



AARON M. SAYKIN

Partner, Media & First Amendment Practice Area
Leader

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Aaron is the leader of the firm's Media & First Amendment Practice Area, helping clients navigate issues such as defamation, free speech, licensing, press relations, and related issues including New York's Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law. He draws from a wealth of media experience, having spent 13 years as an investigative television reporter in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Wilmington, North Carolina, before becoming a lawyer.

As part of his growing media law practice, Aaron has become a leader in defending higher education clients against claims involving the freedom of speech and association. He also advises these clients on related compliance and governance issues designed to prevent them from becoming the target of First Amendment litigation. Aaron is highly experienced in helping businesses and individual clients confront with reputational defense issues, including responding to false and defamatory comments in online interviews, posts and publications. He advises media clients with pre-publication reviews of articles and videos and assists them in responding to subpoenas for their materials. Aaron also regularly helps clients respond to press inquiries, particularly for sensitive issues.

Aaron also has extensive experience assisting clients with complex commercial matters and disputes. He has represented private and public sector clients engaged in some of the region's most significant construction disputes, state-permitted energy projects, and False Claims Act cases. He represents both developers and host communities as their trusted counsel.

In 2021, Aaron obtained a jury verdict in excess of \$1 million for his client in a commercial dispute—even though his client was the defendant in that case. The jury rejected the plaintiff's claims and instead found in favor of his client's counterclaim.

The Guaranty Building
140 Pearl Street
Suite 100
Buffalo, NY 14202

New York City
605 Third Avenue
Suite 2300
New York City, NY 10158
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Practices & Industries

Administrative & Regulatory
Aerospace & Defense
Business Litigation
Class Action Litigation
Construction
Environmental
False Claims Act & Whistleblower
Representation
Media & First Amendment
Municipal
Renewable Energy

Admissions

New York

Education

University of Massachusetts
Amherst, B.A., summa cum laude

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Honors

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* (Commercial Litigation) 2023 - 2024
- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* Ones to Watch (Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Litigation - Construction, Litigation - Environmental) 2022
- Listed, *Upstate New York Super Lawyers* Rising Stars (Business Litigation) 2017 - 2023
- Listed, *Buffalo Business First/Buffalo Law Journal's* Legal Elite of Western New York, Rising Star, 2018
- Max Koren Award (most outstanding member of University at Buffalo School of Law class of 2013)
- David Kochery Leadership & Service Award, 2013
- James M. Kieffer Trial Excellence Award, 2013
- Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Award, 2012
- Best Advocate of the 2012 Buffalo-Niagara Mock Trial Competition
- Former member, *Buffalo Law Review* editorial board

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

In the News

New video shows moments before local judge was hit by train
WIVB, March 23, 2021

Thought Leaders - Current State of the Media
Buffalo Business First, September 25, 2020

Buffalo Business First - Thought Leaders: First Amendment
Buffalo Business First, June 29, 2018

Brighton supervisor Moehle calls for smaller Whole Foods Plaza
Rochester City Newspaper, March 14, 2018

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

AARON M. SAYKIN

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

Hodgson Russ Announces New Partners
Hodgson Russ Press Release, December 16, 2021

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

Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2021 *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, September 15, 2020

Sixty-Two Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to 2020 Upstate New York Super Lawyers
Hodgson Russ Press Release, September 8, 2020

Sixty Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to 2019 Upstate New York Super Lawyers
Press Release, August 12, 2019

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

Supreme Court Provides Further Guidance on Public Officials First Amendment Rights on Social Media
Hodgson Russ Media & First Amendment and Municipal Alert, March 20, 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

AARON M. SAYKIN

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

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

Presentations & Events

Air & Waste Management Association 2021 Annual Enrichment Seminar

Air & Waste Management Association - Niagara Frontier Sector, June 8-9, 2021

Western Chapter NYWEA Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference

Buffalo Grand Hotel & Events Center, March 10, 2020

35th Annual School Client Conference

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

2019 Supreme Court Roundup - What Municipalities Need to Know Now

December 6, 2019

Hodgson Russ Buffalo Broadcasters Association Annual Media Roundtable

The Offices of Hodgson Russ, 140 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY 14202, October 23, 2019

Zoning & Land Use Fundamentals for Municipal Officials

Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY, June 13, 2019

2019 Municipal Law Seminar

Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY 14225, May 16, 2019

Emerging Free Speech and Legal Issues for the Media Industry

May 14, 2019

Business Solutions Series: Media Law and First Amendment Seminar

Hodgson Russ, Offices of Hodgson Russ, June 28, 2018

AARON M. SAYKIN

Municipal Law Seminar

Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY 14225, May 17, 2018

Blog Posts

- Supreme Court May Hear Another False Claims Act Case

The Whistleblower Blog, October 17, 2016

- Showdown Looming Over Whether Whistleblowers Can Use “Statistical Sampling” To Prove Fraud Claims And Increase Damages Award

The Whistleblower Blog, April 6, 2016

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Erie County
- Former executive board member, University at Buffalo School of Law Student Bar Association

Community & Pro Bono

- Member, Dean's Advisory Council: University at Buffalo School of Law
- Chairman, Erie County Audit Committee: 2016-Present
- Member, Board of Directors: Western New York Deaf Access Services
- President, Board of Directors: University at Buffalo School of Law Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Group - 2018