



John H. Paul

Principal

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John's practice focuses on environmental and energy law, project development, and environmental quality review of project proposals.

He assists clients in permitting, regulatory compliance, and enforcement matters involving waste management and disposal, hazardous wastes, bulk storage, wastewater, and air emissions. He advises clients with regard to remediation of contaminated properties and brownfield development, particularly on properties involving multiple ownership interests and complicated histories. He also advises and represents property owners and developers with regard to laws governing the development and use of waterfront and wetland properties.

John works with project development teams in planning, permitting, contracting, and transactions in support of large-scale development. This work has included energy and transmission projects on brownfields and municipally-owned properties, as well as submarine and wetland installations. Environmental impact review is a fundamental part of this work, and John helps clients manage the process to streamline review in support of reliable and defensible agency approvals.

John's litigation practice includes federal and state class action defense, cost recovery, enforcement defense, and defense of citizen suits on behalf of site owners and operators, municipalities, and past owners of contaminated properties.

While at Pace University School of Law, John was awarded the White Plains Bar Association's Environmental Law Scholar Award. He served as Managing Editor of the Pace Environmental Law Review for 2002-2003. Before entering law school, John served in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Republic of Moldova, where he was an Associate Professor of English at the Moldovan state university.

Education

- Boston University (B.A., 1990)
 - English
- Pace University (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2003)

Bar Admissions

- New York

- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals - Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court – Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court – Eastern District of New York

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources
- New York State Bar Association, Environmental Law Section

Honors & Awards

- *Chambers and Partners – USA*, ranked Band 4 in Environmental Law (2021-2023)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, a Best Lawyers® publication, recognition in Environmental Law (2023-2024)
- *The Legal 500*, recognized in Environmental Litigation (2022, 2023)
- *The Legal 500*, recognized in Environmental Regulatory Law (2021)
- *Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters*, New York Super Lawyer (2016-2023)
- *Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters*, New York Rising Star (2013-2014)

Languages

- Romanian (proficiency)

Representative Matters

Project Development

John represented five cities, a village, and two sewer districts that cooperated on a unique regional solution to reduce combined sewer overflows from all of their systems into the Hudson River. He helped create and organize a local development corporation and set up two inter-municipal agreements, which allowed the municipalities to start work on projects that are making a significant difference in the river's water quality.

Site Remediation

John helped several property owners and responsible parties clean up historically contaminated properties under brownfield programs and administrative consent orders, ensuring that his clients' responsibilities were appropriately defined while putting the properties back to productive use. The

project required strong communication to manage the interests and legal positions of the government, property owners, and past users of the site.

Permitting

John was part of a team that secured permits and property authorizations for an underwater power cable from New Jersey to Brooklyn. The route crossed a patchwork of physical and legal territories, and his team crafted a sequence of permits and contracts that were issued successfully under strict time pressure to start construction.