

Matthew G. Adams

Matt Adams helps clients address environmental issues related to energy, water, transportation, infrastructure, and other development projects. He advises on a full range of transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters, with a particular focus on issues arising under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), state and federal endangered species acts, and other environmental impact assessment laws.

Matt also counsels tribal governments on environmental and land use issues affecting Indian country. He has advised on the successful development of major tribal gaming facilities nationwide, as well as related on- and off-trust infrastructure. He also represents a variety of stakeholders on matters related to the protection of indigenous cultural and historic resources.

In addition, Matt provides strategic advice and regulatory counsel on a variety of emerging issues relating to water, energy, and other climate-related sustainability and adaptation issues.

An experienced litigator, Matt has successfully argued high-stakes matters before D.C. Circuit, the Ninth Circuit, and the California courts. Recent published cases include *National Parks Conservation Association v. Semonite*, 916 F. 3d 1075 (D.C. Cir. 2019) (NEPA and NHPA challenge to Army Corps projects on Virginia's James River); *Cachil Dehe v. Zinke*, 889 F.3d 584 (9th Cir. 2018) (defense of tribal land restoration and resort development); and *City of Phoenix v. Huerta*, (D.C. Cir. 2017) (challenge to FAA flight procedures under NEPA, the NHPA, and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act)

Prior to joining the Firm, Matt chaired the U.S. environment and natural resources practice at an international law firm. He serves on the board of San Francisco Heritage, a non-profit dedicated to San Francisco's unique architectural and cultural identity. In 2019, the National Trust for Historic Preservation honored him with the Peter H. Brink Award for individual achievement in the field of historic preservation.

Professional and Civic Activities / Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Native American Law (2015–Present)
- Peter H. Brink Award for Individual Achievement in Historic Preservation (2019)
- Governor of Arizona's Heritage Preservation Award (2018)



Partner

San Francisco Office
415.907.8707
madams@kaplankirsch.com

Areas of Practice

Airports
Climate Policy & Litigation
Endangered Species & Wildlife Issues
Energy and Climate Change
Environment, Public Lands, and Conservation
Environment, Public Lands, and Conservation Litigation
Environmental Impact Reviews
Historic Resources
Litigation
Native American Law
Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)

Education

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, 2003
M.A., City Planning, University of California, Berkeley, 2003
M.A., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 1999
B.A., Northwestern University, 1998

Bar and Court Admissions

California
U.S. Courts of Appeal for the D.C. and Ninth Circuits
U.S. District Courts for the Central, Northern, Southern, and Eastern Districts of California
U.S. District Court for the



KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

- Law360 MVP Award, Law and Policy (2016)
- Law360, Top Attorneys Under 40 (2016)
- Board of Directors, San Francisco Heritage (2020-Present)
- Member, Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation (2017–Present)

Eastern District of Wisconsin

Publications

Legal Update: NEPA's Implementing Regulations
Indian Land Tenure Foundation
March 2021

Modernizing' the NEPA Process or Returning to the Stone Age?
National Association of Environmental Professionals and
American Cultural Resources Association
November 2020

Legal Issues in Airport Development
36th Annual Airport Law Workshop
October 2020

Making the National Environmental Policy Act Work
Environmental Law Institute
March 2020

NEPA Past, Present, and Future: Litigation
Environmental Law Institute
December 2019

Trump Administration Continues to Overhaul Climate Change
Regulations
Energy Law Report
November 2018

Making the National Environmental Policy Act Process Work
Environmental Law Institute
03.22.18

Defense Policy and Cultural Resource Protection in the Western
Pacific
National Trust for Historic Preservation
06.13.17

Successfully Navigating the NEPA Process
Environmental Law Institute
03.16.17

Impact of the New Administration on National Offshore Wind
Strategy: Three Things to Watch
Renewable Energy World
03.02.17

Pacific Outpost
Civil Beat



KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

12.12.16

Worldview
National Public Radio
12.22.15

Traditional Cultural Properties and Section 4(f) of the
Department of Transportation Act
National Trust for Historic Preservation
02.25.15

News

Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell Ranked Among Nation's Top Law
Firms by Chambers USA 2021
Chambers & Partners
05.20.21

Department of Transportation Issues Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking on Departmental NEPA Procedures
11.25.20

Amendments to the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA
Regulations: Ten Key Changes
07.20.20

Council on Environmental Quality Releases Final Rule Amending
NEPA Regulations
07.15.20

Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell Ranked Among Nation's Top Law
Firms by Chambers USA 2020
04.23.20

Indian Country COVID-19 Updates
04.06.20

Council on Environmental Quality Holds First of Two Days of
Public Hearings on Trump Administration's Proposed NEPA
Regulations
02.12.20

Seven Attorneys Named in The Best Lawyers in America 2020
08.15.19

Presentations

Matthew Adams and Sara Dutschke Present at Tribal Land Staff
National Conference
03.22.21

Matthew Adams Presents Webinar on Integrating New
Definitions for Key Language in the NEPA–Section 106 Process
11.17.20



KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

Legal Issues in Airport Development
10.19.20

Matthew Adams Presents Webinar at Environmental Law
Institute Western Boot Camp
03.19.20