



Paula J. Schauwecker

Principal

pschauwecker@bdlaw.com

+1.212.702.5407

825 Third Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY, 10022

Paula brings leadership, sound judgment, creativity, and strategic thinking to complex problem-solving.

Paula's practice focuses on complex litigation in which she represents industrial manufacturing and refining companies in toxic torts, product liability suits, and suits brought under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and other similar statutes. Clients seek Paula for her consensus-building skills in joint defense or other multi-party groups.

Paula primarily works on cases concerning groundwater contamination and impacts on drinking water wells. Clients highly value her significant experience and skill working with experts on issues related to causation, source identification, natural resource damages, remediation and repair, project management, and the fate and transport of contaminants in many types of media.

Paula understands her clients' business needs and litigation goals. She helps her clients manage risks in the manner best suited to their company's overall strategy. She finds the practice of environmental law empowering, having the tools and credentials to uncover good solutions for difficult challenges.

Paula has been active in firm-wide leadership positions since becoming a shareholder at B&D. In addition to serving as B&D's Diversity Principal, Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and a member of the firm's Management Committee, in 2019, Paula led the creation and launch of B&D University (BDU) – the firm's internal professional development curriculum on substantive legal skills and additional skills such as client service, leadership, business development, and marketing.

In 2020, Paula took on the firm's inaugural role of Chief Talent Officer. In that role, she was responsible for coordinating and leading the firm's attorney talent recruiting, retention, and development efforts and working with the Management Committee, Chiefs, and Managers to create a collaborative and supportive environment and to build a workplace that fosters employee engagement and supports the Firm's business objectives and values. Paula helped transition that role to a new CTO in 2024 in order to return to full-time practice, but remains involved in attorney training, recruiting, and retention through her work as a mentor and on firm-wide committees.

Her casework includes:

- Coordinating expert strategy and numerous expert reports regarding potential impacts to drinking water resources from thousands of sites and across multiple municipal and hydrogeologic boundaries where she helped her client negotiate a very favorable outcome before trial on the strength of the expert reports and legal arguments supported by them.
- Creating and executing a plan to bring her client into compliance with document preservation and production obligations while it was undergoing significant and stressful change that was efficient, targeted, and thorough, paying special attention to the political and business-related tensions at the company, and succeeded in bringing the client into compliance and put them in a good position for responding to discovery and creating a strong defense going forward.

Paula's research while at the Yale School of the Environment focused on land use and land use planning, including hydrogeology, wetland analysis, and restoration. She has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pace Law School, where she taught courses in Land Use Law, Environmental Litigation, and Toxic Torts.

Education

- State University of New York - Empire State (B.S.)
 - Business and Environmental Studies
- Yale University (M.E.M.)
 - School of the Environment
- Pace University (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2002)

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia

Clerkships

- The Honorable Nina Gershon, United States District Judge in the Eastern District of New York

Court Admissions

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

Professional Affiliations

- New York State Bar Association
- American Bar Association, Section on Environment, Energy and Resources

- Board of Editors for Natural Resources and Environment

Community Involvement

Paula has served on the firm's Management Committee and as the firm's Diversity & Inclusion principal and Diversity & Inclusion Committee Co-Chair. She is committed to B&D's ongoing leadership in diversity and inclusion, particularly in the environmental legal profession, and served as the Corporate Secretary for the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. She also served as a Planning Board Member for the Town/Village of Harrison, N.Y., as the Chair of the Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District, and on the Board of Directors for the Victory Institute.

Honors & Awards

- *Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters*, New York Super Lawyer (2013-2024)
- *Who's Who Legal, part of Law Business Research Ltd.*, recognition in Environmental Law (2016-2017)
- *Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters*, New York Rising Star (2011-2012)

Outside the Office

An avid golfer, Paula is a member of the LPGA Amateur Golf Association, a non-profit organization that supports women's and girls' leadership development through golf.

Before pursuing her legal career, Paula was a successful singer and songwriter, playing guitar and singing in venues in North Louisiana and Texas. She started and ran a successful corporate gift marketing company in Dallas, TX and was featured in articles in the New York Times and Inc. Magazine. This previous experience, in addition to growing up in a military family that traveled extensively, enhances her ability to approach problems in a creative and interdisciplinary way.