



ALEC MESSINA

Partner

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Alec Messina spearheads the firm's Government Affairs practice group. He also works with clients in HeplerBroom's Environmental Practice Group.

As head of the Government Affairs Practice Group, Messina:

- advises clients on administrative, regulatory, and legislative matters in the environmental, energy, natural resources, agriculture, and administrative law areas before the Illinois General Assembly and units of state and local government
- assists clients in developing strong relationships with key decision makers and advocates effectively on behalf of their interests
- helps craft innovative solutions to clients' important problems and issues

As part of the Environmental Law Practice Group, he:

- counsels clients regarding compliance with various state and federal environmental laws and regulations
- advises clients in all phases of environmental permitting and enforcement matters, as well as in regulatory relief proceedings

PRACTICES

Environmental
Government Affairs

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

EDUCATION

- Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1998
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, B.A. in Political Science, 1995

Messina has 20 years of experience in environmental law, policy development and implementation, and legislative advocacy. He has worked closely with corporate senior executives, law firms, consultants, lobbyists, government affairs staff, and business development organizations to secure the necessary environmental permits and other authorizations for companies expanding in or relocating to Illinois. He also has vast experience testifying before the Illinois General Assembly on the impacts of energy and environmental legislation and policy matters.

Prior to joining HeplerBroom, Messina served as the Director of the Illinois EPA. He also served as Policy Adviser for Environment and Energy in the Office of the Governor, where he oversaw policy development and implementation for six state agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Commerce Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Pollution Control Board, and Illinois Power Agency.

Before joining the Governor's Office, Messina worked as Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, a company-based association with the primary mission of influencing the development of policy, regulatory, and legislative environmental matters in Illinois. In this role, he worked closely with plant managers, environmental professionals, and government affairs staff for company-members of the association, as well as companies affiliated with numerous business and trade groups. He has also served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois EPA, General Counsel for the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and various other positions inside and outside of state government.

Messina enjoys seeing live music, going to baseball games, and spending time with his four children.

Honors

Other Professional/Civic Involvement

- Illinois Chamber of Commerce Energy Council
 - Executive Director (2019-present)

Insights

Events & Speaking Engagements

- "Environmental Justice: How Popularity Contests Can Trump Business Decisions," Illinois Chamber of Commerce webinar (2022).
- "Highlights of Legal Issues Related to Underground Storage Tank Ownership, Operation, and the IEPA's Lust Program," Illinois Fuel & Retail Association (Springfield IL, 2022). (Co-presenter).
- "Legal Perspectives on Air Permits and Environmental Justice," Chemical Industry Council of Illinois' Environmental Hot Topics Seminar (*Springfield IL, 2022*).
- "Environmental Justice: Making it Real?" 20th Annual Illinois State Bar Association's Environmental Law Conference January Enforcement Seminar (Springfield IL, 2022)

- “Environmental Hot Topics,” Three Rivers Manufacturers’ Association webinar (2021).
- “Latest Developments on Environmental Justice,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois’ January Enforcement Seminar (virtual) (2021). (Co-presenter)
- “Emerging Issues: PFAS Assessment and Mitigation,” Illinois Manufacturers’ Association Annual Environmental Conference (held virtually, 2020). (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)
- “An Environmental Enforcement Overview,” Illinois Manufacturing Association, Environmental Compliance Conference (Oak Forest IL, 2019). (Co-presenter)
- “Hot Topics—Including Air Toxics and Ethylene Oxide Regulation,” Air & Waste Management Association’s 2019 Air Quality Management Conference (Oakbrook Terrace IL, 2019)
- “SPCC Plans: A Review,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois, Hot Topics Seminar (St. Louis MO, 2019). (Co-presenter)
- “What Else Can Shut Your Facility Down?” “When You Are Doing Business Legally, Then The Government Says You’re Not” Seminar, Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (Countryside IL, 2019)
- “Illinois’ Evolving Environmental Regulatory Scheme,” 2019 Synergy Forum, Illinois Association of Defense Council and Illinois Manufacturers’ Association (Itasca IL, 2019)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Talks Environmental Risk and Regulation with Premier Defense Counsel Association

AUGUST 27, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

HeplerBroom Environmental Attorneys Update Industry on Possible Illinois Energy Legislation and Air Permitting Issues

AUGUST 15, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Provides Environmental Regulatory Updates to Great Lakes Ports Association

JUNE 17, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Speak at Perrin’s Environmental Risk and PFAS Litigation Conference

MAY 9, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Messina Featured Speakers at State Bar Association’s Environmental Law Conference

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina and Brown Speak at State Asphalt Association Meeting

OCTOBER 18, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Discuss U.S. EPA Air Quality Standards with Illinois Manufacturers

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Address American Petroleum Institute on Key Energy Issues

APRIL 20, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Discusses Environmental Justice with Road & Transportation Builders

MARCH 29, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Facilitates Dialogue Between Wind/Solar Developers and County Boards

NOVEMBER 9, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

HeplerBroom Environmental Attorneys Present Seminar on Environmental Hot Topics

Publications

- “What Do Recent Environmental Enforcement Decisions Mean for Your Company?” *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Fourth Quarter 2019). (Co-author)

JUNE 27, 2023 | PUBLICATION

Messina Publishes Opinion Piece in *Chicago Sun-Times* on Particulate Matter Regulations

Blog Posts

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 | BLOG

Environmental Justice Uncertainty: Confusion for Illinois Businesses

JUNE 28, 2019 | BLOG

Illinois Passes New Environmental Legislation in Spring 2019 Session

News

OCTOBER 10, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

Messina and Dmitrieva Submit Motion to File Amicus Brief for Illinois Chamber of Commerce in Illinois Supreme Court

JULY 9, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

Messina and Brown Attend Industry Day with USEPA and Illinois EPA