



## Craig Galli

### Senior Counsel

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**Craig advises clients operating in a range of industries on complex regulatory compliance issues and defends corporations and individuals in civil and criminal environmental and natural resources litigation.**

Craig has handled more than 50 litigation matters to judgment and uses his skills as a former Senior Trial Attorney with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, DC, to litigate and settle enforcement actions and other civil and criminal litigation. Craig is widely published on various environmental compliance and ethics issues.

**Environmental and Natural Resources Litigation.** Craig has defended companies in the mining, energy, transportation, defense contractor, land development, and manufacturing industry sectors in a variety of environmental enforcement actions, citizen suits, and cost recovery actions in state and federal court and before administrative agencies in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Washington, and other states. Craig cut his teeth in environmental litigation as a young DOJ trial lawyer litigating the nine-month Love Canal trial in Buffalo, New York.

**Government and Internal Investigations.** Craig has led internal investigations and defended companies subject to high-profile civil and criminal government investigations. Many of these cases involved sensitive whistleblower allegations.

**Complex Compliance, Permitting and Due Diligence Matters.** Craig represents clients on complex permitting and compliance matters under the Clean Water Act, RCRA, CERCLA, and NEPA, and assists with environmental due diligence involving mining, renewable energy, electric transmission, carbon sequestration projects. Craig has led teams preparing project-sponsor prepared environmental impact statements under the new NEPA rules. He also routinely advises corporate clients on enhancing compliance programs, and developing compliance procedures, and training programs.

**International Legal Matters.** With assistance from local foreign counsel, Craig has advised on natural resources project development and compliance matters for multinational mining and manufacturing clients in Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Brazil. Craig speaks fluent Spanish.

## EXPERIENCE

Counsels clients on and litigates cases involving:

## PRACTICES

Environmental Litigation  
Wildlife and Protected Species  
Climate Change  
Site Remediation  
Environmental Health and Safety  
Federal Lands Permitting  
Environmental Transactions  
Environmental  
International Services  
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)  
Government Investigations and White Collar Defense

## INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources  
Aerospace and Defense  
Food, Beverage, and Consumer Products  
Oil and Gas  
Mining  
Oil and Gas Litigation  
Oil and Gas Regulatory  
Renewable Energy and Storage

## EDUCATION

Columbia University, J.D., 1987  
Head Articles Editor, *Columbia Journal of Environmental Law*  
Certificate of High Distinction, Columbia Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law  
  
Brigham Young University, M.A., 1984  
  
Brigham Young University, B.A., 1982  
*cum laude*  
High Honors

## BAR ADMISSIONS

Utah

## **COURT ADMISSIONS**

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth  
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second  
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of  
Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth  
Circuit

- Environmental and natural resources permitting
- Compliance
- Contaminated property
- Due diligence
- Environmental insurance
- Environmental audits and management systems
- International environmental law matters

Subject matter expertise includes:

- Clean Water Act
- NEPA
- RCRA
- CERCLA
- TSCA
- Lacey Act
- Historic preservation
- Wetlands
- Whistleblowers
- Government debarment actions
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) reporting
- Carbon sequestration

## **CLIENT RESULTS**

Lead outside counsel in defending major oil company in federal and state government enforcement actions in aftermath of major urban oil spill.

Developed compliance plans to settle major criminal enforcement actions under the Lacey Act.

Successful defense and settlement of civil and criminal enforcement actions, and Department of Interior suspension and debarment action against oil and gas producer involving 150 counts of false submissions and tampering with regulated monitoring equipment.

Successful permitting under Clean Water Act § 404 of complex projects in Utah, Nevada, and Southern California.

Successfully defended in federal court challenges under National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act of major highway improvement project in Idaho.

Defense of real estate developer in criminal enforcement action for intentionally filling wetlands to develop large commercial project.

Defense of manufacturing company in a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste criminal enforcement action with

criminal charges dropped and civil settlement.

Successful defense of government contractor in EPA and FBI criminal investigation of false reporting with all charges dropped.

Largely successful defense of major groundwater development project in Nevada from challenges brought by multiple environmental groups and Native American tribes.

Largely successful defense of geothermal power plant project in California from challenges brought by multiple environmental groups and Native American tribes.

Represented Chinese entity in environmental due diligence in successful acquisition of major industrial facility.

Successful permitting and defense of Department of Defense chemical weapons demilitarization program in multiple litigation matters in federal district courts, United States Court of Appeals, and before state administrative agencies.

## PUBLICATIONS

"Receding Waters: How the New WOTUS Definition Reduces Clean Water Act Jurisdiction," *Environmental Law Update*, November 20, 2025

"Key Takeaways from the EPA and the Corps' New WOTUS Guidance Memo," *Environmental Update*, March 17, 2025

"*Marin Audubon* Should Not Upend the NEPA Process," *Holland & Hart NEPA Update*, November 14, 2024

"ESG Reporting and Investing: The 'Nudge' Needed to Stumble Toward a Circular Economy," *37 Natural Resources & Environment* 1, Summer 2022

"Buckle Up for the SEC's Mandatory Climate Change Reporting Ride," *Holland & Hart News Update*, March 25, 2022

"DOJ Announces Significant Changes to Corporate Criminal Enforcement Policies," *Holland & Hart News Update*, November 9, 2021

"ESG Reporting: Why You Need To Care," *Utah Business*, October 21, 2021

"A Compliance Crisis Is a Terrible Thing to Waste," *30 Nat. Res & Env't* 8, Winter 2016

"Internal Investigations of Environmental Crimes," *45 Env'tl. L. Rep.* 10350, Apr. 2015

"Methodology and Ethics of Internal Investigations of Environmental Crimes—Domestic and International Considerations," *61 Rocky Mt. Min. L. Inst.* 24-1, 2015

"Getting Into Hot Water: Current Hot Topics in Geothermal Development,"

55 *Rocky Mt. Min. L. Inst.* 6-1, 2009

"UTAH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW HANDBOOK, 3d Ed.," *Government Institutes*, 2003

"The Politics, Science and Law of Sprawl," *ABA-SEER*, Vol. 2, No. 1, May 2002

"Olympic Winter Games and the Environment," *Trends, ABA-SEER*, Vol. 33, No. 4, March 2002

"Peruvian Environmental Requirements Applicable to the Mining Industry," *International Environmental Law Newsletter, ABA-SEER*, Vol. 3, No. 4, May 2001

"Meeting the Evolving Environmental Protection Challenge and Concerns of Indigenous Peoples," *ABA-SEER*, October 1997

"Emerging Environmental Law in Latin America: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead," 43 *Rocky Mt. Min. L. Inst.* 10-1, 1997

"ISO 14000 and Environmental Management Systems in a Nutshell," 9 *Utah Bar J.* 15, 1996

"Environmental Auditing In a Nutshell," 8 *Utah Bar J.* 9, 1995

"Review of Applicable Statutes, Regulations and Court Decisions Regarding the Responsibilities and Liabilities of Federal Agencies and Federal Employees," Rep. No. 127, *Federal Construction Council, National Academy of Sciences*, 1994

"CERCLA: What Businesses Should Know About the Law of the Land," *Utah Bus.*, 1993

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Ethical Considerations During and After the NEPA Project Development Phase," *The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law, Special Institute on the National Environmental Policy Act, Presenter*, Washington, D.C., 03/16/2023

"Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Reporting," *Webinar, Utah Business Magazine*, 10/27/2021

"A Conversation With Renewable Energy Leaders," *Utah Business Magazine*, 10/20/2021

## **RECOGNITION**

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Environmental Law – Salt Lake City, 2014
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Environmental – Salt Lake City, 2013
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Environmental Law 2001-

2011; Environmental Law, Litigation – Environmental, 2012-2019

- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Environmental Litigation, 2007-2014, 2016-2018
- *Chambers USA; America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Energy & Natural Resources, 2010-2013
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah Legal Elite, Environmental/Land Use, 2006, 2008; Environmental, 2017-2018
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Local Litigation Star, 2009-2020
- Martindale-Hubbell®, AV Preeminent® Rating
- American Inns of Court, Master of the Bench
- Utah State Bar Energy, Natural Resources and Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year, 2000
- U.S. Department of Justice, Special Achievement Award, 1990

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Utah State Bar, Member
- Audubon Rockies, Board Member, since 2021
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Former Vice Chair, Member
- Salt Lake City Planning Commission, Former Commissioner
- Salt Lake City Land Use Appeals Board, Former Board Member
- Legal Aid Society of Utah, Former Board Member
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society, Former International Board Member
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, South America South Area, Area Legal Counsel, 2013-2015
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Spain Barcelona Mission, Mission President, 2018-2021
- Adjunct Professor teaching environmental law, public lands and natural resources law, international environmental law, energy law, business ethics for lawyers, and corporate compliance and legal risk management at Brigham Young University and the University of Utah