

REAL ESTATE



ABIGAIL DEWEESE

1221 Second Avenue,
Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98101

ABIGAIL.DEWEESE@HCMP.COM
206.470.7651

HCMP
Law Offices

Hillis
Clark
Martin &
Peterson P.S.

Q | What is the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)?

A | RLUIPA is a federal law that protects religious institutions from discrimination in land use regulation, and it also contains some protections for institutionalized people. Its most commonly cited protections are contained in its “substantial burden” and “equal terms” provisions, which, respectively, say that local land use regulations generally cannot place a substantial burden on religious exercise and prohibit local jurisdictions from implementing land use regulations (like structure height limits) that treat religious institutions unequally compared to similar secular organizations. Whenever a religious institution is entitling, developing, or using land for religious purposes, the institution should consider whether RLUIPA’s protections apply.