



James B. Slaughter

Principal

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Jimmy Slaughter has a national practice in environmental, toxic tort, and constitutional litigation.

Jimmy's many courtroom wins led to *Law360* naming him an "MVP" for 2020 and *American Lawyer* selecting him as a Runner-Up for Litigator of the Week five times in 2019, 2020, and 2021, and a Shout-Out recipient in 2023. His recent accomplishments include dismissals of two class actions in a precedent-setting opinion in the New York Appellate Division, winning a writ of mandate against Los Angeles County voiding permit terms for a client's landfill (achieving savings valued at over \$200 million), and securing federal preemption of a Baltimore air ordinance. Jimmy also recently scored a rare equitable estoppel ruling against a major local government, allowing his client to challenge numerous provisions of a conditional use permit. *Chiquita Canyon LLC v. Los Angeles County*, 2019 WL 6122160 (L.A. Co. Super. Ct. 2019).

Other achievements include securing a unanimous win in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court defeating toxic tort claims, *Gilbert v. Synagro Central*, 131 A.3d 1 (Pa. 2015) and a plaintiffs judgment after a two week trial on constitutional challenges to a voter initiative banning land application of biosolids, *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 2017 WL 1292822 (Tulare Co. Cal. Super. Ct. 2017). Jimmy also scored three wins on preemption claims in 2013 and 2014 before the California Court of Appeal and the Washington Court of Appeals involving solid waste issues. Jimmy has tried numerous jury and bench trials and argued cases before many federal and state appellate and trial courts across the country, including the California, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia supreme courts. See, e.g., *Cormier v. D.C. WASA*, 2011 WL 4543680, 84 A.3d 492 (D.C. 2013) (trial win and appellate affirmance, defeating tort claims of corrosive drinking water).

A *Chambers*-ranked lawyer, Jimmy is recognized as a leader in mass tort, class action and preemption litigation involving solid waste, drinking water, wastewater, and biosolids. His representation of waste and recycling companies, cities, farms, contractors, and trade associations spans toxic tort, enforcement defense, and complex constitutional and administrative law issues regarding competing federal, state, and local authority. Jimmy speaks regularly at meetings of the American Bar Association, the National Waste and Recycling Association, the Water Environment Federation, its state affiliates, and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. He works with the country's top scientists and engineers to defend his clients in the courts and before government agencies.

Toxic tort defense is a major part of Jimmy's practice, including defense of wrongful death, serious personal injury, and nuisance claims. He has handled the country's most significant cases involving alleged public health impacts from land application of biosolids and from allegations of lead in drinking water. Jimmy regularly and successfully challenges plaintiffs' medical and causation experts under *Daubert* and *Frye*. On April 28, *AmLaw Litigation Daily* recognized his work in a case in the Southern District of Florida, in which the judge denied class certification in a suit involving 20,000 commercial waste collection customers across the state, having highlighted significant variation in the underlying contracts.

Jimmy is nationally recognized for his success in preemption and commerce clause challenges to discriminatory and burdensome local legislation. He led a coalition of electronics trade groups and manufacturers in challenging the constitutionality of New York City's recycling and product-take back mandates. After Jimmy filed a motion for preliminary injunction, the City agreed to stay implementation of the law. He also led the successful efforts of the City of Los Angeles to overturn a local ban on the City's use of its biosolids on California farmland as a fertilizer on Commerce Clause and other constitutional grounds.

Superfund litigation has long been a part of Jimmy's docket and he has defended and prosecuted CERCLA claims around the country. Jimmy has led several PRP Group representations and won a major successor liability ruling in *Pfohl Brothers Landfill Site Steering Committee v. Allied Waste*, 255 F. Supp. 2d 134 (W.D.N.Y. 2003).

Jimmy also litigates and arbitrates cases under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), focusing on the defense of the rights of data owners against follow-on registrants of pesticides. He was co-counsel with other B&D principals in the landmark case of *Cheminova A/S v. Griffin L.L.C.*, 182 F. Supp. 2d 68 (D.D.C 2002), which underscored that data compensation awards pursuant to FIFRA's mandatory arbitration scheme are fully enforceable in court.

Jimmy joined B&D after three years as an Assistant and Senior Assistant Public Defender in Fairfax County, Virginia. While with the Public Defender's Office, Jimmy successfully defended against a capital murder indictment in *Commonwealth v. Reed*. Before joining the Public Defender's Office, Jimmy clerked for the Honorable James Sprouse of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

He is active in the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Litigation, the Defense Research Institute, the National Waste & Recycling Association (NW&RA), the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). He speaks and writes frequently on litigation and environmental law topics and in 2022, served on the *Law360* editorial advisory board for environmental law.

Jimmy currently serves on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center's Energy & Environmental Litigation Advisory Committee and has served on numerous DRI and ABA committees addressing environmental law and litigation.

Active in the bar, the District of Columbia Bar Board of Governors in 2024 reappointed Jimmy to serve a third two-year term on the Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee.

Education

- Yale University (B.A.)
- Columbia University (J.D.)
 - Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems, Articles Editor

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Virginia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals - D.C. Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals - Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals – Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals – Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals - Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals – Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court – District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court – Western District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court – Eastern District of Virginia

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Environmental Law Institute
- Defense Research Institute
- Member, District of Columbia Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee
- Member, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center Energy & Environmental Litigation Advisory Committee
- Water Environment Federation
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies

- National Waste & Recycling Association
- Solid Waste Association of North America
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Law360, Editorial Advisory Board (2022)
- Strafford Law Seminars, Environmental Law Advisory Board
- Virginia Bar Association
- Virginia Bar Association Environmental Council (2016-2021)
- Fairfax Bar Association
- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

Honors & Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, a Best Lawyers® publication, recognition in Environmental Litigation (2024-2025)
- *Law 360* MVP (2020)
- *American Lawyer*, Runner-Up Litigator of the Week, March 1 and 22, 2019, April 3 and July 10, 2020, October 29, 2021; Shout-Out, April 28, 2023
- *Chambers and Partners – USA*, Band 3 in Environmental Law (2021-2024)
- *Super Lawyers*, part of Thomson Reuters, Washington, DC, Super Lawyer (2014-2020, 2022-2024)
- *The Legal 500*, recognition in Environmental Litigation (2015, 2017-2019, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- *The Legal 500*, recognition in Environmental Regulatory Law (2024)
- Recognition in *Who's Who Legal – Environment & Climate*, a publication of Lexology (2016-2020; 2023-2024)

Representative Matters

Significant published and reported cases tried, argued, or briefed by Jimmy include:

- *Ictech-Bendeck v. Waste Connections Bayou, Inc.*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2025 WL 932772 (E.D. La. 2025)
- *Association of American Railroads v. Seggos*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2025 WL 833850 (S.D. N.Y. 2025)
- *Tennessee Riverkeeper v. Waste Connections of Tennessee, Inc.*, --- F.Supp.3d ---, 2025 WL 726584 (M.D. Tenn. 2025)
- *Farmer v. U.S. EPA*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2024 WL 5118193 (D.D.C. 2024)

- *Brashevitzky v. Reworld Holding Corp.*, 348 F.R.D. 107 (S.D. Fla. 2024)
- *Howse v. Chiquita Canyon, LLC*, --- F.Supp.3d ----, 2024 WL 4828705 (C.D. Cal. 2024)
- *Johnston v. Anderson Regional Landfill, LLC*, 725 F.Supp.3d 527 (D. S.C. 2024)
- *Salyers v. A.J. Blosenski, Inc.*, 731 F.Supp.3d 670 (E.D. Pa. 2024)
- *Sunshine Children's Learning Center v. Waste Connections of Florida, Inc.*, 671 F.Supp.3d 1366 (S.D. Fla. 2023)
- *Allen Beth, Inc. v. Waste Connections US, Inc.*, 667 F.Supp.3d 956 (E.D. Ark. 2023)
- *Voodoo Leatherworks v. Waste Connections*, 618 F.Supp.3d 1126 (D. Colo. 2022)
- *Britton v. Seneca Meadows, Inc.*, 203 A.D. 1583 (New York App. Div., 4th Dept. 2022), *dismissed*, 2022 WL 1750476 (Sup. Ct. Seneca Co., May 12, 2022)
- *Lloyd v. Covanta Plymouth Renewable Energy, LLC*, 585 F.Supp.3d 646 (E.D. Pa. 2022)
- *Davies v. S.A. Dunn & Co., LLC*, 200 A.D.3d 8 (N.Y. App. Div. 3d Dept. 2021), *leave to appeal denied*, 38 N.Y.3d 902 (2022)
- *Duncan v. Capital Region Landfills, Inc.*, 198 A.D.3d 1150 (N.Y. App. Div. 3d Dept. 2021), *leave to appeal denied*, 38 N.Y.3d 902 (2022)
- *Alameda County Waste Management Authority v. Waste Connections US, Inc.*, 283 Cal.Rptr.3d 171 (Cal. Ct. App. 2021)
- *Lloyd v. Covanta Plymouth Renewable Energy, LLC*, 532 F.Supp.3d 259 (E.D. Pa. 2021)
- *Baptiste v. Bethlehem Landfill Company*, 2021 WL 1232779 (E.D. Pa. 2021)
- *Lloyd v. Covanta Plymouth Renewable Energy, LLC*, 517 F.Supp.3d 328 (E.D. Pa. 2021)
- *Britton v. Seneca Meadows, Inc.*, 2020 WL 9422437 (N.Y. Sup. Seneca Co. 2020)
- *East Penn Township v. Synagro Central, LLC*, 2020 WL 6156389 (Commw. Ct. Pa. 2020)
- *Chiquita Canyon, LLC v. Los Angeles County*, 2020 WL 3977913 (Los Angeles Co. Sup. Ct. July 2, 2020)
- *Baptiste v. Bethlehem Landfill Company*, 965 F.3d 214 (3d Cir. 2020)
- *Schaumburg v. Jefferson Parish*, 292 So.3d 154 (La. App. 5 Cir. 2020)
- *Wheelabrator Baltimore, L.P. v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, 449 F.Supp.3d 549 (D.Md. 2020)
- *Chiquita Canyon LLC v. Los Angeles County*, 2019 WL 6122160 (L.A. Co. Super. Ct. Nov. 13, 2019)
- *Addison v. Louisiana Regional Landfill Company*, 398 F.Supp.3d 4 (E.D. La. 2019)
- *Baptiste v. Bethlehem Landfill Company*, 365 F.Supp.3d 544 (E.D. Pa. 2019)
- *Montgomery County, Maryland v. Complete Lawn Care, Inc.*, 240 Md.App. 664 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 2019)

- *Bernard v. Progressive Waste Solutions*, 365 F.Supp.3d 738 (E.D. La. 2019)
- *Ictech-Bendeck v. Progressive Waste Solutions of Louisiana*, 367 F.Supp.3d 555 (E.D. La. 2019)
- *Landry-Boudreaux v. Progressive Waste Solutions*, 365 F.Supp.3d 734 (E.D. La. 2019)
- *Thompson v. Louisiana Regional Landfill Company*, 365 F.Supp.3d 725 (E.D. La. 2019)
- *Chiquita Canyon, LLC v. Super. Ct. of Los Angeles Co.*, 2019 WL 911669 (Cal. Ct. App. 2019)
- *Schaumburg v. Jefferson Parish*, 2019 WL 646599 (La. 24th Jud. Dist. 2019)
- *NRDC v. EPA*, 301 F.Supp.3d 133 (D.D.C. 2018)
- *Complete Lawn Care, Inc. v. Montgomery County, Maryland*, 2017 WL 3332362 (Mont. Co. Md. Cir. Ct. 2017)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 2017 WL 1292822 (Tulare Co. Cal. Super. Ct. 2017)
- *Barkley v. DC Water*, 2016 WL 184433 (D.C. Super. Ct. 2016)
- *Gilbert v. Synagro*, 131 A.3d 1 (Pa. 2015)
- *Barkley v. DC Water*, 2015 D.C. Super. LEXIS 8 (D.C. Super. Ct. 2015)
- *SPRAWLDEF v. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission*, 172 Cal. Rptr.3d 110 (Cal. Ct. App. 2014)
- *Gilbert v. Synagro*, 90 A.3d 37 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2014), *appeal granted*, 101 A.3d 1149 (Pa. 2014)
- *Washington Department of Ecology v. Wahkiakum County*, 337 P.3d 364 (Wash. App. 2014), *review denied*, 347 P.3d 459 (Wash. 2015)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 328 P.3d 56 (Cal. 2014)
- *Northern California Recycling Association v. County of Solano*, 2014 WL 235443 (Cal. App. 2014)
- *Sierra Club v. Solano County*, 2013 WL 3963602 (Cal. App. 2013)
- *Cormier v. D.C. Water and Sewer Authority*, 84 A.3d 492 (D.C. 2013)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 154 Cal.Rptr.3d 122 (2013)
- *Gilbert v. Synagro*, 2012 WL 11943695 (York Co. Ct. Comm. Pleas 2012)
- *Cormier v. D.C. Water and Sewer Authority*, 2011 WL 4543680, 139 DWLR 2157 (D.C. Super. Ct. 2011)
- *Potrero Hills Landfill, Inc. v. Solano County*, 657 F.3d. 876 (9th Cir. 2011)
- *Cormier v. D.C. Water and Sewer Authority*, 2011 D.C. Super. Lexis 2 (D.C. Super. Ct. 2011)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 560 U.S.939 (2010) (denying certiorari)
- *NL Industries, Inc. v. Halliburton Co.*, 2010 U.S. Dist. Lexis 116654 (W.D.N.Y. 2010)
- *Hardin v. Jackson*, 625 F.3d 739 (D.C. Cir. 2010)

- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 581 F.3d 841 (9th Cir. 2009)
- *Hardin v. Jackson*, 648 F. Supp. 2d 42 (D.D.C. 2009)
- *Cormier v. District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority*, 2009 D.C. Super. Lexis 1 (D.C. Super. Ct. July 27, 2009)
- *Hardin v. EPA*, 600 F. Supp. 2d 13 (D.D.C. 2009)
- *Wyatt v. Sussex Surry LLC*, 2007 Va. Cir. Lexis 182 (Surry Co., Va. Cir. Ct. November 2, 2007)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 2007 U.S. Dist. Lexis 81696 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 25, 2007)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 509 F. Supp. 2d 865 (C.D. Cal. 2007)
- *Wyatt v. Sussex Surry LLC*, 482 F. Supp. 2d 740 (E.D. Va. 2007)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 462 F. Supp. 2d 1105 (C.D. Cal 2006)
- *City of Los Angeles v. Kern County*, 2006 WL 3073172 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 24, 2006)
- *SRM Chemical Ltd. v. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service*, 355 F. Supp. 2d 373 (D.D.C. 2005)
- *Synagro v. Rush Township*, 299 F. Supp. 2d 410 (M.D. Pa. 2003)
- *O'Brien v. Appomattox County*, 293 F. Supp. 2d 660 (W.D. Va. 2003)
- *O'Brien v. Appomattox County*, 2003 WL 21711347 (4th Cir. 2003)
- *Pfohl Brothers Landfill Site Steering Committee v. Allied Waste Systems, Inc.*, 255 F. Supp. 2d 134 (W.D.N.Y. 2003)
- *Pfohl Brothers Landfill Site Steering Committee v. Browning-Ferris Industries of New York, Inc.*, 221 F. Supp. 2d 406 (W.D.N.Y. 2002)
- *O'Brien v. Appomattox County*, 213 F. Supp. 2d 627 (W.D. Va. 2002)
- *Synagro v. Rush Township*, 204 F. Supp. 2d 827 (M.D. Pa. 2002)
- *Cheminova A/S v. Griffin L.L.C.*, 182 F. Supp. 2d 68 (D.D.C. 2002)