

Endre M. Szalay

Partner

Seattle
+1.206.370.6744

Endre.Szalay@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Endre Szalay is a partner in the Environment and Energy group in the Seattle office. Endre assists a broad range of clients, including public entities, utilities, small businesses, and large corporations, in developing compliance strategies to solve complex problems. His practice focuses on compliance counseling under the full suite of environmental statutes, with an emphasis on the Clean Water Act (CWA); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and state equivalents; Endangered Species Act (ESA); and the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and state equivalents.

Endre is also a member of the firm's top-ranked environmental litigation practice, and has assisted clients in complex litigation ranging from claims under core environmental statues and the Administrative Procedure Act to constitutional causes of action.

Prior to joining the firm, Endre was assistant regional counsel for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 where he worked on complex environmental enforcement, civil defensive litigation, permitting matters, and regulatory counseling involving water quality standards among other issues. Endre was Region 10's Senior Water Enforcement Attorney, handling enforcement actions under the CWA and Safe Drinking Water Act. He served as Region 10's lead attorney for CWA jurisdictional issues, including waters of the United States rulemaking, and mining-related issues.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During his tenure at the EPA, Endre earned several agency awards, including the Gold Medal for Exceptional Service and multiple Bronze Medals for Commendable Service.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- ELI - Law of Environmental Protection, Clean Water Act, contributor/editor
- Washington State Bar Association, Environmental and Land Use Section

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Presenter, “Tribal Energy Law: Understanding Sovereignty, Agreements, and Emerging Trends,” myLawCLE, 27 March 2025
- “Clean Water Act Update,” K&L Gates, September 30, 2015
- “Defining Waters of the United States: To What Extent Will the New Rules Change EPA/Corps Jurisdiction,” Wetlands in Washington, Law Seminars International, October 19, 2015
- "EPA's 'Waters of the U.S.' Rule: What does it mean and what's next,” Idaho Water Users Association 32nd Annual Water Law and Resources Seminar, November 19, 2015
- “Federal Jurisdiction Over Waters and Wetlands as the Story of the Year for Water Quality,” Clean Water and Stormwater Conference, Law Seminars International, April 18, 2016
- “Wetlands Regulation and Defining Waters of the US: What to expect from Region 10,” Clean Water and Stormwater Conference, Law Seminars International, June 22, 2017
- “Solar & Wind Project Development: Navigating Risk and Seizing Opportunity,” Northwest Business Council's (NEBC) Energy Workshop hosted by K&L Gates, June 7, 2018
- “The Federal Policy Backdrop for Water Quality in Washington,” Clean Water and Stormwater Conference, Law Seminars International, August 16, 2018
- “Initiative 1631: Will this be the Year for a Carbon Price in Washington?,” Energy Leadership Summit 2018, NEBC and CleanTech Alliance, October 30, 2018

EDUCATION

- J.D., Tulane Law School, 2011 *(summa cum laude; Tulane Law Review, Managing Editor, Dean’s Medal recipient, Environmental Law Certificate)*
- B.S., University of Pittsburgh, 2002 *(cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- Bar of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 September 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 14
- 2 February 2026, New EPA Proposal Seeks to Adopt a More Restrictive Section 401 Framework
- 8 December 2025, "Waters of the United States" Once Again in Flux

- 25 August 2025, Department of the Interior Issues Flurry of Actions Targeting Wind and Solar Energy Projects
- July 2025, Environmental Regulations and Policy Changes under Trump 2.0: Renewables Industry Update
- 27 September 2023, EPA Finalizes Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule
- 14 September 2023, Following Sackett, Another New Final WOTUS Rule
- 10 August 2023, The White House Continues to Advance NEPA Reform With CEQ's Proposed NEPA Phase Two
- 5 June 2023, US Supreme Court Issues Landmark Clean Water Act Decision, Significantly Narrowing the Scope of "Waters of the United States" Under Federal Law
- 5 June 2023, Debt Ceiling Legislation Serves as a Vehicle for Substantive Changes to NEPA
- 12 May 2023, Full of Hot Air? EPA Tries Again to Impose Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards on Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants
- 10 January 2023, A New Final (But Not the Final?) WOTUS Rule
- 7 October 2022, Taking a New Approach: USFWS Proposes Streamlined Eagle Take Permit Program
- 6 July 2022, Supreme Court Advances Major Questions Doctrine and Limits EPA's Authority to Regulate Power Plant Carbon Emissions
- 21 June 2022, EPA Proposes New Rules Governing Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- 29 April 2022, Three Steps Forward, Two Steps Back: the Biden Administration's Revised NEPA Rules
- 25 April 2022, Offshore Wind Handbook
- 31 March 2022, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes "Endangered" Listing for Northern Long-Eared Bat
- 28 January 2022, NEPA: The Old Becomes New
- 3 December 2021, EPA and Corps Release Updated Definition of Waters of the United States
- 6 October 2021, Crying Fowl: The Biden Administration Set to Unwind Trump MBTA Rule
- 20 September 2021, Back to the Drawing Board on WOTUS: Federal Court Vacates Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule
- 1 February 2021, Clean Water Act Permits for Discharges to Groundwater: EPA Issues Guidance on County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund
- 22 January 2021, In Search of Cooler Waters: Implementing EPA's Temperature Limits on the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers
- 20 January 2021, Building Relationships with Tribes and Operating on Reservation Lands: Lessons From FMC v. Shoshone

- 23 July 2020, A New Normal? Trump Administration Retooling of Core NEPA Elements
- 17 July 2020, Indian Land Then, Remains Indian Land Now: The Supreme Court Confirms That a Significant Portion of Eastern Oklahoma Is a Native American Reservation
- 10 July 2020, Washington State Department of Ecology Releases First-Ever Water Quality Standards Variances for PCBs
- 9 June 2020, COVID-19: President Trump's Invocation of Emergency Authority to Streamline Environmental Review for Infrastructure Projects
- 9 June 2020, No More Delay?: EPA Rulemaking Clarifies Timelines and Scope of State Authority in the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Process
- 28 April 2020, Muddied Groundwater: New Supreme Court Test Adds Confusion and Uncertainty to Clean Water Act Permitting Jurisdiction
- 20 February 2020, Finally Finality? The Trump Administration's Answer to One of Environmental Law's Most Contested Questions: What Are "Waters of the United States"?
- 14 January 2019, Trump Administration Begins "Round 4" in the Battle Over Clean Water Act Jurisdiction
- 14 August 2018, EPA to "Veto" Its Own Veto Authority under the Clean Water Act?
- 13 August 2018, EPA to "Veto" Its Own Veto Authority under the Clean Water Act?
- 15 June 2018, "Culvert Case" Affirmed
- 6 June 2018, Washington State Issues its First Winery General Permit
- 13 November 2017, EPA Administrator Moves to End "Sue and Settle"

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Minn. Mine Denial Stresses Importance Of Tribal Partnerships," *Law360*, 14 July 2023
- "Washington State Puts Environmental Justice At The Forefront," *Law360*, 5 July 2023
- "U.S. Supreme Court Issues Landmark Clean Water Act Decision, Significantly Narrowing the Scope of 'Waters of the United States' Under Federal Law," *Thomson Reuters Westlaw Today,* 8 June 2023
- "What To Expect From Biden Admin.'s NEPA Updates," *Law360*, 12 May 2022
- "Vacatur Of Trump Water Rule Means More Uncertainty Ahead," *Law360*, 29 September 2021
- "Breathing Life into the Dead Zone: Can the Federal Common Law be Used to Control Nonpoint Source Water Pollution?" 85 Tul. L. Rev. 215, 2010

NEWS & EVENTS

- 7 February 2025, K&L Gates Secures Victory for Duwamish Tribe in Federal Recognition Lawsuit
- 19 December 2022, K&L Gates Adds 40 Lawyers to Firm's Partnership
- 8 February 2022, Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands
- 28 September 2021, Waters of the United States (WOTUS): Current Regulations, Pending Litigation, and the Path Ahead, hosted by Strafford

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environment and Energy
- American Indian Law
- Construction and Infrastructure

INDUSTRIES

- Carbon Solutions
- Energy
- Nuclear Energy
- Power
- Renewables