



## M. Joel Bolstein

Partner

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Named as one of the leading environmental attorneys in Pennsylvania by Chambers USA, Joel focuses his practice on brownfields redevelopment, the environmental aspects of corporate and real estate transactions, regulatory compliance counseling and environmental litigation.

Joel advises on:

- Permit procurement
- Permit and enforcement actions
- Environmental assessments and remediation
- Litigation
- Regulatory compliance
- Corporate and real estate transactions
- Marcellus Shale leasing, permitting and related development

In his Marcellus Shale practice, Joel also represents clients looking to obtain permits to treat and beneficially reuse frac water and drill cuttings. He also helps clients navigate the complex federal and state laws and regulations that govern all aspects of the Marcellus Shale.

### Services

- Real Estate
- Environmental
- International
- Israel
- Zoning & Land Use
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Environmental Compliance
- Mergers & Acquisitions

### Before Fox Rothschild

As Deputy Secretary for Special Projects at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Joel was involved in permit and enforcement decisions, development of policies, and regulatory initiatives, including:

- trouble-shooting between the Department and the regulated community
- the reuse of industrial sites
- promoting economic development
- managing the implementation of Pennsylvania's Land Recycling Act (Act 2 of 1995)
- writing regulations for the land-recycling program
- representing the Commonwealth in the Republican Governors Association Task Force on CERCLA reform

At The George Washington University Law School, Joel was a member of the Order of the Coif and an associate of the Law Review.

## Beyond Fox Rothschild

Joel is a member of Pennsylvania's Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board, which provides advice to PADEP on policy and regulatory matters related to Act 2. Joel is also Co-Chair of the Government and Private Sector Innovation Committee of the American Bar Association Section on Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (SEER).

In September 2012, Joel was appointed to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PENNVEST) board by Governor Tom Corbett. PENNVEST funds sewer, storm water and drinking water projects with low cost financial assistance throughout the state, and also assists businesses in locating and expanding operations to create permanent, well-paying jobs in Pennsylvania.

He served three terms on the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) for six years, which advises the EPA on domestic and international environmental policy issues.

Joel is a former member of the Standing Committee on Environmental Law of the American Bar Association. He is also a past officer in the ABA's Section on Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law (now SEER).

Joel is a former Commissioner and Chairperson of The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), which develops state policy and regulations and adjudicates claims alleging discrimination in housing, employment and educational opportunities. He served as a PHRC Commissioner starting in 1999, having been appointed by Governor Tom Ridge, and subsequently reappointed by Governors Rendell and Wolf to successive five-year terms. He served as PHRC's Chairperson from 2016-2026, resigning his position on April 9, 2026, after having served for 27 years.

## Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania

## Education

- George Washington University Law School (J.D.)
- George Washington University (B.A.)

## Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Energy and Environmental Policy Council, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry
- Co-Chair, ABA, Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law (SEER) Government and Private Sector Innovation Committee

## Board of Directors

- National Kidney Foundation

## Honors & Awards

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Environment - Pennsylvania (2004-2025)
- Named to the list of 75 Heroes by the National Kidney Foundation (2025)

- Recipient, Homer C. Floyd Pinnacle Award, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (2023)
- Received the Top Chairman Award from the National Kidney Foundation (2019)
- Received the Arthur P. Pasquarella Leadership in Action Award from the National Kidney Foundation (2019)
- Named to "Who's Who Legal" in the area of Environment Law (2014, 2016) and Environment & Climate Change (2022)
- Named in The International Who's Who of Environment Lawyers (2011, 2014)
- Selected to the "Best Lawyers in America" list for Environmental Law (2003-2026) and Litigation - Environmental (2011-2026) in Warrington, PA by *Best Lawyers*
- Named to the "Super Lawyers" list for Environmental Law in Pennsylvania (2004-2010, 2017-2020)
- Recipient, Excellence in Environmental Achievement Award, Bethlehem Steel Company (1999)
- Recipient, Award for Excellence, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (1995)