

Sara V. Mogharabi

Sara Mogharabi has extensive environmental regulatory and litigation experience, with a focus on matters relating to project development, contamination and hazardous wastes, and product stewardship.

Sara has represented clients in the mining, waste, recycling, and energy sectors. She has advised clients on regulatory compliance matters under a broad array of federal environment statutes, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the Endangered Species Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; and the National Environmental Policy Act. Sara also has expertise in compliance counseling under specific state statutes, such as California's Proposition 65 and state-level product stewardship laws. As part of her regulatory practice, she has represented clients before federal and state agencies.

Sara's litigation experience includes conducting document reviews, managing expert witnesses, taking and defending depositions, working with joint defense groups, drafting motions and briefs, and preparing cases for arbitration and jury trials. She has represented clients with matters in federal and state courts as well as before agency tribunals. She has performed internal investigations and assisted in settlement negotiations on behalf of clients.

In addition to her environmental regulatory and litigation expertise, Sara has transactional environmental experience performing due diligence reviews and marking up agreements. She has also assisted companies undergoing corporate mergers and re-brandings with permit transfers and name changes. When her workload permits, Sara represents pro bono clients in immigration court.

Prior to joining the Firm, Sara worked as an associate at an environmental boutique and as a senior associate at a large, global law firm. During law school, she served as a law clerk at the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Civil Enforcement, at the Department of Justice in the Appellate Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division, and for the Environmental Defense Fund's Climate and Air Program.

Representative Experience

- Advised global manufacturing client on response to spill of hazardous materials, coordinated an internal investigation and regulatory compliance audit at the company's facility, and represented the client in settlement negotiations with the state



Attorney

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Areas of Practice

Energy and Climate Change
Environment, Public Lands, and
Conservation
Mining and Reclamation
Real Estate, Land Use, and
Zoning

Education

J.D., The George Washington
University, 2012
M.P.P., The George
Washington University, 2012
B.A., *cum laude*, Claremont
McKenna College, 2006

Bar Admissions

Colorado
District of Columbia



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- Counseled a battery recycler on its response to an EPA compliance inspection and notice of violation
- Represented a global manufacturer on liability and cost allocation for PCB contamination of a waterway, helping secure a jury verdict of zero liability in federal court
- Defended an energy client against multiple lawsuits alleging breach of contract of the company's mineral leases
- Globally advised clients on compliance with California's Proposition 65
- Counseled oil and gas companies on Endangered Species Act compliance, including the development of unique take-avoidance protocols and general conservation plans
- Provided National Environmental Policy Act counseling, including advising infrastructure clients on environmental and related reviews for their projects
- Provided guidance to electronic and pharmaceutical clients on compliance with state and local product regulatory laws
- Argued for cancellation of a removal order for a pro bono client in immigration court, securing client's release from detention the day of the evidentiary hearing

Professional and Civic Activities / Awards

- Co-Chair, Energy and Environmental Law Affinity Group, National Association of Women Lawyers (2018–Present)
- Participant, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce, Women of Influence and Impact Leadership Program (2018–2019)
- Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing, The George Washington University Law School (2014–2015)
- Member of Environment, Energy, and Resources Section, American Bar Association (2012–Present)
- Recipient, Philip Roland Prize for Excellence in Public Affairs, Claremont McKenna College (2006)

Publications

Firm Attorneys Author PFAS Litigation Article for ABA
09.29.21

Biden Administration Signals Key PFAS Actions Will Be Priorities
11.20.20

States Continue to Dominate PFAS Regulation, Despite Some Federal Efforts
12.19.19

Environmental citizen suits in the Trump era
Fall 2017

Déjà vu: Supremes Hold Corps' Jurisdictional Determinations



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Constitute “Final Agency Actions”
June 2016

Endangered Species: Coming Soon to a Project Near You
April 2014

News

Tenth Circuit Rules Trump-Era Clean Water Act Regulation Must Be Enforced in Colorado
03.05.21

Tenth Circuit Sides with Colorado Communities; Keeps Climate Change Case in State Court
07.09.20

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

Firm Supports Colorado Communities in Case Seeking Damages from Oil Companies for Climate Change-Related Injuries
01.15.20

Presentations

Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell Attorneys Present at AAAE PFAS Workshop
04.06.21

Sara Mogharabi Presents Webinar on PFAS for Environmental Law Network
11.03.20

Sara Mogharabi Presents Webinar on PFAS Investigations Hosted by Airport Consultants Council
10.02.20

Proposition 65 Update: New Warning Regulations
May 2019

Environmental Enforcement Round-Up
March 2018

Battery and Medical Device Take-Back Laws
May 2017

Clean Water Act Complications: Waters & Wetlands
02.02.17

Natural Resources and Protection Laws
06.26.15

