HEPLERBROOM LLC

MELISSA S. BROWN

Partner | Springfield, IL

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(217) 993-6077

Since 2014, Melissa S. Brown has developed a robust environmental law practice in which she assists businesses on a wide variety of environmental issues. Clients regularly rely on her to provide counsel on complying with federal and Illinois environmental statutes and regulations.

Ms. Brown is passionate about representing businesses in a variety of environmental areas, although she is particularly passionate about air issues. She has an unmatched ability to analyze complex air issues and provide solutions to achieve compliance. In addition to air compliance counseling and enforcement defense, clients come to her for assistance in all phases of air permitting, including:

- preparing and reviewing permit applications
- navigating the environmental justice process
- negotiating permit conditions with the agency
- reviewing draft permits and providing comments
- appealing permit decisions

She also understands that, due to a myriad of factors, compliance with environmental requirements can sometimes be difficult to achieve. Meeting and working with regulators to find a reasonable solution is often the first step. Ms. Brown and her environmental practice group colleagues are conveniently located in Springfield, Illinois, where the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are headquartered.

In addition, businesses sometimes seek regulatory relief or want to participate in the rulemaking process. She has represented clients in front of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in numerous air, water, and land rulemakings as well as obtaining regulatory relief such as variances, adjusted standards, site-specific rules, alternative effluent limitations, and time-limited water quality standards.

When noncompliance does occur, she represents clients in the administrative enforcement process at Illinois EPA and USEPA. She also defends clients when litigation is filed in court or with the Pollution Control Board.

Prior to joining HeplerBroom, Ms. Brown was an associate with the environmental law firm Hodge, Dwyer, & Driver. (In 2016, Hodge, Dwyer, & Driver merged with HeplerBroom.)

Practices:

- Environmental

Education:

- DePaul University College of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2014
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, B.A. in Political Science, 2010

Bar Admissions:

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois

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Honors & Awards

- Best Lawyers’ list of “Ones to Watch” (2021-2025)