



## James Spaanstra

Partner

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**Clients turn to Jim for sound environmental counsel on complex permitting regimes and guidance to navigate the energy transition.**

### PRACTICES

Environmental Health and Safety  
Environmental Litigation  
Climate Change  
Zoning and Land Use  
Site Remediation  
Environmental  
Environmental Transactions  
Real Estate

### INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources  
Renewable Energy and Storage  
Construction and Development  
Conventional Power

### EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D.  
Grand Valley State University, B.S.  
With highest honors

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Jim counsels energy and natural resource clients on permitting, compliance, and environmental enforcement matters. Clients benefit from Jim's extensive experience permitting complex projects in the Mountain West involving complicated environmental issues. He leverages this experience to help companies build defensible permitting records and remain in compliance with ever-changing environmental regulatory regimes.

Jim provides sophisticated guidance to clients with solid and hazardous waste operations on a variety of matters including project siting, permitting, operation, and remediation of commercial waste management facilities. He advises industrial and commercial clients on the sale and acquisition of environmentally challenged properties to protect their investments, and minimize and mitigate liabilities. Jim has helped multiple jurisdictions establish voluntary brownfields and clean-up initiatives throughout the country.

### EXPERIENCE

James has experience counseling clients on the following federal laws and their state counterparts:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)

### PUBLICATIONS

"The July 1 Deadline Approaches for Participation in the Colorado Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program," *Environmental Update*, June 27, 2025

"October 1 Deadline for Producers to Register under Colorado's New Recycling System is Fast Approaching," *Environmental Update*, September 25, 2024

## RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA*, Environment, Tier 1, 2005-2025
- American College of Environmental Lawyers — Fellow, 2009-present; Regent 2015-2018; 2024-present
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Environmental Litigation, 2017; Environmental Law, 2007-2017, 2020-2021, 2025
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year Environmental Law - Denver, 2012; Environmental Litigation - Denver, 2017
- *Lawdragon*, 500 Leading Environmental Lawyers – The Green 500, 2023-2025
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Environmental and Energy Lawyers, 2021
- *Law Week Colorado*, Barrister's Best: People's Choice, Best Environmental Lawyer, 2019

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- American College of Environmental Lawyers
  - Regent, 2015-2018; 2024-present
  - Fellow, 2009-present
- Colorado Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission, Commissioner, 2024-present
- Colorado School of Mines
  - Chair of the Board of Trustees, 2010-2017
  - Board of Trustees, 2008-2017
- Great Outdoors Colorado
  - Treasurer, 2010-2014
  - Board of Trustees, 2009-2016
  - Vice-Chair of Board, 2014-2015
  - Executive Director, 2016-2017
- Jefferson County — Colorado Planning Commission
  - Chairman, 2004-2009
  - Member, 2002-2009