



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Environmental statutes, regulations, and ordinances present an ever-present challenge to businesses and individuals in the conduct of their day-to-day operations. Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella's environmental practice group is here to help you navigate the issues and provide counsel to you in developing and implementing plans for operations and compliance with a myriad of environmental laws and regulations.

Protection of human health and the environment is the guidepost in the development of environmental laws. In meeting these goals, such laws regulate the purchase, transportation, storage, use and disposal of hazardous and toxic substances and their release into the environment. Consequently, these laws can affect the daily operation and transactions of many businesses. They can also impact the value of property, increase construction costs and create numerous liabilities. In identifying the impact of environmental laws on your business, we can provide comprehensive guidance on environmental issues, including conducting risk assessment and providing compliance counseling, in order to implement cost-effective plans to address on-going concerns and reduce or eliminate liability. We also assist our clients in the acquisition or sale of a business or real estate, including conducting due diligence to assure existing liabilities are fully identified before the transaction closes.

In addition, we also have significant experience in representing our clients in various tribunals, including the federal and state courts, the Illinois Pollution Control Board, and other administrative agencies. Typical representation includes defending against enforcement actions brought by regulatory agencies, as well as contribution claims and cost recovery against liable third parties. In addition, we also provide counsel to clients undergoing environmental remediation, permitting and other regulatory proceedings.

PROFESSIONALS

Karen Kavanagh Mack

RELATED PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Government & Regulatory



Experience

- Represented state agency in litigation against major oil company before circuit and appellate court which resulted in favorable opinion for client where Second District Appellate Court found that environmental contamination could give rise to a claim for “waste” under the leases for the subject properties.
- Represent local manufacturing company in enforcement matters brought by both federal and state agencies with respect to alleged large scale groundwater contamination of chlorinated solvents in residential areas in the western suburbs of Chicago.
- Represent municipal agency with respect to several former manufactured gas plant sites in the Chicagoland area, ranging from private enforcement actions being filed against major utility companies to oversight of voluntary investigation and remediation.
- Represented owner of property adjacent to gas station, where owner’s property experienced vapors and explosive conditions in basement of building following demolition of gas station and major rain event. Obtained injunctive relief before circuit court requiring all demolition activities be enjoined until investigative and protective actions had been taken to ensure the safety of the building and its tenants.

Insights

NEWS

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 17th Annual Savills Landlord Challenge Charity Golf Event
News, [August 5, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Launch of New Firm Website Coincides with Firm’s 30th Anniversary Milestone
News, [July 28, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Partner John Stephens Quoted in Crain’s Chicago Article Entitled, “For Black lawyers, roadblocks to partnership persist”
News, [June 10, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Supporter of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago 2022 Heroes Breakfast
News, [May 4, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Cited In Chicago Tribune Article Regarding a Pro Bono Case Recently Undertaken by the Firm
News, [May 3, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Serves as Pro Bono Counsel in Federal Lawsuit Charging Advocate Health and Hospitals Corporation with Racial Discrimination
News, [April 21, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Welcomes Peter Ivancsits as Its Chief Financial Officer
News, [April 18, 2022](#)



Burke Warren Proud to Participate in the Chicago Bar Foundation's 2022 Investing in Justice Campaign News, [April 6, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Member Firm of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights News, [February 21, 2022](#)

Burke Warren a Proud Sponsor of 2022 Entrepreneur and Family Business Council Gala News, [January 25, 2022](#)

Burke Warren Named to Vault's 2022 20 Best Midsize Law Firms to Work For in Chicago News, [December 2, 2021](#)

Adrian Atwater and Jolisa Warmack, Participants in Burke Warren's Inaugural 3L Minority Internship Program, Accept Offers to Join The Firm News

Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C. Partner Karen Kavanagh Mack Appointed Chair of ISBA Environmental Law Section Council News, [June 21, 2021](#)

ALERTS

Burke Warren Remains Fully Committed to Client Service Through Remote Working Capabilities Alert, [March 18, 2020](#)