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Hodgson Russ Taps Head Of New Real Estate, Enviro Practice

By **Brent Godwin**

Law360 (October 20, 2023, 2:36 PM EDT) -- An attorney known for working on environmental and renewable energy issues will serve as the head of Hodgson Russ LLP's new practice group that combines environmental law and real estate finance work.

The firm said Thursday it has promoted Michael J. Hecker to lead its new real estate, environment, energy and finance practice, which includes 50 attorneys. Hecker was previously leader of the environmental practice group and is on the firm's board of directors. He officially started in his new role Oct. 9.

Hecker's practice is focused on resolving environmental issues in business transactions, developing renewable energy projects, counseling clients on regulatory compliance and permitting, defending administrative, civil and criminal environmental clients, and providing oversight and management of remediation-based projects, according to the firm.



Michael J. Hecker

"The environment [and] energy practice has been one of the firm's fastest growing areas in recent years, driven by the rapid expansion of work in the renewable energy sector," Hecker said in a statement.

He said the entrepreneurial efforts — and cross-collaboration — of attorneys in the real estate and environment and energy practices were a big factor in that growth.

"By bringing these two groups together under one umbrella, we will help to further facilitate continued collaboration and growth, with the ultimate goal of delivering unmatched service to our clients," Hecker said.

Hecker told Law360 that he was humbled and honored to get the opportunity to lead. He works in the firm's Buffalo office, as well as its New York City office.

"Mike Hecker's appointment to practice area leadership in this newly formed group will benefit both firm clients and the attorneys serving those clients. We are grateful for Mike's vision and leadership," managing partner Benjamin M. Zuffranieri Jr. said in an email to Law360.

The firm said Hecker has advised clients on Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act issues, as well as work with the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program, among numerous other environmental and energy-related regulations.

Hecker earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo and his law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.

--Editing by Scott Russell.