's disapproval of Texas' state implementation plan based on mere policy preference, which is outside the ministerial bounds of EPA's statutory oversight.	Case closed; U.S. Supreme Court denied the petition for certiorari.
WATER			
<i>State of Alaska v. U.S.</i> (consolidated with <i>John v. U.S.</i>)	(9th Cir.) 09-36125	State challenged the U.S. regulatory process used to assert federal reserved water rights.	Court of appeals upheld the regulatory process; State filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court.
<i>Native Village of Point Hope v. Environmental Protection Agency</i> (Alaska filed amicus brief in support of defendants)	(9th Cir.) 12-35976	State filed amicus brief in support of the EPA's decision to approve ADEC's site-specific criteria for water discharge in Red Dog Creek.	At the court of appeals after the trial court upheld the EPA's decision.
<i>Decker (Oregon State Forester) v. Northwest Environmental Defense Center</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of Oregon)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 11-338	State joined in an amicus brief in support of Oregon to overturn the Ninth Circuit's decision that an NPDES permit was required for run-off from forest maintenance roads.	Case closed. The U.S. Supreme Court found in favor of Oregon.
<i>Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency</i> (Alaska filed an amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 10-1062	State filed amicus brief in support of the Sacketts' argument that the EPA's order to tear out their construction or be fined was subject to judicial review.	U.S. Supreme Court held in favor of the Sacketts.

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WATER CONT.			
<i>Mingo Logan Coal Co. v. Environmental Protection Agency</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 13-599	Mingo Logan Coal Co. filed a petition for certiorari, requesting the U.S. Supreme Court to address whether the EPA has authority under the Clean Water Act to withdraw discharge site specifications after the Corps of Engineers has issued a final dredge-and-fill permit.	A petition for certiorari has been filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.
<i>American Farm Bureau Federation v. Environmental Protection Agency</i> (Alaksa joined amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(3rd Cir.) 13-4079	Plaintiff filed suit against the EPA on the grounds that the EPA exceeded its authority under the Clean Water Act when it imposed certain requirements on the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load.	At the court of appeals after the trial court upheld the EPA's decision.
<i>Nukapigek v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	3:13-cv-00044	State moved to intervene to support the 404 permit issued by USACE to ConocoPhillips allowing discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. to construct the CD-5 drill pad.	At the trial court level.
RAIL			
<i>Alaska Survival v. Surface Transportation Board</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(9th Cir.) 12-70218	State intervened to support the U.S. Surface Transportation Board's approval of Port MacKenzie rail line extension and National Environmental Policy Act review.	Case closed. Court of appeals upheld approval of the rail line extension.

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MINING			
<i>Earthworks v. U.S. Dept. of Interior</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	1:09-cv-01972	Plaintiffs challenged the 2008 Mining Claim Rule. State intervened to support the federal rule, which eliminated some of the regulatory hurdles for miners.	At the trial court level.
<i>Farrell-Cooper Mining Co. v. Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of Oklahoma)	(10th Cir.) 12-7045, 12-7048	State joined an amicus brief supporting Oklahoma's position that the federal government may not use 10-day notices to challenge the validity of permits issued under state programs it has approved.	Case closed; court of appeals dismissed the case on ripeness grounds.
<i>Montana Environmental Information Center v. Opper, Director of Montana Department of Environmental Quality</i> (Alaska filed amicus brief in support of defendants)	(9th Circ.) 13-35107	State filed amicus brief supporting Montana and arguing that a state's Eleventh Amendment sovereign immunity bars the plaintiff's Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act citizen suit in federal court against Montana.	At the court of appeals.
<i>Coeur Alaska, Inc. v. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council</i> (Alaska intervened in support of Coeur)	129 S. Ct. 2458	SEACC challenged the USACE's issuance of a 404 permit for the Kensington Mine project.	Case closed; U.S. Supreme Court upheld the permit.
<i>National Mining Association v. McCarthy</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of Kentucky)	(D.C. Cir.) 12-5310	State joined amicus brief supporting Kentucky's assertion that the EPA exceeded its statutory authority by imposing an enhanced review process for dredge and fill permits and substantive standards for coal mining regulation.	At the court of appeals.

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FISH AND GAME			
<i>Jensen v. Locke</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(9th Cir.) 10-35062	Plaintiffs challenged state salmon management authority in Prince William Sound.	Case closed. The court upheld the salmon management plan.
<i>United Cook Inlet Drift Association v. National Marine Fisheries Service</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendants)	1:13-cv-82	UCIDA challenged Amendment 12 to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan in Alaska that ensured Alaska retained full authority over salmon management in three historical areas beyond the three-mile limit, as it has since statehood.	At the trial court level.
<i>State of Alaska v. Gould</i>	3:10-cv-00113	State challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to deny the state access to Unimak Island to conduct predator control necessary to protect the local caribou herd from local extermination.	Case closed. The court dismissed the case in favor of the defendant.
<i>U.S. v. State of Washington</i>	W.WA Dist. Ct., C70-9213	The issues are whether Alaska's catch of far north migrating Chinook and certain sockeye stocks should be counted as part of the 50% that goes to the states under the Baldridge Stipulation or not. State's position is that Alaska's catch is not subject to the stipulation.	At the trial court level. Proceedings are inactive as long as the parties' issues are being addressed through the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

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OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF			
<i>Native Village of Point Hope v. Salazar</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendant)	(9th Cir.) 12-35287	Plaintiff challenged the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Lease Sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea.	Court of appeals found the lease sale deficient.
<i>REDOIL v. EPA</i> (Alaska filed amicus briefs in support of defendants)	(9th Cir.) 12-70518	Plaintiffs challenged the EPA's grant of air permits for Shell's outer continental shelf activities. State filed amicus briefs in support of Shell and the EPA.	Case closed. Court of appeals upheld the grant of the air permits.
<i>Alaska Wilderness League v. U.S. EPA</i> (Alaska filed amicus briefs in support of defendants)	(9th Cir.) 12-71506	Plaintiffs challenged the EPA's grant of air permits for the exploratory activities by Shell's rig, the Kulluk. State filed amicus briefs in support of Shell and EPA.	Case closed. Court of appeals upheld the air permit.
<i>Native Village of Point Hope v. Salazar; consolidated with Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission v. Salazar</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendants)	(9th Cir.) 09-73944, 09-73944, 10-70166	State intervened in support of the Department of Interior's approval of Shell's exploration plans for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas for 2010. These are multiple appeals on the two exploration plans Shell had filed.	Case closed; the court of appeals upheld the exploration plans.
<i>Native Village of Point Hope v. Salazar; Inupiat Community of the Arctic v. Salazar</i> (Alaska intervened in support of defendants)	(9th Cir.) 11-72891, 11-72943, 12-70440, 12-70459	State intervened in support of the Department of Interior's approval of Shell's 2012 exploration plans for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. These are multiple appeals on the two exploration plans Shell had filed.	Cases closed; the court of appeals upheld the exploration plans.

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VOTING RIGHTS ACT			
<i>State of Alaska v. Holder; Shelby County v. Holder</i>	1:12-cv-1376; (U.S. Sup. Ct.) 12-96	State challenged Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act requiring Alaska to obtain Department of Justice preclearance of any changes to elections. In a similar case in the U.S. Supreme Court, <i>Shelby County</i> , state filed an amicus brief in support of <i>Shelby County</i> .	Cases closed. U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act (<i>Shelby County</i>) and <i>State of Alaska v. Holder</i> was dismissed following the Supreme Court's decision.
<i>Toyukuk v. Treadwell</i>	3:13-cv-00137	The Native American Rights Fund alleged violations of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act related to Yup'ik language assistance in the Wade Hampton and Dillingham Census Areas of western Alaska.	At the trial court level.
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT			
<i>National Federation of Independent Businesses v. Sebelius</i> (Alaska filed amicus briefs in support of plaintiffs)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 11-393	State filed amicus briefs in support of overturning the Affordable Care Act.	Case closed; U.S. Supreme Court upheld the majority of the Act.
<i>Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. (consolidated with Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius)</i> (Alaska joined amicus briefs in support of Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp.)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 13-354	U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari to address the question of whether the requirement mandating employers to cover contraceptives violates the First Amendment and Religious Freedom Restoration Act in relation to certain for-profit businesses.	At the U.S. Supreme Court.

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DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE			
<i>U.S. v. Windsor</i> (Alaska joined an amicus brief)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 12-307	State joined an amicus brief supporting the validity of the Defense of Marriage Act.	U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act.
<i>Sevcik v. Sandoval</i> (Alaska joined amicus brief in support of Nevada)	(9th Cir.) 12-17668	Eight same-sex couples challenged Nevada's refusal to recognize same-sex marriages on equal protection grounds.	At the court of appeals after the trial court found in favor of Nevada.
SECOND AMENDMENT			
<i>Montana Shooting Sports Association v. Holder</i> (Alaska joined an amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 13-634	State joined an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to accept a petition for certiorari addressing whether Congress has the Commerce Clause authority to regulate intrastate manufacture of firearms and ammunition.	Petition for certiorari has been filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.
<i>National Rifle Association v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives</i> (Alaska joined an amicus brief in support of plaintiff)	(U.S. Sup. Ct.) 13-137	State joined an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to accept a petition for certiorari addressing whether federal laws and regulations prohibiting licensed gun dealers from selling handguns and handgun ammunition to adults under 21 violate the Second Amendment.	Petition for certiorari has been filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.

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List of Significant State Court Cases in 2013
Excluding Oil and Gas Litigation

February 3, 2014

Case Name	Case No.	Brief Description	Status
ACCESS AND LAND <i>REDOIL v. State</i>	S14216	Plaintiff challenged the Department of Natural Resources' decision to offer tracts for leasing in the Beaufort Sea Lease Sale Area.	The Alaska Supreme Court held partially in favor of the State but partially in favor of the plaintiff.
BRISTOL BAY <i>Nunamta Aulukestai v. Dept. of Natural Resources</i> <i>State v. Lake and Peninsula Borough</i>	S14560 3DI1100053CI	Plaintiffs challenged constitutionality of regulations and statutes relating to issuance of temporary exploration permits. The state challenged the borough's enactment of an initiative prohibiting permits for certain large-scale development projects.	At the Alaska Supreme Court after the trial court found in favor of the state. At the trial court level.
CHILD SUPPORT <i>Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska v. State</i>	S14935	Plaintiffs sued to require the state to enforce the Tlingit Haida tribal court's child support orders.	At the Alaska Supreme Court after the trial court held in favor of plaintiffs.

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Case Name	Case No.	Brief Description	Status
CONSUMER PROTECTION			
<i>State v. Onboard Media</i>	1JU1300498CI	State filed a consent decree regarding the port shopping programs the onboard promoters conduct on cruise ships that visit ports in Alaska.	Case closed; consent decree filed in trial court.
<i>State v. Lynden Inc.</i>	3AN1308505CI	State along with Lynden Inc. and Northland Services filed a consent decree regarding the merger of the two companies.	Case closed; consent decree filed in trial court.
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP			
<i>State v. BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.</i>	Private Arbitration	State sued BP for damages for oil production shortfalls caused by the 2006 pipeline leaks and pipeline replacements in the Prudhoe Bay oilfield.	Case closed; three-judge arbitration panel ruled in favor of the state for \$245 million in damages and \$10 million to cover civil assessments.
GREENHOUSE GASES			
<i>Kanuk v. Dept. of Natural Resources</i>	S14776	Plaintiffs brought suit against the State asserting that the State has an obligation to protect the atmosphere as a shared public trust resource.	At the Alaska Supreme Court after the trial court dismissed the case.

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Case Name	Case No.	Brief Description	Status
INITIATIVES			
<i>Hughes v. Treadwell</i>	4FA1301296CI	Plaintiff challenged the certification of the initiative, which would require, if passed, that the legislature must pass a law finding that any large scale metallic sulfide mine operating in the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve or its watershed will not endanger the fishery.	At the trial court level.
<i>Alaska Fisheries Conservation Alliance Inc. v. Treadwell</i>	3AN1404558CI	Plaintiff challenged the rejection of certification of the initiative that sought to ban commercial shore gill nets and set nets in non-subsistence areas.	At the trial court level.
PARENTAL NOTIFICATION			
<i>Planned Parenthood v. State</i>	S15010, S15030, S15039	Plaintiff challenged the Parental Notification Law (a ballot initiative) on constitutional grounds.	At the Alaska Supreme Court after the trial court upheld the core requirements of the law.
PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
<i>Citizens Alliance Protecting School Lands v. State</i>	1JU130582	Plaintiff alleges numerous breaches of trust by the State respecting public school trust lands, including allegations previously raised in the <i>Kasayule</i> litigation.	At the trial court level.
<i>Ketchikan Gateway Borough v. State</i>	1KE1416	Plaintiff brought suit against the State to overturn the local contribution requirement.	At the trial court level.

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Case Name	Case No.	Brief Description	Status
SAME-SEX BENEFITS			
<i>Schmidt v. State</i>	S14251	Plaintiffs challenged the constitutionality of the senior citizen and disabled veteran property tax exemption on the grounds that same-sex partners were not treated the same as married couples.	At the Alaska Supreme Court after the trial court held the law unconstitutional.
TRANSPORTATION			
<i>Alaska Marine Highway System v. Robert E. Derecktor, Inc.</i>	JU10507CI	State sued the manufacturer and retailer of the engines of the state's fast ferries because of accelerated degradation.	Case closed; parties settled prior to trial.