



Charles D. Grieco

Member

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Profile

Charles has years of broad-based and expansive experience in managing and resolving environmental issues for his clients.

His rich knowledge of environmental laws and regulations provides a legal advantage to his clients. He has the know-how to establish long-term relationships and the resources to tackle problems and develop durable solutions to meet his client's diverse legal needs. He routinely and successfully represents clients in:

- environmental litigation
- environmental compliance
- land use planning/environmental review
- municipal law

Charles counsels and represents clients with zoning and environmental review procedures under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and National Environmental Policy Act and has extensive experience in general municipal law. He currently acts as attorney of record for the Village of Williamsville and serves as counsel to several other local towns and municipalities.

Representative Matters

- Successfully represented chemical manufacturing client in major CERCLA cost recovery suit, involving multiple trials and two appeals to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, resulting in the client shifting the majority of on-going cleanup costs to other responsible parties.
- Drafted solid waste management law for municipal client and successfully defended a challenge to that law in New York State court.
- Successfully negotiated resolution of EPA compliance order alleging violations of Federal Clean Water Act Pre-Treatment Standards on behalf of manufacturing client.
- Successfully represented not-for-profit housing developer in cost recovery litigation related to cleanup of petroleum contamination. Assisted client in negotiating cleanup of historical contamination associated with former gas station and recovered those costs, including attorneys fees, from responsible party
- Represented large municipal client in successfully pursuing claims against bankrupt former steel manufacturers to fund cleanup of major brownfield site,

Education

- University at Buffalo School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 1995)
- Columbia University (M.A. 1992)
- Colgate University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1989)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York

Practices

- Property
- Environmental and Energy
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Municipalities
- Toxic Tort and Environmental Litigation
- The Cannabis Industry

which is now being put back to productive use as largest solar panel manufacturing plant in the United States

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in
 - *Chambers USA* 2025, Environmental – Upstate New York
 - *Chambers USA* 2024, Environmental – Upstate New York
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2023-2026, Environmental Law; Land Use and Zoning Law; Municipal Law
 - *New York Super Lawyers*®, Environmental, 2025 (listed for more than 10 years)
 - *Buffalo Business First*, 2015 Legal Elite of WNY
- New York State Bar Association, Environmental Committee; State and Local Government Committee
- Erie County Bar Association, Environmental Committee, Past Chair; Municipal Committee
- Executive Editor, *Buffalo Law Review*, 1994-95
- Recipient, Max Koren Award

Representative Presentations

- Business "Summer Fun" Series - Breweries - An Interview with Chip Grieco and Jennifer Tsyn, Legally Bond Podcast, July 18, 2022
- Negotiation and Termination of Distribution Contracts, New York State Brewers Conference, March 10, 2022
- Issues Affecting Craft Alcohol Beverage Manufacturers, Bar Association of Erie County, March 3, 2017
- Preservation Fundamentals, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Town of Clarence Historic Preservation Commission, April 29-30, 2016

Representative Publications

- "Due Dates for Taxes Operational Reports Postponed For Breweries," *NewYorkCraftBeer.com*, April 6, 2020
- "Why Your Brewery Shouldn't Make CBD-Infused Beer," *NewYorkCraftBeer.com*, August 20, 2019
- "Is Your Brewery Website ADA Compliant?," *NewYorkCraftBeer.com*, January 28, 2019
- "Does Your Brewery Comply with the New NYS Sexual Harassment Policy?," *NewYorkCraftBeer.com*, September 11, 2018
- Quoted in "Sludge Indicative of Larger Issues," *Buffalo Law Journal*, September 18, 2017
- Quoted in "WNY Schools Combat Lead Contamination in Water," *Buffalo Business First*, November 11, 2016

- "The "Mimosa Law" Is About More Than Sunday Brunch: Part 1 – No More Solicitor Permits," *NewYorkCraftBeer.com*, September 11, 2016
- "Water, Water Everywhere - But is it Safe to Drink?" *Buffalo Law Journal*, September 19, 2016
- Quoted in "New York's Craft Beverage Industry Moves Forward," *Buffalo Law Journal*, July 1, 2016

Other Activities

- The City of Buffalo Environmental Management Commission, Commissioner
- NYS Chemistry Council, Board of Directors and Government Affairs Committee Member
- Western New York Book Arts Collaborative, Former Board Member, Active Member
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Former Board Member, Member of Legal Committee
- Preservation Buffalo Niagara, Board of Directors, Pro Bono Legal Work
- Congress for the New Urbanism National Conference, Program Committee Chair, 2014
- Leadership Buffalo Graduate, 2005
- City Honors Crew, Director