



Virginia C. Robbins

Of Counsel

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Profile

Virginia chaired the firm's environmental and energy practice from 2000 to 2016 and was a member of the firm's management committee from 2014 to 2015 and 2004 to 2005.

She is experienced in advising clients on state and federal regulatory compliance issues, particularly in the areas of air and water pollution control and solid and hazardous waste management. Virginia has experience in the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, for example, major and minor source permitting strategies, negotiation of special conditions establishing emission caps, Title V applicability and operational flexibility, and new source review issues. She advises owners and operators of solid waste management facilities, many of which include landfill gas-to-energy plants, on a variety of air quality and solid waste compliance matters, particularly in the context of facility siting and expansions.

Virginia has counseled clients involved in electric power generation and development projects on environmental impact reviews under Article X of the Public Service Law, air permit/compliance matters, carbon dioxide allowances and Acid Rain program applicability, and the burning of alternative fuels. She has represented wind energy facility owners in obtaining special permits and variances needed for the siting of wind energy conversion system facilities.

Virginia has managed significant RCRA corrective action and state and federal Superfund matters, including the negotiation of RCRA Corrective Measures Orders, remedial investigation/remedial design Consent Orders, and access easements. She has also advised clients extensively on real estate transactions involving contaminated properties, including relative to the opportunities under New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program. Virginia regularly counsels both municipal clients and developers on compliance with environmental impact reviews under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Virginia has arranged programs and spoken on a variety of environmental law topics, for example: Program Co-Chair, State Bar Leaders Summit on Climate Change, June 17, 2016, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School; Panel Member, Gaming Casinos: Learn from the Past to Prepare for the Future, New York State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, January 30, 2015; Program Co-Chair and Panel Moderator, Continuing Legal Education Program for Annual Meeting of the New York State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section, January 30, 2015; Program Co-Chair for the Fall 2014 meeting of

Education

- Rutgers University (J.D., *with honors*, 1986)
- Middlebury College (M.A. 1972)
- Rutgers University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1971)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

NYSBA's Environmental and Municipal Law Sections regarding, "Update on Environmental Impact Review Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and New York's Marcellus Shale Gas Regulatory Program;" Presenter, Legal Regulatory Update, Central New York Chapter Air & Waste Management Association, December 16, 2014; Panel Member, Legal Perspective: Environmental Auditing, O'Brien & Gere and Bond, Schoeneck & King Seminar, Changes in the Air – An Update on Emerging Air Quality Regulations on May 21, 2013.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2020, Environmental Law (listed for 10 years)
 - *Best Lawyers' 2019 Syracuse Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Best Lawyers' 2017 Syracuse Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Best Lawyers' 2013 Syracuse Environmental Law Lawyer of the Year*
 - *Chambers USA 2019*, Environmental
 - *Martindale-Hubbell*®, AV Preeminent Rated
 - *2013 Top Rated Lawyer in Energy, Environmental, & Natural Resources*
 - *New York Super Lawyers 2019*®, Environmental (listed for more than 10 years)
 - *2014 Top 25 Female Upstate New York Super Lawyers*
 - *2013 Top 25 Female Upstate New York Super Lawyers*
- Fellow, American College of Environmental Lawyers
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources
- New York State Bar Association, Environmental and Energy Law Section, Past Chair, 2004-2005; Member, Executive Committee; Co-Chair, Global Climate Change Committee
- Central New York Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, Founding Chair, 1995-1996
- ESF College Foundation, Inc., State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Emeritus Board Member and Past President, 2005-2007
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Syracuse City Ballet, Grand Jeté Award, 2017
- WCNY, Women Who Make America Award, 2015
- YWCA, Academy of Diversity Achievers, 2015

Representative Presentations

- Nano Utica Initiative, 20th Annual Joint Technical Conference of the CNY Chapters of the Air & Waste Management Association and American Industrial Hygiene Association, March 22, 2016
- What Could Possibly Go Wrong? Assessing Environmental Compliance, Bond, Schoeneck & King CLE Program, December 9, 2105
- Panel Member, Gaming Casinos: Learn from the Past to Prepare for the Future, New York State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, January 30, 2015

- Legal Regulatory Update, Central New York Chapter Air & Waste Management Association, December 16, 2014
- Panel Member, Legal Perspective: Environmental Auditing, O'Brien & Gere and Bond, Schoeneck & King Seminar, Changes in the Air – An Update on Emerging Air Quality Regulations, March 21, 2013
- Post-Nutrient Removal Upgrades and Operations, sponsored by O'Brien & Gere for Wastewater Treatment Professionals, October 25, 2011

Other Activities

- Abby Lane Housing Corporation, Secretary and Board Member, 2015-present
 - Serving the housing needs of students at SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse
- Syracuse City Ballet, Inc., Board Member, Past President, 2013-2015
- Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, Secretary