

David L. Rieser

Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

David Rieser has more than four decades of experience advising clients in all areas of environmental law, including legislative, regulatory, compliance, and law enforcement matters, corporate, commercial, and real estate transactions, governmental and private cost-recovery actions, environmental insurance coverage, and remediation of contaminated sites. David serves Fortune 100 and mid-sized companies operating in a broad range of industries, including power generation, chemicals, petroleum, steel, food and consumer products, financial services, digital infrastructure and data centers, and waste management.

In the legislative and regulatory arena, David has represented trade associations, industry groups, and individual companies in numerous matters involving the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). He also represented power generating companies in permitting and administrative proceedings, and prepared responses to agency requests for information regarding Clean Air Act (CAA) issues.

David has served as a voice for clients in drafting and negotiating regulations in Illinois, won site-specific regulatory relief from the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB), negotiated federal corrective action orders for hazardous waste facilities under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), served as common counsel for potentially responsible parties in actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and obtained no further remediation letters (NFR) under the Illinois Site remediation Program (SRP) for a number of developer and industrial clients with contaminated properties. David also represents clients in matters involving the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), including enforcement issues and lease negotiations.

David regularly counsels buyers and sellers of commercial and industrial property and businesses as well as their lenders on the assessment and allocation of environmental risks of the transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions of assets valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Recent transactions have involved assets located in Europe and the United States, as well as deals for contaminated and other properties requiring environmental remediation.

An experienced litigator, David has argued cases in federal and state courts, including a recent victory in the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, in which he represented a coalition seeking to preserve

commercial navigation in the Chicago waterways. Other matters have included cost recovery and enforcement actions.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

David serves on the Illinois Site Remediation Advisory Committee, a stakeholder group that works with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on the development of regulations for the remediation of contaminated sites. He is Vice-Chair of the Virtual Education Committee of the Section on Energy, Environmental and Resources of the American Bar Association and is on the Planning Committee for the American Bar Association 2026 Fall Conference on environmental law. He is former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lake Michigan Section of the A&WMA, and was chairman of the local host committee for the A&WMA Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Chicago in 2013.

David served as an adjunct professor in the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and at the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is regularly sought as a speaker before trade associations and industry groups, where he lectures on a broad range of environmental topics. Recent presentations have described current developments relating to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the use and protection of waterways and water resources, as well as wastewater discharges, climate change, EPA regulations, and carbon and other greenhouse gases.

Similarly, David is the author of numerous published articles, book chapters, and client alerts that analyze and discuss recent legislative, judicial, and regulatory trends. In these publications, David has helped clients and others better understand issues such as protection of trade secrets in greenhouse gas reporting, EPA waste rules involving biomass and other alternative fuels, Supreme Court and federal appellate court decisions, pharmaceutical waste management, brownfield remediation, ozone standards, coal ash rules, and environmental due diligence requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Environmental Law in Chicago, Illinois, 2027
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Environment: Mainly Transactional in Illinois, 2008-2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Environment: Transactional, 2024-2026
- Recognized by *BTI Consulting Group* as 2022 Client Service All-Star, Environmental Regulatory
- Named to Illinois Super Lawyers list ten times
- Listed as a Leading Lawyer in environmental law by the Leading Lawyers Network
- Received the Regulatory Affairs Award from the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois in 2009
- Received 2012 Perry Fisher Outstanding Service Award presented by the Lake Michigan Section of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA)

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Illinois Site Remediation Advisory Committee
- Vice-Chair, Virtual Education Committee, Section on Energy, Environment and Resources, American Bar Association
- Planning Committee, 2026 Fall Conference on Environmental Law, American Bar Association
- Former Chairman, Board of Directors of the Lake Michigan Section of the A&WMA
- Chairman, local host committee for the A&WMA Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Chicago in 2013

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “TACO 2.0, Thoughts about the Future of TACO and the SRP,” Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group Land and Water Seminar, 13 October 2026
- “Permitting Challenges in Data Center Construction: Federal and State Regulatory Update, Permitting Strategies” Webinar, Strafford Publications/BARBRI, 6 August 2026
- “Cooperative Models and Tools for Superfund Redevelopment” America Needs Land! Workshop, 8 July 2026
- "New EPA Rule Impacting Medical Device Sterilization: Strict Emissions Control, Compliance Certification, Reporting," Strafford, December 2024
- 2024 Solar Farm Summit, Panel Discussions on Energy and Land Use for Renewable Facilities
- “PHASE Is: All Appropriate Inquiry in the Time of PFAS,” Environmental Law Explored (ABA), 27 August 2024
- “Environmental Issues in Real Estate Transactions,” In house, 23 July 2024
- “PFAS & Emptiness: EPA Proposed Nine PFAS Compounds as Hazardous Constituents & Consideration for New Rules for Used Drums,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Training, 14 March 2024
- “Environmental Justice,” Chicago Drug & Chemical Association, 23 May 2023
- “Think Locally: An Approach to Environmental Justice,” Illinois Chamber of Commerce/Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, 18 April 2023
- “RCRA Stew: Definition of Solid Waste, E-Manifests, and Classification,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Training Seminar, 15 March 2023
- “The Renewable Environmental Topics on Environmental Issues for Building Renewable Facilities,” Solar Farm Summit, 14 March 2023
- “What to Expect When They're Inspecting,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois General Meeting, 2 March 2023

- "Potentially Irresponsible Parties," Panel Moderator, ABA SEER Superfund and National Resource Damage Litigation Committee, 31 January 2023
- "Gatekeeper Introduction to the Definition of Solid Waste," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Training Seminar, 24 March 2022
- "Years in the Making: EJ in the Rust Belt," Illinois Chamber of Commerce Environmental Affairs Committee, 29 September 2021
- "EJ in the Rust Belt," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois Environmental Justice Seminar, 20 May 2021
- "Emerald City: Finding Green in the Land of Oz," ABA SEER 28th Fall Conference, 22 October 2020
- "The Future of Citizen Suits: After Sierra Club v. Dominion and Before Justice Gorsuch," American Association of Railroads EWC Spring Meeting, 21 April 2017
- "Paved with Good Intentions: EPA's Definition of Solid Waste," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Training Seminar, 16 March 2017
- "Dirt and Water: Environmental Risk and Stormwater Issues in Construction Contracts," Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys, Insurance Subcommittee, 15 March 2017
- Moderated a panel on legal issues and a panel of industry experts at a conference on the Environmental Evaluation of Real Property: Purpose, Perils and Pitfalls program at the Union League Club of Chicago sponsored by the Lake Michigan Section of the Air and Waste management Association and the Union League Club, 17 January 2017
- "Law Firm Beware: Environmental Due Diligence in Corporate Transactions," firm speakers panel in CLE videoconference, 26 September 2016
- "Case Study: Remote Monitoring Issues," Lake Michigan States Section, Air and Waste Monitoring Association Air Quality Management Conference, 4 November 2015 (Moderator)
- "Chill Spills: Release Reporting for RCRA Facilities," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois, RCRA Refresher Course, 17 June 2015
- "Uncertain Ground - Dealing with Environmental Risk in Demolition and Construction Contracts," Chicago Bar Association Construction Law and Mechanics Lien Subcommittee, 4 May 2015
- "Addition by Redaction: Protection of CBI under FOIA," Illinois State Bar Association Environmental Law Conference, 1 April 2015
- "Bad Relief - Federal Issues with Variances and Provisional Variances," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois Water Issues Seminar, 25 March 2015
- "Uncertain Ground - Dealing with Environmental Risk in Demolition and Construction Contracts," Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys, 17 March 2015
- "Bells and Whistles: EPA Amends the Definition of Solid Waste," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Hot Topics Seminar, 29 January 2015

- "Doing Diligence: Changes in ASTM Standards and USEPA Regulations," Chicagoland Health and Safety Environmental Conference, 22 September 2014
- "SWMU Lagoons: Federal and State Regulation of Coal Ash Impoundments," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois RCRA Training Seminar, 18 September 2014
- "Environmental Law for Transactional Professionals," MB Financial Presentation, 5 May 2014
- "Vapor Intrusion in the Real Estate World," MuchShelist Vapor Intrusion Seminar, 19 February 2014 (Moderator)
- "Not so Fast: The Impact of New Phase I Guidelines and Vapor Intrusion Rules on Transactions," 13 January 2014
- "Still Steaming: Area Source Boiler MACT," Illinois Auditing Roundtable, 15 November 2013

EDUCATION

- J.D., Washington University School of Law, 1980
- A.B., The University of Chicago, 1977 *(General Honors)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 15 October 2026, Fifth Circuit Vacates EPA's Methylene-Chloride Risk-Management Rule Under TSCA
- 15 September 2026, Federal Court Invalidates New York Climate Change Superfund Act
- 24 August 2026, DC Circuit Upholds EPA's PFAS Hazardous-Substance Designations Under CERCLA
- 18 August 2026, There Is "Reasonable Potential" To See PFAS in Your Next NPDES Permit
- 7 May 2026, Data Center Deep Dives: Permitting, Land Use, and Community Engagement
- 14 January 2026, Navigating EPA's New Enforcement Playbook: How "Compliance First" Policy Reshapes Risk for Regulated Entities
- 4 November 2025, Sharing Is Daring: Shared Services Agreements and Operator Liability

- 29 September 2025, Permitting Reform Ahead: EPA Targets Preconstruction Rules and Retires Reactivation Policy
- 13 August 2025, Tilting for Windmills: Illinois Court Reverses Village Ban on Wind Farm Construction
- 20 May 2025, EPA Provides Update on PFAS Drinking Water Standards
- 4 March 2025, Pest Practices: EPA Uses FIFRA to Adopt Additional Operational and Workplace Controls on Ethylene Oxide
- 3 July 2024, Down Goes Chevron—Environmental Challenges Will Soon Follow
- 7 May 2024, Forever CERCLA: EPA Designates Certain PFAS as Hazardous Substances Under Superfund
- 22 April 2024, PFAS Regulation Continues to Take Center Stage: EPA Releases Final Drinking Water Standards
- 5 April 2024, Parts Per Trillion: Illinois Proposes Stringent Groundwater Quality Standards for PFAS Compounds
- 30 January 2024, 2023 PFAS Regulatory Roundup and Looking Ahead
- 14 June 2023, EPA's Reinterpretation of the RCRA Industrial Ethyl Alcohol Exemption
- 13 March 2023, Renewables Rule! Illinois Law Sets Uniform Standards for Approval of Utility Wind and Solar Facilities
- 11 January 2023, When Hand Sanitizer Goes Bad: Managing and Disposing Unused Ethanol
- April 2022, April 2022 Accolades
- February 2022, February 2022 Accolades
- 26 July 2021, Ethylene Oxide: The Litigation Risks and Regulatory Issues Ahead
- 9 June 2020, COVID-19: President Trump's Invocation of Emergency Authority to Streamline Environmental Review for Infrastructure Projects
- 28 April 2020, Muddied Groundwater: New Supreme Court Test Adds Confusion and Uncertainty to Clean Water Act Permitting Jurisdiction
- 24 April 2020, COVID-19: Environmental Agency Responses to Virus Mitigation Measures
- 24 March 2020, COVID-19: Illinois Executive Order in Response to COVID-19
- 16 November 2018, Don’t Dump Stuff in the River
- 10 July 2018, Manifestly Different
- 9 May 2018, Tax Buyers Beware: Court Finds CERCLA Liability Following Tax Sale
- 1 August 2017, Less Waste, More Recycling - The D.C. Circuit Cleans Up EPA's Definition of Solid Waste

- 1 June 2017, A Not-So-Silver Lining: The Ninth Circuit Vacates EPA's Conditional Approval of a Nanosilver Pesticide Used in Manufacturing "Antimicrobial" Consumer Products
- 30 May 2017, Administrator Pruitt Seeks Superfund Overhaul
- 6 February 2017, Coal Ash Backfill: Congress Authorizes EPA to Approve State Coal Combustion Residue Programs
- 24 August 2016, Air Dud: Emitters of Hazardous Substances Not Liable Under CERCLA
- 13 July 2016, Federal Government Rewrites the Rules on Getting and Using Chemicals in the Marketplace
- 14 June 2016, EPA Proposes to Further Complicate CERCLA and RCRA Remediation by Requiring Compliance with the Site Remediation NESHAPs

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- EPA Accepting Public Comments on Amended Ethylene Oxide Regulations, *Washington Legal Foundation,* 9 June 2023
- "Time keeps on slipping, slipping: Seventh Circuit rules RCRA settlement triggers CERCLA statute of limitations," *ABA's SEER Environmental Digest*, 2 March 2020
- "For Sure: Indemnity Claim Triggered by EPA Notice Letter, Not State Negotiations," *ABA's SEER Environmental Digest*, 3 January 2020
- "Boiler Plate: Disclaiming liability in a settlement is not the same thing as not settling," *ABA's SEER Environmental Digest*, 24 October 24 2019
- "Don't Mention It: Seventh Circuit Rules RCRA Settlement Triggers CERCLA Statute of Limitations," *ABA's SEER Environmental Digest*, 17 September 2019
- Illinois Editor, *Brownfields Law and Practice: The Cleanup and Redevelopment of Contaminated Land*, Matthew Bender
- Illinois Editor, *Brownfields Law and Practice: The Cleanup and Redevelopment of Contaminated Land*, Matthew Bender
- "Illinois" (Chapter 27), *Implementing Institutional Controls at Brownfields and Other Contaminated Sites*, Second Edition, ABA Books
- "Fish Yourself out of Asian Carp Scare." *Law360*, 28 March 2013
- "Not so Full Disclosure: Protecting Trade Secrets in Greenhouse Gas Reporting," *The Legal Impact of Climate Change*, Aspatore Books, 2012

NEWS & EVENTS

- 6 August 2026, Permitting Challenges in Data Center Construction: Federal and State Regulatory Update, Permitting Strategies, Hosted by BARBRI
- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 26 September 2025, 31st Annual FETTI Conference, Hosted by The Forum of Environmental and Toxic Tort Issues
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 12 December 2024, New EPA Rule Impacting Medical Device Sterilization: Strict Emissions Control, Compliance Certification, Reporting, Hosted by Strafford
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 24 March 2022 , Annual RCRA Training Seminar hosted by Chemical Industry Council of Illinois'
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates Policy and Regulatory Practice, Lawyers Ranked Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 28 January 2016, K&L Gates Adds to Environmental Practice with Chicago Addition

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 15 May 2026, *Inside EPA* | Data Center Opposition Reshapes Legal, Regulatory Path For Tech Firms

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “Lawyers Warn Sellers Of Growing PFAS Liability In Property Transactions,” *Inside PFAS Policy*, 30 August 2024
- Quoted, "Attorneys Say EPA Model CERCLA Documents Need Additional Clarity," *Inside EPA*, 8 June 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environment and Energy
- Energy Assets and Transactions
- Land Use, Planning, and Zoning
- Mergers and Acquisitions

INDUSTRIES

- Corporate Sustainability
- Energy
- Maritime
- Oil and Gas
- Renewables
- Transportation and Logistics

EMERGING ISSUES

- Data Centers and Energy Intensive Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Confidential consulting regarding state subpoena related to PFAS purchases.