



JEFFREY C. STRAVINO

Partner; Environmental Practice Leader

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Jeff focuses his practice on business and environmental litigation. He has experience in a wide range of civil litigation matters, including federal and state court litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Jeff represents large and small companies, as well as individuals, in shareholder, accounting, health care, software and complex contract matters. Jeff also represents clients in various environmental matters, including litigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; and New York's Navigation Law. He also represents clients in PRP groups, advises clients on various environmental compliance matters including waste management and landfills, and regularly interacts with state and federal agencies. Jeff successfully worked with the U.S. attorney to obtain a several-million-dollar settlement for the government and his clients in False Claims Act (qui tam) litigation. Jeff also serves as local counsel for out-of-town clients, and has extensive experience representing clients in mediations and arbitrations, including before the American Arbitration Association under both the Commercial Rules and the International Rules. Jeff has also served as a mediator and successfully resolved lawsuits pending in state and federal courts.

Jeff is a member of Hodgson Russ's board of directors.

Jeff exclusively practices U.S. law and is admitted to practice in New York.

Honors

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* (Commercial Litigation) 2014 - 2024
- Listed, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, (Environment) 2020 - 2023
- Listed, *Upstate New York Super Lawyers* (Environmental Litigation) 2012 - 2023
- *Buffalo Business First/Buffalo Law Journal's* Legal Elite of Western New York, 2014

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Practices & Industries

Brownfield Redevelopment
Business Litigation
Canada-U.S. Cross-Border
Environmental
Renewable Energy

Admissions

New York
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
U.S. District Court, Western District of New York

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- *Buffalo Business First's* 40 Under 40 Award
- Laidlaw Law Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Commercial Law
- Former executive editor and associate editor, *Buffalo Law Review*

Experience

Hodgson Russ is defending a large, multinational wood treatment corporation in a multi-party Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) litigation situated in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. The causes of action pending in the litigation include both federal and state law claims.

A victory in federal court by a team of Hodgson Russ attorneys put an end to a seven-year lawsuit and extinguished the risk of our client paying millions in damages and other costs arising from claims of federal and state environmental law violations. The matter involved a facility owned and operated by our client, a manufacturer. Over the course of decades of operation, our client's facility became heavily contaminated with chemical residues. Some of those residues migrated off site into the surrounding community. Hodgson Russ represented this manufacturer in connection with an administrative order on consent entered into with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Environmental Conservation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Our client is performing the work required by the administrative order and is making extensive efforts to benefit the community. Despite our client's efforts, four families from the surrounding community sued the manufacturer in federal court under the citizen suit provisions of several federal statutes, claiming that our client was not complying with the requirements of various environmental statutes and that EPA was not effectively enforcing them. The families asked the federal court to intervene and to order our client to do more remediation faster. They also asserted claims for personal injury and property damage. The Hodgson Russ team successfully defeated the plaintiffs' claims in court. In his decision, the presiding judge granted our motion to disqualify the plaintiffs' expert and for summary judgment. The case was dismissed entirely — freeing our client to focus on completing the corrective action program without judicial intervention and to remove a substantial liability reserve from its books. Subsequent efforts by the plaintiffs to revive the suit have also been defeated.

Hodgson Russ provided counsel to the owner of a vacant industrial property when it was purchased by another business. Jeffrey Stravino managed the overall coordination of the various legal teams and issues involved in the deal, and

Clerkships

Senior U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin, 1997-99

Education

Harvard College, B.A., cum laude

University at Buffalo, M.B.A., with high honors

University at Buffalo School of Law, J.D., cum laude

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personally handled the environmental matters, including working with the client and New York State to get the site into the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program. Joseph Endres assisted on the tax issues, and was very instrumental in working through tax and BCP issues that arose during the transaction.

Hodgson Russ assisted a food industry client, with locations nationwide, in solving a dispute concerning shareholder rights, ownership, and company valuation. Despite a change in law that appeared to be detrimental to the client, our team of attorneys, led by Jeff Stravino, navigated the Court system and filed a special proceeding to obtain critical documents that ultimately created leverage which forced a resolution and a much higher (seven-figure) settlement for the client.

In the News

Stravino Co-Presents UB Law's Highest Award to Judge in Washington, D.C.
University at Buffalo School of Law, September 15, 2022

Fifty-Five Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers* 2014
August 28, 2013

Fifty-Four Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers* 2013
August 30, 2012

Hodgson Russ LLP Announces Four New Partners
January 26, 2007

Jeffrey C. Stravino president of Harvard-Radcliffe Club of WNY
November 7, 2005

Press Releases

55 Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys Named to 2023 *Upstate New York Super Lawyers* List
August 23, 2023

83 Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys Ranked in 2024 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
August 17, 2023

Hodgson Russ LLP Receives Multiple Top Marks from *Chambers USA Guide* 2023
June 6, 2023

Fifty-Nine Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Edition of *Upstate New York Super Lawyers*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 23, 2022

71 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 19, 2022

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Hodgson Russ Receives Top Marks for *Chambers USA 2022 Guide*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, June 2, 2022

Fifty-Four Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2021 Edition of Upstate New York Super Lawyers
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 20, 2021

55 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 19, 2021

Jeffrey Stravino Appointed President of the UB Law Alumni Association
Hodgson Russ Press Release, June 18, 2021

Hodgson Russ Receives Top Marks for *Chambers USA 2021 Directory*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, May 26, 2021

Publications

New York Public Service Commission Commences Grid of the Future Proceeding
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, April 23, 2024

Appellate Court Clarifies Scope of Required CLCPA Compliance and Confirms Ripeness Under SAPA for Challenges to Agency Declaratory Rulings
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, April 3, 2024

EPA Finalizes Standards Impacting Hazardous Air Pollution Emissions at Gasoline Distribution Facilities
Hodgson Russ Environment & Energy Alert, March 29, 2024

Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group Releases Proposed Revisions to NYS Fire Code Related to Battery Energy Storage Systems
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, February 22, 2024

Applicant's Partial Loss of Site Control Results in First ORES Denial of Section 94-c Permit Application
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, February 20, 2024

NYSDEC Releases New Draft Guidance Related to Discharges of PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane for Public Review and Comment
Hodgson Russ Environmental Alert, January 25, 2024

FY 2025 Executive Budget: Governor Hochul Proposes to Expedite and Consolidate Environmental Review and Permitting for Major Renewable Electric Generation and Transmission Facilities
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, January 23, 2024

National Grid Petition Seeks Retroactive Cost Increases From Multiple Solar Projects, Ability to Increase Costs on Future Projects
Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, January 16, 2024

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NYSERDA Reports on the Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act and Submits Proposal Stretching Funding for Additional Solar Capacity

Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy Alert, January 11, 2024

2024 Draft Solar and Wind Valuation Model Under Real Property Tax Law § 575-b Released for Public Comment

Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy & Municipal Alert, January 3, 2024

Presentations & Events

Superfund/Brownfield Program Update 2023

NYSBA Environmental & Energy Law Section, December 5, 2023

Environmental & Energy Law Section Oil Spill Symposium 2023

NYSBA Oil Spill Symposium, Albany, NY, May 10, 2023

Excellence in Action: Views From the Trial Court and Appellate Benches

UB Law Alumni Association, Inc., Buffalo, NY, April 25, 2023

Coffee Connectors

July 5, 2022

All Is Not Quiet In WNY – The Latest Environmental Legal Issues

NYSBA: Environmental & Energy Law Section, February 25, 2021

U.S. Supreme Court Review and Preview

Erie County Bar Association, November 13, 2020

Environmental Legal and Regulatory Updates: What You and Your Clients Need to Know

May 26, 2020

35th Annual School Client Conference

Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo NY 14225, January 17, 2020

Individual Liability & the Responsible Corporate Officer Doctrine

NYSBA Oil Spill Symposium, Albany, NY, May 8, 2019

Basics of Environmental Law 2018 CLE program

NYSBA Environmental and Energy Law Section, April 18, 2018

Professional Affiliations

- New York State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Erie County Federal Practice and Environmental Law Committees
- Chair, Environmental Law Committee 2013-2016

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- Ontario Bar Association

Community & Pro Bono

- Past President, UB Law Alumni Association
- Regional Director, Harvard Alumni Association
- Vice President, Harvard Club of WNY
- Founding Member, Hull House Foundation

In addition to serving on the firm's Board of Directors, Jeff is the President of the University at Buffalo Law Alumni Association. He also currently serves as the Regional Director for Upstate New York and Western Pennsylvania for the Harvard Alumni Association.

Jeff also currently serves as vice president of the Harvard Club of Western New York, for which he previously served as president for five years; is a member of the club's board of directors; interviews applicants seeking club membership; and formerly served as chairperson of the club's Schools Committee.

Previously, Jeff was one of the five founding trustees and was the secretary of the Hull House Foundation. The Hull House is a historic stone residence and landmark built in Lancaster, New York circa 1810 that survived the devastation of the War of 1812. Jeff was instrumental in obtaining nonprofit status for the foundation, and worked in other ways to get the project off of the ground.

Jeff also founded and was the head coach of the Grand Island Royals travel baseball team, and served as a manager for various youth hockey teams for the Niagara Junior Purple Eagles (where he was also a Board member for several years) and the Buffalo Bisons.

He is also former secretary and a former member of the board of trustees of the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, now called Preservation Buffalo Niagara.

