



Paul E. Hagen

Principal

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Paul helps clients navigate complex environmental requirements across the product life-cycle.

He works with leading companies to anticipate and comply with product-related environmental requirements in the U.S. and in key markets worldwide. He has represented U.S. business interests in the negotiation and implementation of regional and global environmental agreements that drive national environmental legislation related to the circular economy, chemicals, and products.

Basel Convention and Circular Economy

Paul serves as a strategic advisor to companies on new circular economy initiatives and requirements with a focus on scaling up product reuse and materials recovery. He regularly advises on requirements governing transboundary shipments of used products and materials for reuse and recycling. For more than two decades, he has represented information and communications technology (ICT) clients in the negotiation and implementation of international waste shipment controls and trade bans arising under the Basel Convention, OECD Council Decision, and U.S. bilateral agreements. He participates in working groups under the Basel Convention on the management of e-waste, batteries, and other recyclables.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Paul advises companies on compliance with expanding EPR laws governing the management of used and end-of-life electronic equipment, batteries, medical devices, unwanted pharmaceuticals, and plastic packaging in the U.S. and in other countries. He has advised clients on the successful launch of regional and global product take-back and recycling programs.

Market Access Legislation

Paul provides compliance advice on a wide range of market access legislation for products subject to RoHS and other material restrictions, energy efficiency mandates, product design requirements, and labeling.

Responsible Supply Chains

Paul also advises a diverse group of companies on due diligence, supply chain communication, and disclosure requirements related to the responsible supply chains and sourcing of timber, conflict minerals, and other raw materials.

Conservation Leadership

Paul is active with many of the country's leading conservation organizations. He serves as Vice Board Chair of the Conservation Fund which, since its founding, has protected over 9 million acres of natural lands and working landscapes. Paul also serves on advisory councils for Manomet, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), and NatureServe. He is a past board chair of the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and Chesapeake Conservancy. He has also served on the boards of the American Bird Conservancy and World Environment Center (WEC). Paul has advised non-profit clients on the conservation of whales, albatross and seabirds, and on sustainable fisheries management.

Education

- Providence College (B.A., 1986)
- American University (J.D., 1990)

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New York

Professional Affiliations

- U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB) Environmental Committee, Co-Chair
- The Environmental Forum (ELI) Advisory Board
- American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL)
- Washington College of Law at American University (Washington, DC; Geneva, Switzerland), former adjunct professor

Honors & Awards

- *Chambers and Partners - USA*, Band 2 in Environmental Law (2016-2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, a Best Lawyers® publication, Environmental "Lawyer of the Year" in Washington, DC (2019)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, a Best Lawyers® publication, recognition in Environmental Law (2013-2025)

- Recognition in *Who's Who Legal – Environment & Climate*, a publication of Lexology (2016-2019; 2022-2024)
- *Super Lawyers*, part of Thomson Reuters, Washington, DC, Super Lawyer (2009-2020)
- *The Legal 500*, recognition in Environmental Regulatory Law (2013; 2020-2024)
 - Leading Lawyer for Environmental Regulatory Law

Representative Matters

Paul's experience includes:

- Serving as a strategic advisor on responsible sourcing, circular economy and sustainability initiatives for leading information technology companies.
- Representing the U.S. electronics industry in negotiations at the global level under the Basel Convention on the classification and management of used equipment shipped across borders for repair, reuse and recycling, including participation in various expert working groups preparing technical guidance and negotiating changes to the scope of wastes covered by the Convention.
- Advising leading pharmaceutical companies on the operation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes governing the management of unused medicines, sharps and medical devices in the U.S. and other countries.
- Advising a leading lithium-ion battery recycler on the cross-border movement of EV batteries and related materials for recovery.
- Advising a Fortune 100 company on ambitious circular economy initiatives and related plastics regulation.
- Representing the U.S. chemical industry in the negotiation and implementation of the global Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and related regional agreements targeting persistent, bioaccumulative toxic chemicals.
- Representing U.S. grocery manufacturers in the negotiation and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Advising a leading semiconductor manufacturer on facility operations and product compliance issues in the U.S. and in Asia.
- Representing the U.S. electronics industry in negotiations to revise the OECD Decision governing the transboundary movement of e-waste for recycling among OECD member countries.
- Advising a U.S. contractor on requirements governing the cleanup of hazardous and other wastes generated in Antarctica.

- Counseling a leading non-profit on legal strategies for preserving the global moratorium on commercial whaling under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW).