



John P. Casey

Partner

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John P. Casey concentrates his practice on land use and environmental matters, with particular emphasis on coastal management, development, permitting, and littoral and riparian water rights. He is a member of Robinson+Cole's Land Use and Real Estate + Development groups, and the partner in charge of our firm's New London office.

Land Use – Zoning

John handles planning, zoning, and wetland permits and applications. He helps his clients secure the necessary local, state, and federal approvals for their projects, whether it is an industrial complex, pier, seawall, mooring field, new medical facility, private dock, shoreline bridge, or waterfront home. John regularly appears before local zoning, wetlands, and harbor management commissions, as well as the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has represented a variety of clients, such as manufacturers, government and quasi-government agencies, hospitals, homeowners, condominium associations, retailers, waterfront property owners, and marinas, helping them make their projects a reality.

John has successfully represented applicants in contested administrative hearings before DEEP hearing officers for coastal development projects, including major defense manufacturing facilities and regional port facilities. He has also obtained all the necessary approvals for a regional community hospital in Connecticut to build a new 40,000-square-foot cancer treatment facility, secured a permit from DEEP for an onsite community sewerage system for a client who needed it to develop a residential adult community, successfully represented a client in a controversial proposal to rebuild a pedestrian bridge between two islands off the Connecticut shore, and helped property owners save their coastal homes after they were damaged in major storms.

Litigation

John handles litigation related to land use and property rights, including appeals of zoning and permit decisions and DEEP final administrative actions. He has achieved positive results for clients who have had to pursue litigation over land use matters. He secured money damages and injunctive relief for a client who owns lakefront property, after a neighbor illegally maintained a mooring in his client's littoral rights area. On behalf of a large grocer, John successfully defended an environmental intervenor's appeals of land use boards' approvals, allowing the construction of a new grocery store. John has also successfully defended permits issued by the DEEP in court appeals brought by project opponents.

Previously, John was a member of Robinson+Cole's Trial and Appellate section. He has extensive experience in all types of civil litigation, including products liability, personal injury, and insurance coverage and subrogation matters.

Admiralty

As an extension of his coastal management practice, John also advises clients on admiralty and maritime matters, such as damage claims concerning vessels and land-based structures. He is one of the primary attorneys in our firm representing the

Connecticut Port Authority, a quasi-public agency that is responsible for marketing and coordinating the development of the state's ports and maritime economy.

Pro Bono

John has an active and diverse pro bono practice. He has represented disabled veterans in eviction actions as well as represented a non-profit entity in its efforts to allow the public to visit one of the oldest lighthouses in the nation. He is a former member of Connecticut Legal Services Inc.'s Board of Directors, where he worked on a collaborative pro bono project that provided legal assistance to low-income elderly adults faced with abusive debt collection practices and other consumer law issues.

Before joining our firm, John was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps, fulfilling various legal duties while stationed at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. After completing his military service, he worked for a litigation firm in New London, Connecticut.

Services

- Coastal Resources + Sea Level Rise
- Environmental Litigation + Dispute Resolution
- Land Use
- Property Rights + Eminent Domain
- Real Estate + Development
- Sustainability
- Administrative Law
- Land Use Litigation
- Regulatory Counseling
- Administrative Appeals
- Development Permitting
- Real Estate Litigation
- Religious Land Use + Institutionalized Persons Act
- Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications

Industries

- Coastal + Offshore Resources
- Real Estate Developers + Owners

Education

- Washington College of Law, American University (Juris Doctor, *summa cum laude*)
 - Law Review
- University of Connecticut (Bachelors)
 - B.A., Economics

Admissions

- State of Connecticut

- State of Rhode Island
- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. Navy (JAG) United States Court of Military Appeals

Recognitions

Presented with the 2023 Jeanne Czel Person of the Year Award by the [Connecticut Marine Trades Association](#)

Leadership + Memberships

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

Pro Bono Council

Environmental Business Council of New England (EBC)

Chair, Ocean and Coastal Resources Committee

Planning Team, 5th Annual Connecticut Offshore Wind Conference

Connecticut Bar Association (2000 - Current)

Connecticut Bar Foundation

James W. Cooper Fellow (2012)

Rhode Island Bar Association (2001 - Current)

Connecticut Marine Trades Association

Environment Committee (2005 - Current)

Connecticut Harbor Management Association

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies Project on Climate Change

Naval & Maritime Consortium

Thames River Working Group, Offshore Wind Working Group

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

Energy Council

Ocean Community YMCA (Naik Branch)

Board of Managers, and Property Committee

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.

Treasurer and Member, Board of Directors and Executive Committee

The Mystic & Noank Library

Member, Board of Trustees

Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force

President, Board of Directors

New London Education Foundation

Board Member

Groton Mystic Lacrosse Association

President, Board of Directors

Coach and Member, Board of Directors

Groton Housing Authority

Board Member