

Adam G. Sowatzka

Partner

Environmental, Health and Safety

Atlanta: +1 404 572 3508

Mobile: +1 770 309 5349

asowatzka@kslaw.com



Adam Sowatzka is well known for his thorough grasp of environmental issues, gleaned from his experience as an EPA enforcement attorney, general counsel and lawyer with King & Spalding. In 2017, *Chambers* recognized him for his strength in defending civil and criminal enforcement matters describing him as "excellent in all aspects" of environmental practice. He has worked on precedent-setting cases and is at the forefront of some of the most significant environmental issues of the day.

With over 20 years of experience as an environmental lawyer, Adam offers pragmatic, business-minded solutions to clients facing complex problems in the ever-changing regulatory environment. He has litigated numerous cases in federal and state courts; represented companies in complex, high-stakes enforcement actions, and advocated before EPA and other regulatory agencies on dozens of rules, permits and other administrative proceedings.

Adam has handled matters in all environmental media — from water, to air, to waste issues. He has particular expertise in water and storm water cases, having resolved some of the largest Clean Water Act enforcement matters in country. He manages complex, multiparty Superfund matters, including one of the largest Superfund sites in the Southeast — an 800-acre coastal site with PCB and other contamination. Adam is also often called on for his crisis management expertise in areas including accidents, explosions, derailments, spills, and responding to criminal and civil inspections and investigations.

Before entering private practice, Adam was an Associate Regional Counsel with the Environmental Protection Agency's Southeastern Regional Office, and Vice President and General Counsel of a manufacturing and services subsidiary of Axel Johnson, Inc.

A published author and frequent speaker on environmental compliance and enforcement issues, Adam has been recognized as a leading environmental lawyer by *Chambers USA*. He has also been named a Georgia Super Lawyer by *Georgia Super Lawyers* magazine.

Matters

Representing a **Fortune 100 company** in addressing historical contamination including

polychlorinated biphenyls with EPA and a state agency, and complex allocation issues with the other potentially responsible parties, involving a former major manufacturing site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Representing a **major international manufacturer** in a national industrial storm water enforcement action by EPA headquarters, the DOJ and several states initially involving over 400 manufacturing locations.

Counsel to a **large municipal government** in defense of a pending civil enforcement action by the EPA, a state agency and local environmental group alleging Clean Water Act violations regarding its wastewater system (sanitary sewer overflows) and its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

Representing a **healthcare company** in defense of an enforcement action by the EPA involving numerous facilities relating to the management and disposal of hazardous waste, including pharmaceuticals and laboratory waste, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., Vermont Law School, cum laude

M.S.E.L., Vermont Law School, magna cum laude

B.S., University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, cum laude

ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama

Alabama

District of Columbia

Georgia

Wisconsin

Recognition

Listed as a leading Environmental lawyer in Georgia

CHAMBERS USA: AMERICA'S LEADING LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS, 2011–PRESENT

Named a Georgia Super Lawyer in Environmental Law

GEORGIA SUPER LAWYERS, 2014–PRESENT

Named a Georgia Rising Star in Environmental Law

GEORGIA SUPER LAWYERS, 2011–2013

Listed in Environmental Law and Litigation

BEST LAWYERS, 2013–PRESENT

Member – Environmental Editorial Advisory Board

LAW360, 2011–2016

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

February 21, 2019

Supreme Court and EPA to Address Broad Expansion of Clean Water Act Liability by Lower Courts

February 19, 2019

EPA Issues New Waste Rules for Hospitals, Medical Clinics and Pharmacies

NEWSLETTER

March 6, 2019

Energy Newsletter – March 2019

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Events

CONFERENCE

September 20, 2018

Energy Forum: Incident Response and Preparedness: Defending on Multiple Fronts

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

April 3, 2019

Brian Stansbury, Adam Sowatzka to Speak at 2019 Oil and Gas Congress About Incident Response

April 25, 2018

Adam Sowatzka to Speak at Georgia Wetlands Law and Compliance Conference

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News

IN THE NEWS

September 6, 2019 • Source: Bucks County Courier Times

Adam Sowatzka discusses the federal government's approach to PFAS cleanup

June 6, 2019 • Source: Bucks County Courier Times

Adam Sowatzka comments on the Navy's proactive initiative to remove 3,500 tons of contaminated soil

RECOGNITION

August 16, 2019

The Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 115 King & Spalding Lawyers in its 2020 Guide

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