2026 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar
Speaker Profiles



Fred Andes
Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Chicago, IL
LinkedIn

Fred Andes is involved in clean water issues on the national and state levels. He was selected by the EPA to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. He is serving as coordinator for the Federal Water Quality Coalition, which is a group of municipal and other regulated parties that is participating in EPA's rulemaking on TMDLs and other key Clean Water Act programs. Mr. Andes is also advising trade associations, industries, and municipalities on TMDLs, permits, and other water quality matters on the state and federal levels, including development of water quality standards, listings, TMDLs, and permit conditions.

Mr. Andes has been recognized by Illinois Super Lawyers Magazine since 2014. He also regularly appears on the Best Lawyers in America and Chambers USA lists for his work in environmental law.

Before coming to Barnes & Thornburg, Mr. Andes was a partner with the Chicago law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. Prior to working in Chicago, he spent nine years practicing environmental law in DC.

Mr. Andes graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1980. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in 1977. Mr. Andes is a member of the IL State, DC, and American Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in the state of IL, DC, the US District Courts for the Northern District of IL and DC, and the US Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and DC Circuits.



Amanda Aspatore
Chief Legal Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide on legal, regulatory, and policy matters to ensure they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all. Prior to joining NACWA, Ms. Aspatore worked as the Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Environment at the Edison Electric Institute and the Vice President, Water Law & Policy at the National Mining Association. Ms. Aspatore also served as a law clerk in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Virginia and the US Department of Transportation’s Office of Hearings.

Ms. Aspatore has received certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Standards Academy, and is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law, where she served on the Environmental Law and Policy Review, and Washington and Lee University. Ms. Aspatore is admitted to practice in VA.



Jean Block
NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority
Little Rock, AR
LinkedIn

Jean Block is the Chief Executive Officer of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority (LRWRA) – the largest sewer utility in Arkansas. In August 2023, she became the sixth CEO and the first woman to lead the organization.
Prior to becoming CEO, Ms. Block served as Chief Legal Officer at LRWRA for over seven years. She was responsible for all legal and compliance issues, including contracts, personnel matters, and state and federal Government Relations efforts. She also had oversight responsibility for the Human Resources and Environmental Affairs departments.
Ms. Block is a board member of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and UA-Little Rock's College of Business Advisory Council, and she is Past-president of the Arkansas Water & Wastewater Manager's Association.
She was named a Top 100 Women of Impact in Arkansas in 2023 and 2026, recognized by the Museum of Discovery for innovation in S.T.E.M. by receiving the *"Spark! Star" award* and has been included among *"Arkansas' 250 Most Influential Leaders"* annually since 2022.
Ms. Block holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from the University of Kansas School of Law.
She is originally from Mill Valley, CA. Ms. Block and her husband, Rodney, live in downtown Little Rock with their cat, CiCi.



Leanne Bolaño
Associate
Hanson Bridgett LLP
San Francisco, CA
LinkedIn

Across her practice, **Leanne Bolaño** advises special districts, joint powers authorities, and municipalities on a wide range of public law issues, including ethics and open government laws, public records, and contracting and procurement. She regularly collaborates with regulators to interpret evolving obligations and negotiate favorable outcomes and works closely with clients to draft and negotiate contracts for goods, services, and other matters central to public agency operations.

Ms. Bolaño counsels public agencies with an emphasis public water supply, including rates and charges, regulatory compliance, and intergovernmental projects and partnerships. She has advised on various complex, long-range projects, including biosolids management, expansion of recycled water programs, and production of purified water to supplement drinking water supply. Her experience includes advising a major regional wastewater facility on governance, regulatory and operational matters, and supporting infrastructure and policy initiatives.



Laura Briefer
NACWA Vice President
Director of Public Utilities
Salt Lake City Corporation
Salt Lake City, UT
LinkedIn

Laura Briefer is the Director of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU). She has served as Director of SLCDPU since 2016. Mrs. Briefer has worked at SLCDPU for 18 years in various areas of the organization and has devoted a 30-year career to natural resource, environmental, and public policy professions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a MPA from the University of Utah. Mrs. Briefer additionally serves as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Division of Public Affairs at the University of Utah, teaching public service ethics in the Master of Public Administration program. Mrs. Briefer was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for an Appointed Official by the Utah Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration in 2024.

Mrs. Briefer is a co-author of several peer-reviewed published papers alongside Utah's academic institutions, focused on water resources, climate change, and watershed management. She serves on local and national boards, including the Jordan River and Utah Watershed Councils, the Utah Water Task Force, the Provo River Water Users Association, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the national Water Research Foundation.



Paul Calamita
Chairman & Managing Partner
AquaLaw PLC
Richmond, VA

Paul Calamita has represented public utilities nationwide in a wide range of regulatory, litigation, policy, and financial matters for over 30 years. He earned a BS in Biology from the College of William and Mary and his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. He co-founded AquaLaw with his partner, Chris Pomeroy, in 2002.



Beth Card
Senior Policy Advisor
Smith, Costello & Crawford
Boston, MA
LinkedIn

Beth Card is a senior policy advisor at Smith, Costello & Crawford where she counsels and advocates for her clients on matters such as environmental permitting, siting renewable energy projects and pertinent legislation.

Ms. Card previously served as Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, acting as the Governor's chief adviser on energy and environmental policy. In this role, she directed efforts to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while advancing a clean energy future for MA residents. She oversaw the work of the state's environmental, natural resources, and energy regulatory agencies and led the development of major policy and legislative initiatives, budget strategies, and implementation plans. She also served as the administration's primary spokesperson on energy and environmental issues.

Prior to serving as Secretary, Ms. Card was Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs at the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, where she developed and oversaw environmental policies for an authority providing water and sewer services to 3.1 million people and more than 5,500 large industrial users across 61 metropolitan Boston communities.
Ms. Card serves on the Board of Trustees for Boston Harbor Now and the Environmental Business Council of New England.



Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells
NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH
LinkedIn

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in February 2017. During her previous eight years at the Sewer District, Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells coordinated the District's watershed management efforts across District programs, including the Regional Stormwater Management Program and the application of stormwater control measures to reduce combined sewer overflows under the District's Green Infrastructure Policy. She is Region 5 representative on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Board of Trustees, and Chair of the District One Natural Resources Assistance Council for the Ohio Public Works Commission's Clean Ohio Conservation Program.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Ohio State University with a BS in Biology. She earned Master's degrees with honors in both Public Affairs and Environmental Science at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Samoa. Before joining the District, she was Director of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.



Matt Edling
Partner
Sher Edling LLP
San Francisco, CA
LinkedIn

For nearly twenty years, **Matt Edling** has represented public entities in large individual actions, as well as plaintiffs in complex litigation. He currently serves a counsel for several states, counties and cities in litigation related to climate damages, water and land contamination, and natural resources damages involving myriad petrochemical, agrichemical, and other man-made chemicals.

Recently, Mr. Edling served as trial counsel for CA's toxics agency arising out of its largest-ever contaminated site cleanup, which was caused by airborne lead emissions. California Dep't of Toxic Substances Control, et al. v. NL Indus., Inc., et al., No. 2:20-11293 (C.D. Cal.). As lead counsel working on behalf of water providers on Long Island, he helped secure more than $65 million in consent judgments and settlements arising out of contaminated drinking water. Bethpage Water District v. United States, et al., No. 22-cv-2050 (E.D.N.Y.); South Farmingdale Water District v. United States, et al., No. 22-cv-2051 (E.D.N.Y). His efforts as lead counsel on behalf of California public entities resulted in $630 million in infrastructure improvements to abate transboundary water contamination. City of Imperial Beach, et al.v. International Boundary and Water Commission, et al., No. 18-cv-457 (S.D. Cal.). As most relevant to this topic, Matt's continues to represent states, cities, and water suppliers related to PFAS.

Over his career, Mr. Edling, frequently in tandem with public counsel, has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for clients, including PFAS contamination recoveries. He understands the need to balance the public and policy implications involved in environmental litigation and bring stakeholders together in and out of the courtroom to achieve lasting success.

He has been named among the highest class of attorneys for professional ethics and legal skill, with an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale Hubbell.



Mark Gold
Director, California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations
Scipps Institute of Oceanography
La Jolla, CA
LinkedIn

Mark Gold is Director of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) monitoring and research program at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD. CalCOFI, the oldest and one of the largest monitoring programs in the nation, is a partnership with NOAA and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that focuses on assessing the health of ocean waters and fisheries off central and southern CA. Previously, Mr. Gold was Director of Water Scarcity Solutions at Natural Resources Defense Council, where he focused on integrated water management issues in CA and the West. From 2019-2022, Mr. Gold was the Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council and the Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy for the California Natural Resources Agency. Mr. Gold served as a key advisor to the Governor and the Secretary of Natural Resources and directed policy, scientific research, and critical partnerships to increase protection of coastal and ocean resources in CA. Mr. Gold led efforts to develop the strategic plan for CA's coast and ocean, the world's first microplastics strategy, and the state's first sea level rise action plan and sustainable aquaculture principles. Prior to his appointment, he was the UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor for Environment and Sustainability where he helped create and lead their Sustainable Los Angeles Grand Challenge effort. His research focus was on determining the feasibility and approaches to making the megacity of Los Angeles water self sufficient and in compliance with state and federal clean water laws. Before that, Mr. Gold was the interim director and associate director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. Mr. Gold was an adjunct professor at UCLA for 17 years. Prior to UCLA, Mr. Gold was the long-time President of the environmental group, Heal the Bay where he led efforts to upgrade wastewater treatment plants, increase recycling, reduce stormwater pollution, and protect watersheds, beaches, and coastal waters. He created the Beach Report Card which grades over 500 beaches on the west coast. Mr. Gold received his bachelor's and master's in Biology as well as his doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering, all from UCLA. Mr. Gold has served on numerous Boards and Commissions including the California Ocean Science Trust, California Coastal Commission, California Sea Grant, USC Sea Grant and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. He currently serves on the Metropolitan Water District where he chairs the imported water and CO River committees.



Devon Goodrich
Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Law Department
New York, NY
LinkedIn

Devon Goodrich has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Environmental Law Division of the New York City Law Department since 2011. She practices environmental and municipal law, working on a variety of issues relating to New York City's drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment systems, parks, and solid waste management.

From the beginning of Ms. Goodrich's career at the Law Department, her work has included counseling and litigation involving the City's wastewater management. She has counseled the City on Clean Water Act compliance, from meeting the requirements of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the City's 14 wastewater treatment plants, which treat approximately 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day, to development and implementation of long-term control plans to reduce combined sewer discharges to New York City's water bodies.

She has also regularly counseled and litigated on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to enforce the City's Watershed Regulations and protect the City's water supply system – which supplies approximately 1.1 billion gallons a day of high quality, affordable drinking water to over nine million people.

Ms. Goodrich received a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA with highest honors in English from Cornell University.



Robin Halperin
Deputy Director, Watershed Programs
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH
LinkedIn

Robin Halperin's public utility career and dedication to clean water began at the Cleveland Water Department in 1998. In 2008, she brought her knowledge and passion to Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) and created the District's Environmental, Health & Safety Program to ensure the District's compliance with environmental, health and safety rules and regulations. She has more than 25 years of experience and throughout her career has performed various regulatory compliance activities including interpreting environmental and safety regulations and applying them to utility operations, developing and implementing policies and procedures, and negotiating and complying with environmental permits. She also takes on special projects and initiatives to reduce the District's regulatory burden and to manage risks. Of note, is the successful completion of the fifth amendment of the District's Consent Decree completed in 2024, saving the District $115M. And implementation of a program to reuse the ash generated by the District's incinerators as an ingredient in topsoil sold locally since 2018.
Ms. Halperin's passion for protecting the environment began in college at Miami University and lead to her obtaining a MS in Environmental Science from Louisiana State University.



Jennifer Harrington
General Counsel & Legislative Liaison
Narragansett Bay Commission
Providence, RI
LinkedIn

Jennifer Harrington currently serves as General Counsel and Lobbyist to the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) in Providence, RI. The NBC operates the two largest secondary wastewater treatment facilities in New England and has won numerous awards for its outstanding treatment performance.

Prior to Ms. Harrington joining the NBC, she worked for a private firm where she developed extensive expertise in the areas of civil litigation, real estate, insurance, and corporate law.

Since Ms. Harrington joined the NBC, she has concentrated in the areas of environmental compliance and prosecutions, regulatory, ethics, insurance, real estate, legislative review, contract, permitting and litigation matters. She has also worked extensively to ensure that various Policies and Rules and Regulations remain in compliance with all relevant State and Federal Laws.

Ms. Harrington earned a BS degree in Marketing at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, and her JD degree at The Southern New England School of Law in Dartmouth, MA. She has maintained a longstanding relationship with the University of Massachusetts School of Law, formerly known as Southern New England School of Law, and continues to aid the school in its various endeavors.



Jamie Heisig-Mitchell
Co-Chair, Water Quality Committee
Chief of Water Quality
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell became Director of Water Quality in November of 2022, overseeing the Central Environmental Laboratory (CEL), Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention (P3), and the Technical Service Division (TSD). In her previous position as Chief of TSD, she managed staff involvement in environmental and wastewater monitoring and research as well as assuming responsibility for HRSD's permit negotiations and oversight of regulatory compliance with Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act programs. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell serves on the board of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) and the University of Colorado Boulder's Water Reuse Advisory Board, is Chair of VAMWA's Water Quality Committee, Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Biosolids Committee, Past-President of the Virginia Biosolids Council, member of the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Institutional Biosafety Committee, and has served on numerous VA Department of

Environmental Quality Advisory Panels and Subcommittees. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell received her MS from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.



Emily Jackson
Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Chief Legal Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Emily Jackson is the Chief Legal Officer for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, CO. Metro operates two wastewater treatment plants, a fifty-five-thousand-acre farm, and extensive collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of over 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area. Prior to taking the position at Metro, Ms. Jackson worked for the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Jackson sits as Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Legal Affairs Committee. She holds a BA from University of Colorado and a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. Ms. Jackson is a member of the CO bar.



Gideon Kracov
Mediator
ADR Services, Inc.
Los Angeles, CA
LinkedIn

Gideon Kracov is a distinguished mediator with thirty years of experience in civil, real estate, and environmental litigation. He has an extensive background navigating complex legal disputes, coupled with significant experience at the highest levels of CA state government. Using his mediation and facilitation skills, Mr. Kracov can break through impasse and settle before litigation, and after lawsuits are filed. The Daily Journal describes him as a "highly collaborative" and "pragmatic" mediator with a "committed approach to preparation." He has "credibility with all parties, perhaps the highest currency."

Mr. Kracov offers both in-person and virtual mediation services as an alternative to protracted litigation, working diligently with the parties every step of the way – from pre-mediation calls in every case to post-mediation follow-up – towards resolving the dispute.



Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC
LinkedIn

Adam Krantz is currently Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), where he has served in a number of positions since May 2001. Mr. Krantz directs an unparalleled team in DC, that advocates on behalf of the nation's public clean water agencies on an array of regulatory, legislative, legal and communication initiatives. NACWA's goal is to maximize the influence of the nation's public clean water agencies and to broaden the awareness of the vital role they serve in ensuring clean and safe water for all.

Prior to his position at NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the US Environmental Protection Agency's, Congress's and the federal court system's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, Mr. Krantz worked as an attorney in the DC law firm, Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky on litigation matters.

Mr. Krantz served as the President of the Federal Water Quality Association and also served as the first Vice President of the Clean Water America Alliance (now the US Water Alliance). Mr. Krantz also serves on the Board of WFX (the Water Finance Exchange) and has degrees from Columbia University in New York City, the American University's Washington College of Law in DC, and the University of Chicago. He is a member of both the DC and MD Bar Associations.



Jeff Kray
Managing Partner
Marten Law
Seattle, WA
LinkedIn

Jeff Kray is an accomplished environmental trial lawyer with over 25 years of expertise in Clean Water Act permitting and regulatory compliance, CERCLA (Superfund) site remediation, and emerging contaminants. He advises businesses and local government in water quality permit compliance and defense matters, responding to emerging contaminants (including PFAS and microplastics) in water supplies and waste streams, stormwater pollution prevention, hazardous waste spill prevention and cleanup, and cost recovery litigation.



Emma Lautanen
Associate
Marten Law
Seattle, WA
LinkedIn

Emma Lautanen represents municipalities and industry clients on water quality, chemical contamination, and environmental regulatory compliance matters. Her practice includes the development and appeal of complex individual and general water quality permits, as well as advising clients on regulatory rulemaking and legislative initiatives.
Ms. Lautanen's work focuses on the regulation of persistent chemicals and emerging contaminants, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), PFAS, and 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q), and on addressing nutrient loading challenges. She counsels clients on biosolids management, permit compliance, the evaluation and permitting of treatment alternatives, contaminant clean-ups, and cost recovery efforts.



Caitlin McHale
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Strategic Initiatives, Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Caitlin McHale serves as a Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Office of Water works to ensure that drinking water is safe, wastewater is safely returned to the environment, and surface waters are properly managed and protected.

Ms. McHale joined EPA from her most recent position as Associate General Counsel at the National Mining Association (NMA), where she managed the association's water-related legal and regulatory portfolio. Prior to joining the NMA, Ms. McHale worked for Mars, Incorporated. She also spent time in government working on Capitol Hill for Congressman Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) and the Senate Judiciary Committee for Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and for the US Department of Defense. Over her career, Ms. McHale has worked on a variety of water topics, especially under the Clean Water Act, and she has built strong relationships across the water sector. Ms. McHale graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in English. She also earned a JD with a concentration in regulatory law from George Mason Law School.



Ann McIver
Director, Environmental Stewardship
Citizens Energy Group
Indianapolis, IN

Ann McIver is the Director of Environmental Stewardship for Citizens Energy Group, leading environmental and natural resources compliance programs for the district energy systems, as well as the natural gas, drinking water and wastewater utilities, implementation of the Industrial Pretreatment Program, and the state-certified drinking water lab serving analytical needs across Citizens. She champions Citizens' Commitment to Sustainability. Prior to this role, she served in the Thermal business, including an assignment as Manager of Operations for the Steam business. She started her career in the Office of Air Quality at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Ms. McIver served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Council of Industrial Boilers from 2016 – 2020 and as a member of the Advisory Board at the Lugar Center for Renewable Energy. In the community, Ann served a member of the Board of Directors for Volunteers of America's Ohio & Indiana affiliate from 2016 – 2024 and is currently a member of the Board for the Yvonne Perkins Legacy Foundation.

Ms. McIver earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana University. She and her husband David live in Brownsburg, IN. She is an avid road cyclist, a sport she took up in 2013.



Lou McMahon
Partner
McMahon DeGulis LLP
Cleveland, OH
LinkedIn

Lou McMahon has extensive experience in all aspects of environmental law and related litigation. Mr. McMahon frequently advises local governments regarding NPDES permit and wet weather compliance issues, including integrated planning of capital investments with other community objectives. He frequently negotiates federal CWA consent decrees and consent decree modifications. Lou represents communities small and large in negotiations with US Enivornmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OH EPA and other state agencies, including sewer districts serving some of OH's largest cities with over $6.5 billion of consent decree commitments.



Scott Novak
Senior Associate
Baker Botts, LLP
Washington, DC
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Scott Novak is an environmental attorney at Baker Botts LLP, where he represents utility companies and trade associations in trial court and appellate litigation, regulatory advocacy, and compliance matters. His practice encompasses litigation in state and federal court, proceedings before public utility commissions, and agency rulemakings.

Select recent matters include representing a broad coalition of businesses, labor organizations, and trade associations challenging OR's Climate Protection Program; representing building, construction, and restaurant trade associations and utilities in Energy Policy and Conservation Act litigation in multiple jurisdictions; defending a utility against alleged environmental marketing claims; and challenging an OR Public Utility Commission order concerning line extension allowances.

Additionally, Mr. Novak advises on renewable energy developments for the Cross-Cutting Issues Group, which is focused on renewable energy, water, wildlife, and waste developments affecting the power sector. He also manages the Gas Infrastructure Coalition, a utility group focused on emerging legal, regulatory, and technological developments affecting gas infrastructure.

Prior to joining Baker Botts, Mr. Novak worked as a Fellow at the Georgetown Climate Center to assist states in developing the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program, a regional cap-and-invest policy for on-road transportation fuels. He also co-hosts the Environmental Evolutions podcast and holds degrees from Rollins College, the University of Cambridge, and Georgetown University Law Center.



Erika Powers
Partner
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP
Ann Arbor, MI
LinkedIn

Erika Powers' clients include municipalities, utility districts, trade organizations and other regulated parties across the country. She advises on a wide variety of Clean Water Act (CWA) issues, including wet weather management and wastewater treatment, including negotiation of federal consent decrees to reduce combined and sanitary sewer overflows. She also assists clients with matters involving water quality standards, the listing and delisting of impaired water bodies, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

development and implementation, effluent limitations guidelines for wastewater discharges, and water permitting, compliance and enforcement.

Notably, she provides veteran legal counsel regarding regulatory matters involving state and federal environmental agencies, as well as CWA administrative and judicial litigation. She advocates to support her clients' interests in water quality rulemaking and policy development, crafts strategies to achieve client objectives while maintaining compliance with water quality regulations, helps clients contest agency decisions in federal and state courts, and defends clients against citizen suits and agency enforcement actions seeking damages and penalties. Listed among The Best Lawyers in America in environmental law, Ms. Powers is valued for her ability to balance national water policy with the daily challenges of managing local, regional and multistate water-related initiatives. She helps clients achieve their goals while addressing agency concerns in the decision-making process. Because many of her clients are at the forefront of innovation in water quality law and face the challenge of budgetary constraints, she remains steadfastly dedicated to helping them maximize their results with limited resources while adhering to state and federal regulations.



Drew Silton
Partner
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
Washington, DC
LinkedIn

Drew Silton has rapidly become one of the country's top water lawyers. His practice spans regulatory counseling, enforcement defense, and litigation, and he has helped to defend land application in both regulatory matters and toxic tort litigation since his first day at the firm. He co-chairs the firm's water practice and represents clients from both the private and public sectors in matters arising under the CWA and state law. He led Beveridge & Diamond's team that secured a landmark victory in City & County of San Francisco v. EPA, 604 U.S. 335 (2025), in which the US Supreme Court ruled that EPA and states lack authority under the CWA to impose permit terms that hold permittees responsible for the overall condition of their receiving waters. He also represents the San Francisco in its defense of a multibillion-dollar enforcement action brought by San Francisco Baykeeper and EPA concerning the City's combined sewer overflows.

Public and private sector clients seek Mr. Silton to defend major Clean Water Act enforcement actions. His docket includes representing multiple large cities and public utilities in cases brought by the US Department of Justice, EPA, and state regulators seeking both significant capital improvements and changes to municipal operations to reduce wet weather discharges. He negotiated one of the first federal consent decrees to resolve allegations that the development of utility-scale solar power facilities violated the Clean Water Act's construction stormwater requirements. He has also defended multiple citizen suits, including multiple cases of first impression, in which he secured favorable resolutions through aggressive advocacy and command of the Clean Water Act's complex regulatory scheme.



Brenley Smith
Managing Director
WateReuse California
Sacramento, CA
LinkedIn

Brenley Smith has over 17 years of experience in the water sector, holding a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from University of California, Davis and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. With roles at two CO water utilities, she managed recycled water systems and led efforts to expand water reuse regulations. For seven years at The Water Research Foundation, she facilitated subscriber engagement and connected utilities to research resources.

Currently, as Managing Director for WateReuse California, she champions responsible stewardship of water resources, maximizing the safe use of recycled water and supporting the WateReuse Association's initiatives.



Erika Spitzig
Partner
Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP
Cincinnati, OH
LinkedIn

Erica Spitzig focuses her practice on environmental matters. Prior to joining Taft, she served as Deputy General Counsel for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in DC, where she worked to advance NACWA’s legal and regulatory advocacy on behalf of publicly owned wastewater and stormwater utilities nationwide.

Ms. Spitzig has significant experience representing clients on Clean Water Act matters, and has worked extensively with municipalities on clean water legal and regulatory issues. Her work includes counseling clients on NPDES permitting, compliance and appeals; stormwater permitting; and enforcement defense. She has also represented state and national associations as amici curiae in cases involving the Clean Water Act in the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

In addition to her clean water expertise, Ms. Spitzig also represents clients on a wide array of environmental matters. She assists clients with permitting and compliance involving a variety of media and statutes, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Federal Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), among other federal, state and local environmental laws. She also has extensive experience with Brownfields laws and regulations, and works with clients to remediate properties contaminated by long histories

of industrial use under CERCLA and state laws, including the Ohio Voluntary Action Program. She also routinely litigates environmental cases in state and federal court, including matters involving RCRA, CERCLA, and other state and federal environmental laws.

Ms. Spitzig also frequently collaborates with Taft's Energy practice group related to regulatory and environmental approvals for infrastructure projects, including the development of a 200 megawatt solar-powered electric generating facility, which constituted the largest individual solar project in the State of OH.

Ms. Spitzig also served as an assistant attorney general for the State of OH where she litigated Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act enforcement matters and administrative appeals, and represented Ohio EPA in alternative energy matters before the Ohio Power Siting Board and Public Utilities Commission of OH.

Ms. Spitzig received her JD from Georgetown University Law Center, and her BA in Political Science from Franciscan University of Steubenville.



Trent Stober
Advisory Program Director & Senior Vice President
HDR Inc.
Columbia, MO
LinkedIn

Trent Stober is the Senior Vice President with experience in water quality assessment and regulatory projects that have shaped major municipal infrastructure programs across the nation. He has managed projects that include wastewater and stormwater utility planning, discharge permitting, assessment of receiving water-beneficial uses and their attainability, and watershed monitoring and management.

Mr. Stober is passionate about collaboration between regulators, utilities and other stakeholders to address community priorities related to the Clean Water Act and other infrastructure needs. In his role as director, he manages a diverse staff in technical areas such as integrated municipal planning, regulatory and enforcement action support, program and project management, asset management, and utility operations. He is a regulatory specialist with a history of applying his experiences, knowledge and practical approaches to solve challenging problems.
Mr. Stober is proud of being a trusted advisor for many communities as they address more stringent regulatory requirements, including some of the most complicated quality issues in Missouri and Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. He has testified quarterly on water quality and permitting issues for over 10 years before the Missouri Clean Water Commission, which is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Protection Program.

He holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri and was recently inducted as a member of the University's Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni.



David Stoft
General Counsel
Clark County Water Reclamation District
Las Vegas, NV
LinkedIn

David Stoft is the Chief Legal Officer for the Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD) in NV. He manages the district's legal affairs, advising on environmental policies, litigation, labor and employment matters, risk management, and other operational issues.

Mr. Stoft is a 2006 alumnus of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He began his career in private legal practice, moving to public practice in 2017. His legal career has focused on wastewater infrastructure, utility law, and litigation. Prior to law school, he worked in financial analysis for a global communications technology company.



Timothy Sullivan
Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
Baltimore, MD
LinkedIn

Tim Sullivan's regulatory and litigation practice focuses primarily on municipal and industrial wastewater, water quality, and water resources matters.

Mr. Sullivan has significant litigation experience in federal and state courts and administrative tribunals. This experience spans the spectrum from high-profile, bet the company litigation to fending off nuisance value legal claims with minimal disruption, and includes representing clients at each stage of litigation, including case development, settlement negotiations, mediations, arbitration, discovery, and trial.

Mr. Sullivan's regulatory practice involves advising clients regarding a wide range of permitting, compliance, and enforcement issues. Recent regulatory efforts have focused on contaminants of emerging concern as regulators wrestle with novel regulatory approaches with significant potential impacts on municipal and industrial dischargers of wastewater and stormwater. Mr. Sullivan's regulatory experience includes working within the General Counsel's Office of a major water and sewer utility for nearly five years, providing him important insights into the utility's practical, daily obligations and regulatory challenges.

Mr. Sullivan is a former Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Environmental Law Section and former Managing Principal of Beveridge & Diamond's Baltimore office. He has been recognized by *Best Lawyers for Environmental Law, Environmental Litigation, and Natural Resources law* for several years, and in 2024, Mr. Sullivan was *Lawyer of the Year* for Environmental Litigation in Baltimore.



Nathan Vassar
Partner
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Nathan Vassar is a Principal at Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. in Austin, TX. His practice focuses on assisting clients with enforcement defense matters, regulatory compliance, water quality matters, and water resources development. Mr. Vassar helps communities facing Clean Water Act compliance issues and represents clients in enforcement and civil litigation matters before federal and state courts and administrative agencies. Prior to the practice of law, Mr. Vassar worked in state politics as a Legislative Director for a State Senator in VA. and interned during law school with then-Tenth Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch in Denver, CO. Mr. Vassar received his BA at the University of Virginia and his JD from the University of Texas School of Law.



Jordan Wimpy
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Jordan Wimpy is a Member of the Little Rock law firm of Mitchell Williams Selig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC, where he Co-Chairs the Environmental and Natural Resources Practice Group. His practice focuses on environmental, agriculture, energy and natural resource issues. He regularly represents utilities, business clients, and trade associations in all aspects of the environmental permitting, compliance and enforcement processes. He also provides advice and counsel to landowners negotiating conservation easements, utility easements, surface use agreements, and environmental mitigation/reclamation standards for energy infrastructure projects.

He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Wimpy studied law at Vermont Law School where he received both his JD and Master of Environmental Law & Policy degrees with high honors in 2012.

Mr. Wimpy is a past chair of the Agricultural Management Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources. He is past chair of the Arkansas Bar Association's Environmental Law Section.



Mike Witt
NACWA Secretary
General Counsel
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
Newark, NJ

Mike Witt is the General Counsel for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC). One of the oldest dedicated environmental agencies in the United States, PVSC provides wastewater service to over 1.5 million residents located 48 municipalities throughout northeastern NJ. Prior to becoming General Counsel, he was in private practice and served PVSC for 19 years as Special Environmental Counsel, representing PVSC in regulatory and litigation matters with both US Environmental Protection Agency and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to environmental law, his 25 years of law practice has included government entity representation, appellate practice, intellectual property, and government information requests, among other areas.

Mr. Witt's public service includes appointments by the NJ Supreme Court to the Attorney Ethics Committee, membership of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA)'s Renewable Energy, Cleantech and Climate Change Committee, membership of the NJSBA Committee on Continuing Legal Education, and serving as Chair and a Director of the NJSBA Local Government Law Section. He also regularly teaches a number of continuing education courses, including Ethics for Engineers for the New Jersey Water Environment Association.
In addition to serving on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA) Board of Directors, Mr. Witt is a member of NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee, is NACWA Secretary, has given presentations at a number of NACWA events, and is a member of the Editorial Board for NACWA's Wet Weather Consent Decree Handbook.

Mr. Witt holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a JD from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is also proud (overly so) to be the first attorney in NJ inducted as an honorary member of NJWEA's Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers.