



Sarah K. Spencer

Member

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Profile

Sarah counsels clients in federal and state environmental and energy matters, including those related to water pollution control, solid and hazardous waste management, air quality, Brownfields and remediation, petroleum and chemical storage, and issues involving emerging contaminants. Sarah also is experienced in energy facility siting, including proceedings under Article VII of the Public Service Law and renewable energy facility development.

In addition to environmental compliance matters, Sarah also assists clients in resolving environmental enforcement proceedings arising under federal and state statutes (Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act), and is experienced in litigation arising under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Laws and Rules and the New York State Navigation Law. In addition, she assists clients in complying with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review process associated with environmental permitting and land use matters and analyzes land use permitting issues associated with project development. Sarah also has experience with real estate and land use matters, including subdivision, use and area variance application and zoning regulation compliance work.

While studying law, Sarah completed internships with the Hon. Eugene M. Fahey of the New York State Court of Appeals in Buffalo and the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office. Prior to law school, Sarah was engaged in environmental due diligence matters for an environmental consulting firm.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *The Best Lawyers in America®*: Ones to Watch, Real Estate Law, 2025
 - *New York Super Lawyers®* Rising Star, Environmental, 2022-2024
- Member, New York State Bar Association, Environmental and Energy Law Section; Member, Global Climate Change Committee
- Member, Niagara Frontier Section of Air & Waste Management Association
- Member, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter
- Distinguished Amicus Service Award, International Municipal Lawyers Association

Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2016)
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (M.P.S. in Forest and Natural Resource Management 2016)
- State University of New York at Buffalo (B.A. in Environmental Studies 2012)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York

Practices

- Environmental and Energy

- Dorn Sparrow Scholarship, advanced property law certificate, Syracuse University College of Law

Representative Publications

- "SEQRA Lead Agency Dispute Means Trouble for the Mining Industry," *Material Matters*, New York Construction Materials Association, Inc., Fall 2022.

Other Activities

- Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee, 2021-2022