



MELISSA S. BROWN

Partner

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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

PRACTICES

Environmental

BAR ADMISSIONS

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

EDUCATION

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

LAW SCHOOL HONORS/INVOLVEMENT

- *DePaul Journal of Art, Technology, and Intellectual Property*
- Environmental Law Society
- Dean's Certificate of Pro Bono Service
- Dean's List

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.)

Honors

Honors & Awards

- Best Lawyers' list of "Ones to Watch" (2021-2025)

Insights

Events & Speaking Engagements

- "Brown to Speak at Air Issues Seminar," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois Air Issues Seminar (Springfield IL, 2024).
- "Responding to Clean Air Act Section 114 Requests," Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association's Environmental, Health, & Safety meeting (Springfield IL, 2023).
- Moderator, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group Land and Water Conference (Springfield IL, 2023).
- "Unpacking *West Virginia* and *Sackett II*: Key Impacts for Environmental Practitioners," Illinois State Bar Association's 21st Annual Environmental Law Conference (Chicago, 2023). (Co-presenter)
- "Environmental Hot Topics," Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association Meeting (2022).
- "Illinois Environmental Regulatory Updates," Illinois Chamber of Commerce Environmental Affairs Committee (2022).
- "Environmental Violations and Enforcement," and "Illinois EPA Bureau of Land Update," Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education webinar (2021). (Co-presenter)
- "Environmental Enforcement: Avoid if Possible, Navigate if Necessary," Environmental Basics Conference sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Springfield IL, 2019). (Co-presenter)

- "Coal Ash Update: What It Is, Where It Is, and What To Do About It," Illinois State Bar Association's 18th Annual Environmental Law Conference (Chicago, 2019). (Co-presenter)

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Brown Discuss Microplastics and PFAS Compliance at Environmental Industry's Water Seminar

AUGUST 27, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Brown Updates Industry on Possible Illinois Energy Legislation and Air Permitting Issues

APRIL 10, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Brown Speaks to Hazardous Materials Managers about Illinois Environmental Updates

FEBRUARY 19, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Bauer and Brown to Provide PFAS Regulatory Update and Tips to Prepare for Litigation

OCTOBER 22, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Bauer and Brown Discuss PFAS Regulations with Illinois Manufacturers

OCTOBER 3, 2024 | EVENT

HeplerBroom Co-Sponsors Environmental Air Seminar

Publications

- "The Impact of West Virginia v. EPA on Illinois," *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Fourth Quarter 2022).
- "U.S. Supreme Court Limits USEPA Authority in *West Virginia v. EPA*," *Environmental Law Newsletter*, Illinois State Bar Association (2022). (Co-author)
- "PFAS Investigations at Manufacturing Facilities and Industrial Sites in Illinois," *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Fourth Quarter 2021). (Co-author)
- "Update on the Respirable Crystalline Silica General Industry and Maritime Standard," *Energy and Environment Blog*, Illinois Manufacturers' Association (July 2018).
- "U.S. EPA Amends the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule," *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Winter 2018). (Co-author)
- "How Will OSHA's Crystalline Silica Rule Affect Construction and General Industry Employers?" *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Spring 2017). (Co-author)
- "How Will OSHA's Crystalline Silica Rule Affect Construction and General Industry Employers?" The Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, *FDCC Blog* (January 2017). (Co-author)
- Case Summary, *In Re Beineke*, 690 F.3d 1344 (Fed. Cir. 2012), 23 *DePaul J. Art, Tech. & Intell. Prop. L.*, 511 (2013).

NOVEMBER 14, 2024 | PUBLICATION

Brown Publishes Article Updating Illinois Manufacturers on Illinois Pollution Control Board Rulemaking

OCTOBER 9, 2024 | PUBLICATION

Brown Published in Illinois Chamber Magazine

Blog Posts

JULY 7, 2025 | BLOG

[Illinois Increases Maximum Civil Penalties for Environmental Violations](#)

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | BLOG

[New U.S. EPA Administrator Announces Agency Priorities](#)

FEBRUARY 18, 2025 | BLOG

[Tips for Building a PFAS Defense Strategy](#)

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 | BLOG

[Recent PFAS Updates](#)

NOVEMBER 21, 2024 | BLOG

[USEPA Proposes Adding Over 100 Additional PFAS to Toxics Release Inventory List](#)

AUGUST 29, 2024 | BLOG

[PFAS Updates in First Half of 2024](#)

JULY 9, 2024 | BLOG

[Illinois Supreme Court Affirms No Private Rights of Action Exist Under Illinois Environmental Protection Act's Tank Program](#)

JUNE 28, 2024 | BLOG

[Chevron Deference Overturned by U.S. Supreme Court](#)

MARCH 21, 2024 | BLOG

[Illinois Pollution Control Board Moves Forward with PFAS Groundwater Quality Standards](#)

JUNE 6, 2023 | BLOG

[WOTUS and PM NAAQS and PFAS, Oh My! Environmental Highlights in First Quarter 2023](#)

MAY 18, 2020 | BLOG

[USEPA Announces Revised Interpretation of "Begin Actual Construction" under New Source Review Regulations](#)

DECEMBER 6, 2019 | BLOG

[USEPA Seeks to Add PFAS to List of Toxic Chemicals](#)

JULY 30, 2019 | BLOG

[Illinois Supreme Court Affirms Pollution Control Board's Decision Regarding Groundwater Monitoring at Clean Construction or Demolition Debris Fill Operations](#)

News

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | EVENT

[HeplerBroom Sponsors Environmental Seminar on Land and Waste Regulations](#)

AUGUST 15, 2024 | RECOGNITION

Brown Honored with Inclusion on 2025 Best Lawyers Lists

JULY 9, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

Messina and Brown Attend Industry Day with USEPA and Illinois EPA

MARCH 19, 2024 | GIVING BACK

Brown Serves as Evaluator at State Bar Association Mock Trial Invitational

JANUARY 2, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

Brown Named HeplerBroom Partner

AUGUST 17, 2023 | RECOGNITION

Brown Honored with Inclusion on 2024 Best Lawyers Lists

NOVEMBER 30, 2015 | FIRM NEWS

Hodge Dwyer & Driver to Merge with HeplerBroom