

Jim T. Banks

Partner

Washington, D.C.

Biography

From the boardroom to the courtroom, Jim Banks takes on the toughest environmental and legal challenges. Always in a leadership role, Jim has spearheaded the advocacy efforts of a national environmental organization, directed the legal and regulatory affairs of a major corporation, and led the global Environmental practice at Hogan Lovells.

Jim is recognized for his in-depth knowledge of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Jim's combination of legal experience and engineering training enables him to help clients develop practical and imaginative solutions to their biggest problems. Clients also seek Jim's guidance and representation in regulatory, permitting, and litigation challenges involving endangered species and National Environmental Policy Act matters.

Jim serves clients in the oil and gas, mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and waste management sectors and has represented states and cities in high-stakes litigation over the use of river flows. Jim challenges the EPA's regulations and enforcement orders, the Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of threatened and endangered species, and the Office of Surface Mining's regulation of coal mines. When agencies bring enforcement actions or environmental groups file citizen suits, Jim develops creative legal and technical defenses to



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Practices

Environment and Natural Resources

Administrative and Public Law

Government Relations and Public Affairs

Litigation Services

Industries

Automotive

Education

Energy and Natural Resources

Real Estate

Technology & Telecoms

resolve them.

Jim also guides clients through complex permitting processes for large development projects. As licensing counsel for large mining operations, crude oil facilities, and liquefied natural gas terminals, Jim provides the vision and strategy to secure agency approvals and withstand judicial challenges.

Representative experience

Represented a large poultry producer in a rare federal court decision overturning an EPA enforcement order under the CWA.

Secured an unprecedented federal court decision invalidating an Interior Department decision listing a species under the Endangered Species Act.

Guiding the federal and state permitting efforts for three liquefied natural gas terminals in the Gulf of Mexico region.

Representing the largest underground coal mining company in leading a challenge to Interior Department environmental regulations.

Resolved a citizen suit and storm water permit issues for hundreds of contaminated sites left by the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos.

Awards and rankings

- Environmental Law, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2006-2020
- Litigation - Environmental, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2011-2020
- Environment (District of Columbia), *Chambers USA*, 2004-2020
- Environment: Litigation, Hall of Fame, *Legal 500 US*, 2017-2020
- Environment, *Who's Who Legal*, 2010-2018

Areas of focus

Auditing, Internal Reviews, Reporting, Self-Disclosure

Clean Water Act

Environmental Litigation

Judicial Review

Land Use and Project Development

Natural Resource Management

Permit Negotiations and Appeals

Rulemaking and Legislative Advocacy

Water

Education and admissions

Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1975

B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Kansas, 1972

Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

- Best Lawyer of the Year, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2017
- Environment: Litigation, Leading Lawyer, *Legal 500 US*, 2011-2019
- Environmental - Environmental Litigation, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, 2007-2014
- Washington's Top Lawyers - Environmental, *Washingtonian*, 2011-2012,2014
- International Environmental Lawyers, *Who's Who Legal*, 2013
- Environment Super League, *PLC Which Lawyer?*, 2011

Latest thinking and events

- Insights
 - Trump administration issues executive order to reduce reliance on imports of critical minerals
- Analysis
 - CEQ's NEPA regulatory overhaul: highlights and predictions
- News
 - Deepwater ports pre-application meeting guidance
- Awards and Rankings
 - Hogan Lovells continues growth and recognition in 2019 Legal 500 U.S. rankings
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes significant reform to regulations implementing the Endangered Species Act *Environment Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - D.C. Circuit denies Sierra Club's petition challenging DOE's orders authorizing exports for the Freeport LNG terminal

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
 U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
 U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
 U.S. Supreme Court

Accolades

"a creative thinker and a very thoughtful lawyer."

Chambers USA 2017

"Jim Banks is described by sources as 'very knowledgeable, thorough, and with vast experience,' as well as 'a delight to deal with.'"

Chambers USA 2015
