



Ashley L. Thompson

Counsel
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Overview

Ashley is an environmental lawyer with a comprehensive practice spanning litigation, regulatory, and transactional matters. Her litigation experience includes complex matters under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and its state counterparts.

She is well-versed at defending companies against citizen suits brought under federal environmental statutes, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act. Ashley also has experience defending clients against Clean Air Act New Source Recovery enforcement actions. Additionally, she conducts environmental due diligence related to the sale of property and provides clients with environmental compliance counseling.

Ashley is skilled at distilling highly technical and regulatory concepts for her audience, whether that be a client, court, or the public. In her area of practice, the resolution to a problem can frequently be found in the details. As a results-focused litigator, Ashley takes pride in knowing she has examined all the details in order to confidently assess and advise a client on the next steps.

Practices

- Environmental
- Compliance Counseling and Permitting
- Due Diligence, Audits and Transactional Support
- Citizen Suits and Environmental Activism
- Remediation and Superfund

Industries

- Consumer Products and Services
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Manufacturing

Experience

- Serves on the team representing National Grid at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in New York City. National Grid is one of 28 parties that has been tasked with performing the Remedial Design in this complex urban environment.

- Collaborates as part of the team representing National Grid at the Newtown Creek Superfund Site in New York City. National Grid is one of five parties performing a Remedial Investigation along the heavily industrialized waterway that separates the city's boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.
- Defends parties against citizen suits brought by private parties and non-governmental organizations alleging that their activities have violated federal or state law.
- Represents parties involved in building, maintaining, and operating pipeline infrastructure across the U.S. in federal and state litigation.
- Helps developers understand the environmental issues present at properties, and works with owners and planners to design contractual and remedial plans to mitigate environmental risks.

Credentials

Education

- University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 2009
University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform, Managing Note Editor
Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Student Attorney
- Kalamazoo College, B.A., Psychology, 2003, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Professional Memberships

- American Bar Association

Languages Spoken & Fluency

- Spanish, Fluent

Insights

04.08.2020
News Release
Schiff Pro Bono Win Secured Secular Marriage Celebrants in Michigan

02.19.2020
News Release
Emerging Lawyers Network Lists Seven Schiff Attorneys

02.04.2019
News Release
Emerging Lawyers Lists 14 Schiff Attorneys in Illinois

10.25.2018
Blog Post
Property Owners and Developers Beware: Third Circuit Holds Chemical Company Liable for Pre-Acquisition Cleanup Costs

08.22.2018
Blog Post
District Court Issues Injunction on President Trump's "Suspension Order" of the WOTUS Definition

06.15.2018
News Release
Schiff Partners with the Center for Inquiry to Challenge Michigan's Marriage Law

02.01.2018

News Release

18 Schiff Hardin Attorneys Named to 2018 Emerging Lawyers List

09.22.2017

News Release

Nineteen Schiff Hardin Attorneys Named Emerging Lawyers

Winter 2017

Article

Recent Developments in Toxic Tort & Environmental Law

Winter 2016

Article

Recent Developments in Toxic Tort & Environmental Law

View All

Other Publications

- "Fourth Circuit Decides Key CERCLA Allocation and Liability Case," (co-author) *Schiff Hardin LLP Environmental Update* (Apr. 15, 2013)
- "Revised USEPA Guidance on Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser Protection for Tenants," *Schiff Hardin LLP Environmental Update* (Mar. 7, 2013)
- "Defending a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Citizen Suit," *Ash at Work* (2011)
- "Efforts to Prevent the Misclassification of Independent Contractors Continue," (co-author) *Schiff Hardin Labor and Employment Update* (May 3, 2010)
- "OSHA Issues Draft Directive on Severe Violator Enforcement Program (SVEP)," *Schiff Hardin Labor and Employment Update* (Apr. 28, 2010)
- "OSHA Reporting: Are you in Compliance?" (co-author) *Schiff Hardin Labor and Employment Update* (Feb. 11, 2010)
- "An Unintended Consequence of Tort Reform in Michigan: An Argument for Reinstating Retailer Product Liability," *42 University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform* 961 (2009)

Speeches & Presentations

- "Trends & Upcoming Issues in Environmental Law," (co-presenter) Agricultural Law Section of the Michigan Bar Association (Sep. 22, 2016)
- "The Future of Environmental Law" (co-moderator) Environmental Law Committee of the Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association (Feb. 25, 2014)
- "Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs: Challenges and Successes of an Innovative Program," Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, Environmental Law Committee (Dec. 19, 2013)
- "Panel on Careers in Environmental Law," (moderator) Environmental Law Committee of the Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association (Feb. 26, 2013)
- "Case Study: The RCRA Citizen Suit '(a)(1)(B)' Claim," Environmental Law Committee of the Young Lawyers Section, Chicago Bar Association (Jan. 26, 2012)
- "Mandatory Reporting and the Role of Psychologists in Child Protection Proceedings," University of Michigan (Apr. 2008)

Citizenship

Pro Bono Activities

- Ashley is committed to maintaining an active pro bono practice. She is especially committed to using her Spanish language skills to assist immigrants in the process of obtaining legal status in the U.S.
- She has worked with numerous organizations to provide pro bono legal services, including the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, the National Immigrant Justice Center, and Justice for Our Neighbors of West Michigan.
- Before joining Schiff, Ashley worked as a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow in the Children's Law Project at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Civic and Charitable Memberships

- Ashley is a member of the Board of Directors for Impact 100 Traverse City, a transformational granting organization comprising regional women.

- She is also a member of her local Board of Zoning Appeals, which hears issues related to the administration and enforcement of area zoning code.
- Ashley formerly served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section Environmental Law Committee for the Chicago Bar Association.
- Prior to law school, she worked in Panama as an Environmental Health Extensionist with the U.S. Peace Corps where she collaborated with community leaders and public health officials to develop, build, and sustain community health and sanitation programs.

AWARDS & HONORS

- **Emerging Lawyer (2020)**
Law Bulletin Publishing Company's *Leading Lawyers*
- **Emerging Lawyer (2019)**
Law Bulletin Publishing Company's *Leading Lawyers*
- **Emerging Lawyer (2018)**
Law Bulletin Publishing Company's *Leading Lawyers*
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