



James P. Ray

Partner

jray@rc.com

Hartford — 860.275.8257

James P. Ray has more than 30 years of experience as an environmental and product liability litigator and counselor, and he has served as court-appointed common counsel or liaison counsel in multiple environmental matters. These experiences, combined with a strong technical and business background, enable him to work effectively with engineers, scientists, other experts, and legal counsel to help clients minimize risk and solve toxic tort, enforcement, site remediation, compliance, and cost allocation challenges. Jim chairs our firm's Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications group.

Common Counsel

Jim has been selected as coordinating or liaison counsel for joint defense groups and has been court-appointed common counsel for groups of defendants in a number of environmental disputes. He has represented groups in active environmental litigation and guided other groups through administrative proceedings and cost allocation efforts. At most sites, his efforts resulted in the groups quickly resolving their cost allocation disputes, thereby avoiding litigation and allowing him to lead the groups' efforts to promptly and cost-effectively (in some cases under budget) address the underlying environmental problems. These engagements typically involve sites with complicated scientific issues, a multitude of consultants and experts, numerous parties with different interests and levels of involvement, and document management challenges.

Environmental Litigation

Jim represents clients in toxic tort and environmental litigation at sites throughout the United States. These disputes arise under common law and environmental statutes, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; the Clean Water Act, and most other federal and state environmental statutes. His legal experience and technical background enable him to promptly evaluate cases and recommend an appropriate strategy to his clients, whether that involves preparing a case and taking it to trial or positioning the client to pursue a favorable settlement. He has obtained a number of favorable verdicts in cases brought under federal, state and common law causes of action.

Environmental Counseling + Dispute Resolution

Jim regularly serves on the Steering Committees at Superfund sites, represents clients in alternative dispute resolution efforts, counsels clients in connection with their compliance efforts under a multitude of environmental programs, and advises clients and insurers on site cleanup efforts and the costs and obligations related to such efforts. He works closely with his clients, experts and other lawyers to creatively solve his clients' risk management challenges.

Product Liability

Jim defends lead-based paint, mold, asbestos, and product liability cases. He counsels clients involved in product recalls with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and has advised those clients on their reporting obligations and voluntary corrective action programs.

Before joining our firm, Jim worked as an engineer for the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). His DEEP experience included enforcement and permitting under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and analysis of environmental considerations in litigation, real estate transactions, and bankruptcy.

Services

- Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications
- Brownfields + Redevelopment
- Environmental Compliance + Permitting
- Environmental Litigation + Dispute Resolution
- Health + Safety
- Site Investigation + Remediation
- Class Action Defense
- Crisis Planning + Management
- Product Liability Litigation
- Energy - Project Development
- Workplace Health + Safety
- Water

Industries

- Coastal + Offshore Resources
- Energy

Education

- University of Connecticut School of Law (Juris Doctor, *with honors*)
- University of Connecticut (Masters)
 - M.B.A., Business Administration
- University of Connecticut (Bachelors, *cum laude*)
 - B.S., Chemical Engineering

Admissions

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- State of Connecticut
- State of New York
- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut
- U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Recognitions

Listed in the 2026 edition of *Benchmark Litigation* as a Local Litigation Star for Connecticut in the area of Environmental

Utilities

Ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* in the state of Connecticut in the area of Environment from 2011 to 2014 and since 2020

Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® as Hartford Lawyer of the Year in the area of Litigation - Environmental for 2021 and 2023

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the areas of Environmental Law from 2008 to 2015 and since 2018 as well as Litigation-Environmental for 2011, 2013, 2014, and since 2018

Selected to the Connecticut *Super Lawyers* list from 2012 to 2014, from 2017 to 2022, and 2025

Named a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer for 2025 and 2024

Listed in *Who's Who Legal: The International Who's Who of Environment Lawyers* 2011, 2013, 2014 (Copyright by Law Business Research Ltd)

Leadership + Memberships

American Bar Foundation

Fellow (2013 - Current)

American Bar Association

Environmental Litigation Committee, past co-chair (2011 - 2014)

Environmental Litigation, Products Liability and Mass Tort Committees' CLE Summit Co-chair, 1/2011 and 1/2005

American College of Environmental Lawyers

Fellow (2022)

Connecticut Bar Association

Environmental Law Section (1992 - present)

Connecticut Bar Foundation

James W. Cooper Fellow

Connecticut Business & Industry Association

Environmental Policies Council (1992 - present)

Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity

Executive Board Member (2002 - 2017)

National Conference for Community and Justice, Connecticut and Western Massachusetts

Board Member

Chair, Governance Committee

Connecticut Science Center

Programming Committee (2017)