Permitting, Regulatory Counseling, and Compliance

Our environmental attorneys have developed cost effective solutions to tough regulatory problems, based on practical experience and a thorough knowledge of applicable law and the practices and policies of regulatory agencies. Our practice is broad, involving all substantive areas of environmental law, including:

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Water rights
- Storage tanks
- Hazardous and solid waste
- Site remediation and Brownfields redevelopment
- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Chemical regulation
- Chemical security
- Hazardous materials transport
- Community-right-to-know
- PCBs
- Radioactive materials, including NORM
- Land use
- Wetlands
- Endangered species
- Natural resource damages
- NEPA
- Historic preservation
- Indoor air quality
- Mold
- Asbestos
- OSHA

We represent a wide spectrum of clients, ranging from refineries, chemical plants, manufacturers, and oil and gas exploration and production operators, to developers, property managers, and financial institutions. We counsel clients on regulatory requirements relating to ongoing operations, as well as those associated with the construction of new facilities and modification of existing facilities. We assist clients in the scoping and performance of compliance audits, including those conducted under pertinent audit privilege/immunity statutes. We help them monitor, and provide input to, pertinent agency rulemaking and policy development. We assist clients not only with specific matters, but also in developing and applying environmental policies and management programs, including policies pertaining to sustainability and climate change.

We work closely with clients to devise innovative methods to identify environmental risks and to devise creative and cost-effective ways to manage those risks, including risks related to climate change. We help clients in structuring and negotiating transactions involving Brownfields properties and in developing Brownfields properties under applicable regulatory programs, such as the Texas Voluntary Cleanup Program, the Innocent Owner/Operator Program, Municipal Settings

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Designations, Above Ground and Underground Storage Tanks Programs, the Dry Cleaner Remediation Program and the Texas Risk Reduction Program.

In addition to counseling clients on regulatory matters, we represent them before regulatory agencies in negotiations and in related administrative and judicial litigation, including:

- Administrative, civil and criminal enforcement actions brought by federal, state, and local governments
- Citizen suits
- Permit proceedings
- Administrative appeals
- Rule challenges
- Superfund and related litigation

We know the professionals in the regulatory agencies and they know us, the types of clients we represent, and the type of representation we provide - representation that is both zealous and reflective of the highest standards of ethical conduct. Three members of our group have been practicing before state and federal environmental agencies for over 30 years. And our practice group has a unique distinction. Although we generally represent regulated industry, several years ago we represented the State of Texas, litigating and settling two related, high profile enforcement actions under the federal Clean Water Act, in federal district courts in Houston, Texas and Tulsa, Oklahoma, working with the state's environmental agencies and with U.S. EPA and the Department of Justice.

RELATED PRACTICES Environmental, Climate Change and Corporate Sustainability, Environmental Due Diligence, Environmental Litigation, Greenhouse Gases (GHG), Remediation and Brownfields Developments

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PRIMARY CONTACTS

Jeff Civins

jeff.civins@haynesboone.com
+1 512.867.8477

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