



Thomas "Tap" P. Kolkin

Of Counsel

tkolkin@bdlaw.com

+1.410.230.1352

201 North Charles Street, Suite 2210, Baltimore, MD, 21201-4150

With nearly a decade of experience at DOJ, Tap helps clients navigate complex environmental enforcement and compliance matters.

Tap applies his years of government experience to identify and mitigate compliance risks, advise on regulatory issues, and resolve problems when they arise. Tap litigates complex civil disputes including enforcement defense matters, citizen suits, and mass tort actions. Additionally, Tap employs his understanding of federal government processes to help clients navigate nuanced questions of environmental law.

Prior to joining B&D, Tap served as a Trial Attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Environment & Natural Resources Division, where he handled matters arising under the major environmental pollution statutes. Tap led civil enforcement case teams in various Clean Air Act (CAA) matters involving natural gas processing, chemical manufacturing, and aftermarket auto parts. He negotiated and drafted consent decrees under both the CAA and Clean Water Act (CWA), involving detailed injunctive relief packages, mitigation, and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), and enforced stormwater and industrial wastewater permit requirements under the CWA. Tap also secured substantial cost recoveries in matters arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) in a wide variety of contexts, including hard-rock mines, landfills, and lead-contaminated residential properties, and has handled cost recovery matters under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

Prior to working at DOJ, Tap clerked for the Honorable Richard D. Bennett, where he drafted opinions and bench memoranda on federal law issues, including those involving the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). During law school, he served in the University of Maryland's Consumer Protection Clinic, the EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement, the EPA Office of Compliance, and the Major Investigations Unit at the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City.

Education

- Yale University (B.A., *cum laude*, 2007)
 - History
- University of Maryland School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2013)
 - Order of the Coif

- *Maryland Law Review*, Notes & Comments Editor

Bar Admissions

- Maryland

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals – Fourth Circuit
- Federal District Court for the District of Maryland

Community Involvement

- Samuel Ready Scholarships Board Member
- Maryland Lacrosse Club, Vice President, Coach (multiple teams)
- Yale Alumni Schools Committee

Honors & Awards

- Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney General's Award for Excellence, 2022
- Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Enforcement Section Award, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023

Publications

May 8, 2025

Maryland General Assembly Passes Key Environmental and Energy Legislation in Spring 2025 Session, Including EPR for Packaging and Solar Permitting Reforms

Beveridge & Diamond

April 10, 2025

Maryland's Building Energy Performance Standards: Recent Legislative Amendments Could Impact Looming Compliance Deadline

Beveridge & Diamond

January 29, 2025

Outlook for Trump Administration Environment, Energy, and Natural Resource Regulation, Enforcement & Litigation

Beveridge & Diamond

December 18, 2024

Environmental Enforcement Update: Supplemental Environmental Projects and Mitigation in the Second Trump Administration

Beveridge & Diamond

December 18, 2024

Environmental Enforcement Update: What to Expect In the Second Trump Administration

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