



Matthew Karmel

Principal, Practice Group Leader - Environmental and Sustainability Law

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Matthew Karmel is passionate about sustainability and the environment and has been widely recognized for his influence and leadership in the field. As the head of the firm's Environmental and Sustainability Law practice area, he represents a wide variety of businesses and individuals in connection with the full range of environmental matters. From *Fortune* 100 companies to individual homeowners, Matthew provides clients with practical and common-sense environmental counsel, including in the following areas:

- Brownfields Redevelopment and Site Remediation
- Regulatory Compliance and Land Use/Operational Permitting
- Environmental Litigation and Enforcement Defense
- Real Estate and Corporate Transactions (incl. Environmental Due Diligence and Contracting)
- Waste Management and Recycling (incl. Development, Permitting, and Compliance)
- Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Environmental Justice

In connection with the foregoing, Matthew has experience with state and federal courts and agencies, including:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
- New Jersey Office of Administrative Law (NJ OAL)
- New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- New York City Office of Environmental Review (NYC OER)

Services

- Environmental and Sustainability
- Environmental Litigation and Enforcement Defense
- Real Estate and Corporate Transactions
- Regulatory Compliance and Permitting
- Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development
- Site Remediation and Brownfield Redevelopment
- Waste Management and Recycling
- Real Estate Law and Transactions

- American Arbitration Association (AAA)

Matthew also has specific experience with a wide range of environmental laws and regulations, including the New Jersey Spill Compensation and Control Act (Spill Act), Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA), "Tech Regs" and "ARCCS," Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA), Flood Hazard Area Control Act, Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, Waterfront Development Act, Clean Water Act and NJPDES permits, New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act, "Recycling Rules" (N.J.A.C. 7:26A), Solid Waste Utility Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:26H) and A-901 requirements, New Jersey Environmental Justice Law and A0 2021-25, the New York Oil Spill Law, New York Brownfield Cleanup Program (NY BCP), and NY DER-10, as well as federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

As a sought-after thought leader on sustainability and the environment, Matthew's presentations and writing contributions have included audiences such as Waste Dive, Waste360, BioCycle, NJBiz, Rutgers University, the Montclair State University Institute for Sustainability Studies, the Fordham University School of Law and more.

Additionally, Matthew is heavily involved in industry groups relating to sustainability and the environment. He is also a board member of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association and the NJ Composting Council.

He also aids with critical environmental causes through his pro bono legal services and encourages other lawyers to develop a climate-friendly legal practice through his newsletter, [the planetary lawyer project](#).

Education

- Fordham University School of Law (J.D.)
- Rutgers University (B.S., *magna cum laude*)
 - Economics with Honors
 - Mathematics

State Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- New York

Recognitions

- New York Metro Super Lawyers® - Rising Stars list for Environmental (2026)
- Chambers and Partners, Band 2: Energy & Natural Resources - [USA Guide 2025, 2026](#)
- Chambers and Partners, Up and Coming: Environment - [USA Guide 2025, 2026](#)
- Lawdragon 500 Global Leaders in Energy - (2026)
- 2024 Green Pro Bono's Creative Collaborator Award
- 2023 NJBIZ "Forty Under Forty Honoree," recognizing New Jersey professionals under the age of 40 for their successes and leadership
- 2022-2025 NJBIZ "Law Power 50," highlighting the most influential attorneys in New Jersey

- 2022 ROI-NJ "Influencers in Law - Rising Star," highlighting the lawyers in New Jersey that have the most influence on business issues and transactions (with less than ten years in practice)
- 2022 Waste 360 "40 Under 40" list by Waste360, acknowledging impressive professionals under 40 in the waste and recycling industry
- Named The Best Lawyers in America® for Energy Law and Environmental Law (2026)
- Named *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Energy Law, Environmental Law (2021-2025). The "Ones to Watch" awards are recognitions given to attorneys who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States
- Selected to New Jersey Rising Stars® for Environmental Law (2022 - 2026).
- 2021 "Rising Star" Recycling Award by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The NJDEP Recycling Awards recognize the outstanding recycling achievements of municipalities, counties, businesses and industry, and individuals

No aspect of these advertisements or awards has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.