

Kristen Ellis Johnson

ASSOCIATE

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Kristen's experience navigating complex environmental and transportation regulations allow her to quickly get answers companies need to manage risks and develop comprehensive strategies to achieve their goals.

Kristen has substantial experience advising clients on environmental regulatory requirements and permit compliance under federal, state, and local laws. Her practice is a balance of regulatory, transactional, and litigation work dealing with solid and hazardous waste laws, Superfund/CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. She also has experience serving the rail and transit industries, which are highly regulated and often have issues requiring unique analyses. She has worked through regulations in rail and over-the-road transportation, ranging from shipping hazardous waste, to air emissions from mobile sources, to import inspection regulations administered by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Her familiarity with regulatory framework across the environmental and transportation sectors allow her to efficiently navigate complex issues.

She also represents clients across sectors and provides counseling on day-to-day activities to ensure compliance with environmental requirements. She frequently advises clients on spill and release reporting issues, air and water permitting

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Energy
Environmental & Natural Resources
Environmental Counseling
Infrastructure Task Force

ADMISSIONS

Missouri
Kansas

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Kansas City, J.D., *cum laude*, 2010

- Certificate in Environmental Law and Urban Planning

William Jewell College, B.A., Oxbridge Institutions and Policies, 2005

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compliance, Spill Prevention Countermeasure & Control (SPCC) plan compliance, and voluntary self-disclosure of discovered non-compliance under EPA's audit policy. When needed, she assists clients through the process of inspections, negotiations, and enforcement actions and is experienced at negotiating settlements to reduce potential penalties arising due to alleged non-compliance at the state and federal levels. She has helped effectively handle environmental agencies' information requests and settle administrative enforcement actions at the federal and state level. Kristen helps clients protect their confidential and proprietary information when responding to requests for information by agencies or navigating the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process.

Kristen represents municipalities who manage power plants and public drinking water systems to stay abreast of the ever-changing environmental frontier, including compliance with the Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rule, PFAS monitoring, and changes to Navigable Waters standard and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits requiring consideration of groundwater. Kristen has also represented clients owning landfills and managing solid waste in various stages of Superfund litigation, permit compliance, and compliance disclosure reporting.

Before joining Stinson, Kristen spent several years focused on handling the environmental portions of complicated transactions. She understands the necessity of thorough environmental diligence and is skilled at navigating issues as they arise. Kristen regularly works with Stinson's Corporate Finance and Real Estate teams on environmental due diligence during complex transactions, where her broad-based experience lends itself well to issue-spotting and establishing protective contract terms. She is also involved with environmental diligence for new market tax credits and energy-related developments, such as solar farms and carbon dioxide capture and sequestration projects.

As a full-service environmental practitioner, Kristen has also been a key team member in litigated cases, including cases dealing with water rights, agency permitting decisions, RCRA exemptions, Superfund PRP suits, and endangered species and critical habitat. Kristen is keeping abreast of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as part of the firm's Infrastructure Task Force.

Kristen gives back to the community by providing pro bono services in the family court and participating in the Election Protection voter hotline. She was recognized in 2021 as a Pro Bono Champion by Stinson for devoting more than 100 hours to pro bono service. She also sings soprano in a well-known Kansas City choir, *Te Deum*, in her spare time.

RECOGNITIONS

Named to the 2022-2024 *Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" list

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PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Citizens of the World Kansas City, Former School Board Director and Secretary

NEWS

Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 32 Stinson Attorneys as "Ones to Watch"

08.17.2023

Stinson Attorneys Selected to LCLD 2023 Fellows and Pathfinder Programs

03.06.2023

Best Lawyers in America® Recognizes 29 Stinson Attorneys as "Ones to Watch"

08.18.2022

Stinson Establishes Infrastructure Task Force to Support Clients

03.08.2022

Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 23 Stinson Attorneys as "Ones to Watch"

08.19.2021

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Environmental Due Diligence for Lenders," client lending group presentation, August 2019

"Corporate Environmental Update," Kansas City Missouri Bar Association CLE by-the-hour presentation, June 2012

"What to Expect When You're Inspected, Environmentally," Kansas City Missouri Bar Association CLE by-the-hour presentation, June 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Environmental Law, *Kansas Bar Association 2020 Kansas Annual Survey of Law*, Volume XXXI, Chapter 11, May 2021

Co-Author, "Virtual Site Reconnaissance in the Time of COVID-19," June 2020, *Environmental Banker's Association (EBA) Journal*

EPA Releases Suite of Environmental Regulations for Utility Sector: What does it mean for you?

04.25.2024

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EPA Finalizes Groundbreaking Rule to Regulate Two PFAS under CERCLA

04.19.2024

EPA and State Regulators Outline Region 7 Regulatory Priorities at Environmental Conferences

10.06.2023

Environmental Wrap-Up 2022 and What to Expect in 2023

01.19.2023

White House Announces New Guidance on Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

01.12.2023

Getting the Lead Out: Escalating State and Federal Priorities

10.25.2022

PFAS Chemicals Slated to Become CERCLA Hazardous Substances

09.01.2022

EPA Sets Health Advisories for Drinking Water

06.17.2022

Biden Administration Takes Concrete Steps to Prioritize Environmental Justice

05.10.2022

EPA Proposes Accelerating Nutrient Reductions

05.05.2022

The EPA Reverts to Pre-2015 Definition in Proposed WOTUS Revision

12.09.2021

Now is the Time to Evaluate PFAS Liability

10.21.2021

How Can We Chart a Course on Navigable Waters?

09.30.2021

Clean Water Requirements Escalate for PFAS, Nutrients and other Pollutants

09.10.2021

DOJ Puts Supplemental Environmental Projects Back on the Negotiating Table

02.05.2021

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