



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, wetland regulation, and issues involving emerging contaminants.

Sarah has extensive experience in energy generation, transmission, and distribution facility siting (electric, gas, and renewable), and is on the forefront of the evolving regulatory framework in New York State. Sarah understands Articles VII and VIII of the Public Service Law and regularly appears in proceedings before the Public Service Commission and the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. Sarah also assists clients with Energy Broker and Energy Consultant registration and compliance and all other aspects of consumer facing energy services.

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 large-scale project development. Sarah also has experience with real estate and land use matters, including subdivision, use and area variance application, zoning regulation compliance work, and reciprocal easement agreements. Sarah assists clients with environmental due diligence associated with business transactions, including purchase and sale agreements and asset transfer agreements.

Sarah also has experience with the mining and construction materials industry, including the Mined Land Reclamation Law permitting process and local land use regulation of the mining industry.

Prior to beginning her legal career, Sarah worked on environmental due diligence matters for an environmental consulting firm.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:

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

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch, Real Estate Law, 2026
- *New York Super Lawyers*® Rising Star, Environmental, 2022-2025
- 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
- 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