



## Paul E. Hagen

Principal

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### **Paul advises clients on complex environmental requirements across the product life-cycle.**

He works with clients to anticipate and comply with product-related environmental measures in the U.S. and in key markets worldwide. Paul's work includes advising leading electronics, pharmaceutical and consumer goods companies on responsible sourcing, market access for products, and management of used and end-of-life products. He represents U.S. business interests in the negotiation and implementation of regional and global environmental agreements that inform national environmental legislation, with an emphasis on international trade and the circular economy.

### **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 numerous expert working groups under the Basel Convention and regularly advises on evolving waste shipment controls governing the classification and management of e-waste, lithium-ion and other batteries, waste plastics and textiles.

### **Global Agreements on Chemicals, Biotechnology Trade and Plastics Pollution**

Paul has represented clients in negotiations and advised on requirements arising under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity. He has advised companies on the requirements of marine pollution agreements under MARPOL and represents clients in negotiations for a new global agreement addressing plastics pollution.

### **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 the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and Manomet. 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**

- World Economic Forum Green Trade Steering Committee
- U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB) Environmental Committee, past 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 (2016-2025)
- *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 *Lexology Index – Environment & Climate* (2016-2019; 2022-2025)
- *Super Lawyers*, part of Thomson Reuters, Washington, DC, Super Lawyer (2009-2020)
- *The Legal 500*, recognition in Environmental Regulatory Law (2013; 2020-2025)
  - Leading Lawyer for Environmental Regulatory Law

## Representative Matters

Paul's experience includes:

- Advising a leading data center operator on the development and implementation of world-wide compliance programs for the classification and management of used and end-of-life hardware and related data center equipment.
- Advising a leading lithium-ion battery recycler on the cross-border waste shipment controls in the EU and in the U.S. governing the classification and management of used EV batteries and black mass for recovery of critical minerals.
- Representing the U.S. electronics industry in negotiations at the global level to preserve the non-waste status of used ICT equipment managed for repair, refurbishment, and re-use under the Basel Convention.
- 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 as part of a successful strategy to preserve a non-hazardous "green" listing for low risk electronic waste.
- Representing the U.S. electronics industry in negotiations to update Basel Convention waste listings for electrical and electronic waste, including the delineation of e-wastes that are to be classified as hazardous, those to be classified as non-hazardous, and waste components and fractions that fall outside the scope of international waste shipment controls.

- Advising pharmaceutical companies on the successful launch and 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 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.
- Advising a leading semiconductor manufacturer on facility operations and product compliance issues in the U.S. and Asia.
- Advising a U.S. contractor on requirements for 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).