

Stacy Dillard-Spahn is an attorney in the land use group, and her practice encompasses the land development process from concept and due diligence through governmental permitting and appeals. She represents clients in private negotiations, and before administrative bodies and state courts on a variety of land use matters. As a skilled and seasoned litigator, Ms. Dillard-Spahn understands the importance of developing relationships between apparently opposing interests to build a bridge of understanding, allowing her clients the best opportunities to achieve their goals.

Ms. Dillard-Spahn is a member of the state bars of Florida and Iowa, as well as the federal court for the Middle District of Florida, joining Icard Merrill in August 2005, after ten years in public practice as a prosecutor and public defender in Sioux City, Iowa. Having also served for two years as a judicial law clerk for the State of Iowa, Ms. Dillard-Spahn is well versed and skilled in building strong appellate records for her clients. In addition to juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony trial work, she was instrumental in implementing the Mental Health Court for Woodbury County, Iowa, speaking statewide and nationally on the innovative program.

Ms. Dillard-Spahn received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with high distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1990. A graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law in 1994, Ms. Dillard-Spahn completed the nationally recognized Environmental and Natural Resources Law program, achieving high honors. She was a research assistant to Professor Mary Christina Wood, nationally known for her scholarship on the federal trust obligation towards native nations and her work on treaty fishing rights and endangered species. Additionally, she worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the drafting of comprehensive wildlife legislation for American Samoa, and assisted the United States Attorney's Office in the prosecution of large-scale timber theft operations on public lands.

Ms. Dillard-Spahn is a member of the Florida State Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Sarasota County Bar Association, and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. She belongs to the Sarasota Tiger Bay Club and serves on the committee for the 2007 Asolo Repertory Theatre Gala. She is an avid supporter of the arts community and the betterment of public education, including advocacy for the improvement of high quality education programs for academically gifted students.

#### Practice Areas

Land Use and Zoning

Land Use Litigation and Appeals

Administrative Law - State and Local

Environmental Law  
Code Enforcement  
Governmental Law

#### Education

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (high distinction)  
University of Oregon School of Law (honors)

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