



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

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

INDUSTRIES

Construction and Development
Conventional Power
Energy and Resources
Renewable Energy and Storage

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
- Law Week Colorado, Barrister's Best: People's Choice, Best Environmental Lawyer, 2019
- 5280 Magazine, Top Lawyer, Environmental, 2015, 2018
- American College of Environmental Lawyers — Fellow, 2009-present
- Colorado Super Lawyers — Environmental, 2006-2016, 2019, 2020; Environmental/Land Use, 2008-2011
- Colorado Super Lawyers, Colorado Top 50, 2010
- Lawdragon Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law, 2023, 2024
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Environmental and Energy Lawyers, 2021
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Environmental Law, 2007-2017, 2020-2021, 2025; Environmental Litigation, 2017
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year Environmental Law - Denver, 2012; Environmental Litigation - Denver, 2017
- International Who's Who of Environmental Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- American College of Environmental Lawyers
 - Regent, 2024-present
 - Fellow, 2009-present
- Colorado School of Mines
 - Chair of the Board, 2010-2017
 - Board of Trustees, 2008-2017
- Great Outdoors Colorado
 - Treasurer, 2010-2014
 - Board of Trustees, 2009-2016
 - Vice-Chair, 2014-2015
 - Executive Director, 2016-2017
- Colorado Hazardous Waste Management Society
 - Founding Director
- Jefferson County — Colorado Planning Commission
 - Chairman, 2004-2009
 - Member, 2002-2009