

Environmental, Health and Safety

King & Spalding's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) practice consists of more than 35 lawyers worldwide, recognized for their success in handling the most complicated matters arising under environmental, health and safety laws. Our global team includes lawyers in **Washington, D.C.**, advocating for clients' interests on Capitol Hill; in **California**, assisting clients with responding to the new markets for clean energy and technology; in **Houston**, the traditional energy capital of the world and the gateway to oil & gas activity in the Gulf; in **Atlanta**, from where we can rapidly respond to incidents and crises across the Southwest and East Coast; and in **Chicago**, giving us access to the manufacturing hubs of the Midwest. Our team is further bolstered by the presence of lawyers in **Paris**, contributing knowledge of cutting-edge EU regulations and assisting our clients with worldwide operations.

Our lawyers work to understand our clients' businesses and to navigate regulatory obstacles to achieving their business goals. Top companies turn to King & Spalding's EHS practice because we know first-hand how agencies operate, we understand the multitude of regulations governing different industries, and we provide strategic counsel oriented to achieve practical solutions. Our group includes environmental, health, and safety lawyers with government experience, including five former EPA attorneys, and lawyers with technical backgrounds in engineering, chemistry, biology, land use, environmental policy and safety—who function at the highest level of the intersection of law and science. The EHS team collaborates seamlessly with the firm's other teams, which collectively include over 175 former government employees.

We have considerable experience partnering with clients through strategic and cost-effective counseling, negotiations, and litigation. We help clients with permitting of new projects, compliance assurance, auditing and environmental management systems for operating facilities,

Capability Lawyers



Granta Nakayama
Washington, D.C.



Michael R Leslie
Los Angeles



Karl R Heisler
Chicago



Peter Hsiao
Los Angeles



Les A. Oakes
Atlanta



Joseph A. Eisert
Washington, D.C.

Recognition

Environmental Law Firm of
the Year Award

CHAMBERS USA, 2024

Ranked Band 1 for
Nationwide Environmental
Health & Safety and
Nationwide Product Liability
& Mass Torts: The Elite

CHAMBERS USA, 2024

state and federal enforcement matters, remediation and site closure, rulemakings, transactional support, and Superfund matters.

We work to resolve issues with regulatory agencies and other interested parties through negotiation, but we stand ready to litigate when that is required, and we have decades of experience handling EHS disputes before state and federal administrative agencies and courts, from permit appeals, rules challenges, cost recovery claims and contribution actions, to citizen suits. When our clients face an enforcement action, we have an extensive bench of former U.S. EPA and state enforcement attorneys and former federal prosecutors who are experienced on both sides of civil and criminal enforcement actions.

We have defended our clients' interests in disputes involving a wide variety of environmental issues, including:

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)

We have also defended our clients' interests in disputes before a variety of agencies, including:

- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
- National Transportation Safety Board
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Cases & Deals

March 14, 2025

King & Spalding Secures Complete Defense Verdict for Terumo in Bellwether Ethylene Oxide Case

September 19, 2024

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issues Construction Permit for King & Spalding Client Natura Resources'

Ranked for Nationwide Crisis Management

CHAMBERS USA
PROFESSIONAL
ADVISERS: CRISIS & RISK
MANAGEMENT, 2024

Ranked for Environmental
Regulatory, Litigation, and
Transactions

THE LEGAL 500, 2024

Ranked for Environmental
Law in France

CHAMBERS EUROPE, 2024

Four-time Environmental
Practice Group of the Year

LAW360

Recipient of the Crisis
Management and
Government Oversight
Award

NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL,
2021

According to a client: "The
firm consistently delivers
expert legal advice and
creates value for our
company."

CHAMBERS USA, 2021
NATIONWIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL

Molten Salt Reactor To Be Deployed at ACU

June 21, 2024

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Construction Permit Issuance Expected in September for King & Spalding client Natura Resource's Molten Salt Reactor to be deployed at ACU

[VIEW ALL](#)

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

April 21, 2025

REPAIR Act Redux and a New Presidential Memorandum —No End in Sight for NEPA Uncertainty

CLIENT ALERT

April 14, 2025

Defining Waters of the United States: EPA and Army Corps Seek Public Input on New WOTUS Rule

NEWSLETTER

March 24, 2025

All Wrapped Up Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging – Special Edition, March 24, 2025

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

June 19, 2025

Karl Heisler to Speak at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting

CONFERENCE

April 30, 2025

Incident Response Seminar

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

April 4, 2025

Peter Hsiao to Speak at the 2025 Los Angeles County Bar Association Environmental Spring Symposium

[VIEW ALL](#)

News

RECOGNITION

April 9, 2025

Tracie Renfroe Inducted Into American College of Environmental Lawyers

IN THE NEWS

April 7, 2025

Data, privacy and security partner Charly Helleputte joins the firm's Government Matters and Regulation practice group in Brussels

PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2025

King & Spalding Welcomes Data, Privacy and Security
Partner Charles-Albert (Charly) Helleputte in Brussels

[VIEW ALL](#)
