



Environmental

We navigate and bring clarity to the complex maze of environmental laws and regulations, including all phases of air, land, and water issues. And when litigation is necessary, we have the experience based on our defense of numerous enforcement actions and other environmental-related litigation, including mass actions, both in federal and state courts and administrative tribunals.

The relationships we have built with environmental agencies benefit our clients as we work to resolve their compliance and permitting issues effectively and efficiently. We work closely with clients to identify goals and to devise strategies to achieve them. If negotiation is no longer an option, we provide vigorous advocacy in enforcement defense, permit appeals, and proceedings for regulatory relief.

We Know the Issues and Have the Solutions

We advise clients on a wide range of environmental issues, such as:

- Air permitting and state and federal regulatory compliance counseling
- Waste matters, including landfill regulatory compliance and enforcement defense, hazardous materials handling, and permitting
- Water permitting and state and federal regulatory compliance counseling, including POTW regulatory compliance
- Advising on underground and aboveground storage tank releases and defense of UST appeals
- Siting and permitting of pollution control facilities for a wide variety of industries, including livestock operations
- Emissions trading negotiations, agreements, and regulatory approvals
- Property and asset transactions, including evaluating Phase I, II, and III environmental site assessments, transferring permits and notifications to regulators, identifying and finding solutions to environmental conditions, drafting and negotiating contractual provisions, consulting on site remediation, and securing deed

PRACTICE CONTACTS

LaDonna Driver

Alec Messina

Michael P. Murphy

PROFESSIONALS

Melissa S. Brown

Lance T. Jones

RELATED PRACTICES

Class & Mass Tort Actions

Construction

Premises Liability

restrictions and other institutional controls to expedite cleanups

- Participating in environmental regulatory development and securing regulatory relief
- Asbestos abatement and remediation counseling
- Private claims based on environmental issues, including common law claims regarding trespass, nuisance, negligence, and cost recovery and contribution

Regulators Know Us

Our attorneys understand how local, state, and federal environmental agencies operate, and we practice extensively before administrative tribunals, as well as in state and federal trial and appellate courts. We represent the regulated community in the development of environmental legislation and regulations, including in proceedings before the:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Pollution Control Board
- Illinois Legislature
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management

We Know the Law

We have extensive experience in issues related to these federal and state laws and their accompanying regulations:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)
- Illinois Environmental Protection Act
- Missouri environmental statutes
- Indiana environmental statutes

We Represent Clients With Needs Like Yours

Our clients include:

- small and large industrial companies
- electric and water utilities and electric generators
- mining interests
- agricultural cooperatives and livestock operations
- landfills and clean construction or demolition debris (CCDD) fill operations
- municipalities
- individuals
- property developers
- environmental consultants
- lenders
- business and trade associations

Case Results

AUGUST 11, 2022

Murphy Secures Permanent Injunction for Natural Gas Pipeline Company

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Bringing Home the Bacon: HeplerBroom Clients Receive \$2.5 Million Fee Award

AUGUST 25, 2020

Environmental Attorneys Secure Important Legal Precedent for Farmers

Insights

News

JANUARY 22, 2026 | RECOGNITION

15 HeplerBroom Attorneys Named 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | EVENT

HeplerBroom Sponsors Environmental Seminar on Land and Waste Regulations

JANUARY 21, 2025 | RECOGNITION

15 HeplerBroom Attorneys Named 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

AUGUST 15, 2024 | RECOGNITION

28 HeplerBroom Attorneys Honored with Inclusion on 2025 Best Lawyers Lists

JULY 9, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

Messina and Brown Attend Industry Day with USEPA and Illinois EPA

MAY 15, 2024 | RECOGNITION

Murphy Appointed to Leadership Position in State Bar Association

MAY 7, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

HeplerBroom Sponsors Chemical Industry Legislative Day

MARCH 19, 2024 | GIVING BACK

Brown Serves as Evaluator at State Bar Association Mock Trial Invitational

JANUARY 25, 2024 | RECOGNITION

13 HB Attorneys Named 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

JANUARY 2, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

HeplerBroom Announces Four New Partners

DECEMBER 14, 2023

Murphy Elected to Board of Directors of Chemical Industry Trade Organization

AUGUST 17, 2023 | RECOGNITION

28 HeplerBroom Attorneys Honored with Inclusion on 2024 Best Lawyers Lists

APRIL 21, 2020 | FIRM NEWS

Understanding and Navigating Federal, Illinois and Missouri COVID-19 Environmental Enforcement Discretion Policies

NOVEMBER 7, 2019 | RECOGNITION

Environmental Attorneys Publish Article on Erosion of Regulated Entities' Traditional Protections

JULY 28, 2015 | FIRM NEWS

HeplerBroom Attorneys Attended Annual Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group Seminar

Publications

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

JUNE 27, 2023 | PUBLICATION

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

NOVEMBER 8, 2022 | PUBLICATION

Brown and Murphy Publish Article in State Bar Environmental Newsletter

OCTOBER 29, 2021 | PUBLICATION

Brown and Martin Publish Article on PFAS Investigations at Industrial Facilities

JULY 26, 2018 | PUBLICATION

Brown Published in Illinois Manufacturers' Association Blog

FEBRUARY 6, 2018 | PUBLICATION

Environmental Attorneys Brown and Martin Publish Article on Hazardous Waste Generation for Illinois Business Magazine

JUNE 1, 2017 | PUBLICATION

Martin and Brown Publish Article on OSHA's Crystalline Silica Rule

Events

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Talks Environmental Risk and Regulation with Premier Defense Counsel Association

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

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

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 22, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy Featured Speaker at State Bar Association's Environmental Law Conference

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

JUNE 13, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Brown to Speak at Air Issues Seminar

MAY 9, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

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

JANUARY 23, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy to Address Chemical Industry Organization on Environmental Enforcement

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

OCTOBER 4, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Brown to Moderate at Land and Water Conference

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Address American Petroleum Institute on Key Energy Issues

MAY 12, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Brown to Discuss Environmental Issues at State Bar Conference

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

DECEMBER 15, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Brown Discusses Environmental Regulatory Updates with Illinois Chamber of Commerce

DECEMBER 6, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Talk About Environmental Justice for Missouri Business Organization

NOVEMBER 9, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

HeplerBroom Environmental Attorneys Present Seminar on Environmental Hot Topics

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina and Martin Present Environmental Webinar to Fuel Industry Group

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina to Present Continuing Education on Environmental Justice

JULY 13, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina Discusses Environmental Justice and Air Permits with Chemical Industry Group

MAY 13, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina and Murphy in Leadership Roles for Bar Association Environmental Program

JULY 22, 2021 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Environmental Attorneys Present Webinar

MAY 27, 2021 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Martin, Murphy, and Brown Present Environmental Continuing Education Program

JANUARY 28, 2021 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Environmental Attorneys Speak at Chemical Industry Event

OCTOBER 22, 2020 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Environmental Attorneys Speaking at Annual Conference

NOVEMBER 5, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Murphy and Martin to Speak at Seminar on Illinois Water Laws and Regulations

NOVEMBER 5, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Four HeplerBroom Attorneys Speak on Environmental Enforcement

OCTOBER 30, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Messina and Martin to Speak at Manufacturing Association's Environmental Conference

OCTOBER 22, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Messina to Speak at Air Quality Management Conference

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Messina and Martin to Discuss Environmental Hot Topics at Chemical Industry Seminar

AUGUST 22, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Messina to Speak to Chemical Industry Group about Environmental Issues

MAY 9, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Three HB Attorneys Speaking at 18th Annual ISBA Environmental Law Conference

MAY 7, 2019 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

3 HB Attorneys Speak at IDC Synergy Forum

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 | [SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT](#)

Murphy Speaks at Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group Seminar

Blog Posts

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 | [BLOG](#)

Environmental Justice Uncertainty: Confusion for Illinois Businesses

AUGUST 14, 2025 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Legislation Will Ban PFAS in Numerous Products

JULY 24, 2025 | [BLOG](#)

Streamlining Environmental Permitting is Part of White House AI Action Plan

JULY 7, 2025 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Increases Maximum Civil Penalties for Environmental Violations

APRIL 8, 2025 | [BLOG](#)

PFAS Litigation Part 2: Where, When, and Why

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

OCTOBER 17, 2024 | [BLOG](#)

PFAS Litigation Part 1: PFAS - What & Who

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**

JUNE 6, 2024 | [BLOG](#)

U.S. EPA Includes Major Emphasis on PFAS in Its 2025 Budget Request

MARCH 21, 2024 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Pollution Control Board Moves Forward with PFAS Groundwater Quality Standards

MARCH 15, 2024 | [BLOG](#)

Appellate Court Upholds Illinois Coal Ash Regulations

MARCH 5, 2024 | [BLOG](#)

New U.S. EPA PFAS Air Testing Method Shows Progress Toward Emissions Standards

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 | [BLOG](#)

New Guidance on Best Practices for Internal Investigations

AUGUST 29, 2023 | [BLOG](#)

2023's Second Quarter Filled with Environmental Law Updates

JUNE 6, 2023 | [BLOG](#)

WOTUS and PM NAAQS and PFAS, Oh My! Environmental Highlights in First Quarter 2023

JULY 19, 2022 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Bans Incineration of PFAS

MARCH 3, 2022 | [BLOG](#)

Changes to Annual Emissions Reports on Published Agenda for Illinois EPA

NOVEMBER 5, 2021 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Pollution Control Board Adopts First Time-Limited Water Quality Standard

FEBRUARY 23, 2021 | [BLOG](#)

Environmental Justice Becomes Part of Federal Climate Change Policies

FEBRUARY 16, 2021 | [BLOG](#)

PFAS on Illinois EPA's and U.S. EPA's Radar

OCTOBER 8, 2020 | [BLOG](#)

Environmental Attorneys' Amici Briefs Get It Right

MAY 28, 2020 | [BLOG](#)

County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund: What Happens Now?

MAY 18, 2020 | [BLOG](#)

USEPA Announces Revised Interpretation of "Begin Actual Construction" under New Source Review Regulations

APRIL 23, 2020 | [BLOG](#)

Supreme Court: Groundwater Discharges to Navigable Waters Require a Permit When 'Functionally Equivalent' to a Direct Discharge

FEBRUARY 13, 2020 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Pollution Control Board Reconsiders Ruling on Groundwater Management Zones, Affirms Remainder of Order on Coal Ash Violations

DECEMBER 6, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

USEPA Seeks to Add PFAS to List of Toxic Chemicals

OCTOBER 15, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

Midwest Generation Seeks Reconsideration of Pollution Control Board Ruling Constricting Effective Period of Groundwater Management Zones to Duration of Active Remedial Work

JULY 30, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

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

JUNE 28, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Passes New Environmental Legislation in Spring 2019 Session

APRIL 22, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

New USEPA Clean Water Act Guidance on Groundwater Previews Supreme Court Position and Applies in Illinois, Missouri, and 34 Other States

MARCH 12, 2019 | [BLOG](#)

Seventh Circuit Draws a Line on Awards of Injunctive Relief Under RCRA

MARCH 28, 2018 | [BLOG](#)

Illinois Appellate Court Permits Insured to Prove Terms of Missing Policies with Specimen Coverage Forms for the Missing Policy Periods