

Brian S. Montag

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Brian Montag is a practice group coordinator for the firm's global Environment and Energy practice group. He represents clients in regulatory, enforcement, and litigation matters in various industries and manufacturing sectors, including energy, technology, telecommunications, construction, quarry, asphalt, cement, glass, paper, and chemical operations. Brian has served as outside counsel on matters across the US, and globally, including as counsel to leading State and Federal trade and business associations. He also has extensive experience representing clients in administrative, State and Federal court proceedings, as well as before the US Department of Justice, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Transportation, and State transportation and environmental agencies regionally and nationally. Brian has served in leadership roles and as lead counsel in landmark regulatory and litigation matters, including settlements involving environmental justice, Superfund, air, water, and solid and hazardous waste matters, as well as products liability and toxic tort litigation.

Brian is named in *Chambers USA* and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the areas of Administrative/Regulatory and Environmental Law since 2005.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Brian has served as lead regulatory and litigation counsel for numerous mid-size and Fortune 500 clients throughout his career. He served as lead counsel in a complex federal environmental litigation in which the United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, ruled in favor of his client on precedent setting environmental justice issues. Brian also served as lead counsel for a group of 65 companies in a nationally recognized solid waste litigation in which he successfully negotiated a global resolution with the government. Brian has taken leadership roles in representing clients at several of the top ten Superfund sites listed on the National Priorities List. He has also provided advice and counseling to companies in matters involving new facility construction and modifications, where he has managed complex permitting and compliance issues in all phases of these projects. Brian has also advised companies in developing community advisory panels and outreach projects to gain local support for manufacturing operations and related regulatory approvals and permitting; he has developed a national network of liaison groups and organizations to assist in communications, as well as environmental and economic development support for these projects.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Environment in New Jersey, 2005-2026
- Named a *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyer, 2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer, 2024-2026
  - Environment: Litigation
  - Environment: Regulatory
  - Environment: Transactional
- Named to Lawdragon's 500 Leading Litigators in America, 2023-2025
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Newark, NJ
  - Administrative/Regulatory Law, 2005-2027
  - Environmental Law, 2005-2027
  - Litigation - Environmental, 2027

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Environmental Committee
- American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL)
- New Jersey State Bar Association, Trustee (2004-present)
- New Jersey State Bar Association, Past Chair, Environmental Law Section
- Morris County Bar Association, Past President (2003)
- Morris County Bar Foundation, Past President (2002)
- New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice (1993-1996)
- Chemistry Council of New Jersey
- Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey
- Environmental Law Institute
- National Stone Sand and Gravel Association
- New Jersey Business and Industry Association
- New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association
- New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Brian has lectured extensively on litigation topics, regulatory issues, and environmental law. Among other organizations, he has presented to the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association on litigation and enforcement topics; National Association of Manufacturers on Environmental Justice; Environmental Law Institute on Environmental Justice; Government Institute's seminars on Environmental Liabilities, Defense and Litigation, and Advanced Environmental Permitting; National Conference of the American Public Transit Association on Clean Air Act Requirements and Employer Trip Reduction Program; New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education on Environmental Litigation Defense Issues; Co-Chair and Speaker at New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association seminars and conferences; NJ State Bar Association Annual Environmental Forum; and NJ Corporate Counsel Association involving presentations on litigation, regulatory compliance, and environmental enforcement topics.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Brian has also published and contributed articles to *New Jersey Lawyer* and *Corporate Counsel on Litigation and Environmental Justice*, *New Jersey Environmental Law Letter*, published by M. Lee Smith Publishers; published article on Clean Air Act and Employer Trip Reduction Program in the *Environmental Compliance & Litigation Strategy Reporter*; published article titled "Gearing Up for the Employer Trip Reduction Program" concerning the Clean Air Act's Employer Trip Reduction Program and liability issues in the *New Jersey Lawyer*, No. 160, April 1994.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Rutgers School of Law at Camden, 1990 *(Editor, Rutgers Law Journal)*
- B.A., Union College, 1987 *(magna cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New Jersey
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 September 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 14
- 31 August 2026, Environmental Justice Update
- 15 June 2026, Navigating Nuclear: New York and New Jersey

- 2 December 2025 , Environmental Justice Update
- 20 May 2025, EPA Provides Update on PFAS Drinking Water Standards
- 7 May 2025, EPA Announces Upcoming Plans to Address PFAS
- 5 May 2025, Environmental Justice Update
- 4 February 2025, Trump Administration Rolling Back Consideration of Environmental Justice in Federal Decision-Making
- 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
- 30 January 2024, 2023 PFAS Regulatory Roundup and Looking Ahead
- 27 September 2023, EPA Finalizes Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule
- 14 June 2023, EPA's Reinterpretation of the RCRA Industrial Ethyl Alcohol Exemption
- 8 May 2023, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Implements Nation's First Environmental Justice Rules
- 17 March 2023, EPA Releases Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Standards and Expands List of Regulated Substances
- 24 January 2023, U.S. EPA Releases Cumulative Impacts Addendum to Guidance on Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice
- 29 August 2022, EPA Designates PFAS Chemicals As Hazardous Substances in Newly Proposed CERCLA Regulations
- 24 January 2022, EPA and States Get Busy on PFAS Waste Regulation
- 29 December 2021, Governor Murphy's Plans for Enhanced Environmental Regulation and Enforcement in New Jersey
- 27 April 2021, PFAS: A Legislative, Regulatory and Industry Update
- 26 September 2019, PFAS Policy Symposium with EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler
- 20 February 2019, EPA Plans to Set National Drinking Water Standards and Regulate PFAS as a CERCLA Hazardous Substance
- 7 February 2019, Navigating Environmental Policy in a Divided Government
- 4 February 2019, Congress Looking at the Safe Drinking Water Act and Superfund to Regulate PFAS

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Environmental Justice at a Crossroads," *New Jersey Law Journal*, 25 February 2002
- "Environmental Justice: Meeting the Challenge," *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, February 2002

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 August 2026, K&L Gates Advises Compass Group Equity Partners on Acquisition of Koma Precision
- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 23 January 2024, Update on Environmental and Regulatory Issues, Hosted by NJAPA
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 4 October 2022, 34th AFS Environmental, Health & Safety Conference, Hosted by American Foundry Society
- 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
- 30 March 2022, Navigating Environmental Justice Challenges, Hosted by AGG1 Academy & Expo
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 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
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, “Survived: Judges Derail Challenge to Landmark NJ Law,” *Law.com*, 6 January 2026
- Mentioned, “Environmental Policy Rollbacks Could Fuel New Litigation,” *Agenda*, 9 April 2025

- Mentioned, “Chemistry Council of N.J. appoints 2 to board of trustees,” *Roi-NJ.com*, 27 December 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environment and Energy
- Administrative and Regulatory Law
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Corporate Sustainability
- Energy
- Household Goods
- Oil and Gas