



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

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

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

"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, 2005-present, Tier 1
- 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