

## Willa B. Perlmutter – Biographical Summary

Willa B. Perlmutter has practiced law in Washington, D.C. since 1995. Originally from New Haven, Connecticut, she first came to D.C. to be a page in the U.S. House of Representatives, graduating from Capitol Page School in 1976. She earned a bachelor's degree at Mount Holyoke College in 1980 and her law degree from the University of Connecticut in 1983.

Her legal career reflects a rich diversity of experiences. She started with a small, general practice firm in New Haven, where she primarily litigated on behalf of individuals and small businesses. In 1992, she moved to Alaska, to be Supervising Attorney of the Juneau office of Alaska Legal Services, Alaska's legal aid grantee. There, she represented low-income residents of Southeast Alaska and was one of a three-member trial team that obtained a tribal court order requiring the return of historically and culturally significant artifacts that had been stolen from a Tlingit Indian village.

Building on her experiences with the Indian community in Alaska, Ms. Perlmutter returned to Washington, D.C. to take a job with the Department of the Interior, representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She left the government in 1995 to go into private practice, where she has remained since. In addition to maintaining a robust *pro bono* practice, Ms. Perlmutter currently focuses on occupational safety and health counseling and enforcement, with a particular emphasis on the mining industry. In that capacity, she represents companies and individuals accused of regulatory violations.