



# Julie M. Avery

## Special Counsel

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**“Drawing from my litigation and regulatory compliance experience, I develop effective solutions to clients’ complex business and environmental problems.”**

Julie Avery’s practice focuses on a variety of litigation and regulatory matters, including on environmental enforcement, litigation and compliance, renewable energy transactional matters, and general commercial litigation. Julie assists clients with compliance and enforcement issues under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and similar state programs in California and Oregon. Julie also has experience with regulatory issues and investigations involving per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). She has utilized her litigation and environmental experience to negotiate and draft Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contracts for clients with renewable energy projects throughout the country. Julie also has experience in state and federal actions involving contract and other business disputes and a broad array of environmental, energy, and insurance coverage issues.

Julie also brings significant general litigation experience, with a particular emphasis on defending clients in complex class action matters across a range of industries. She represents businesses in state and federal courts in high-stakes disputes involving consumer, environmental, and commercial claims, and regularly guides clients through all phases of litigation, from early case assessment and motion practice through discovery, settlement negotiations, and trial preparation. Julie’s practical, defense-oriented approach is informed by her experience with multi-party litigation and coordinating strategy across jurisdictions.

During law school, Julie served as an extern to Judge Amy D. Hogue at the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, and as a full-time honors law clerk with the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Mobile Source Enforcement Branch of the Air Enforcement Division. Before joining Miller Nash, Julie was a litigation associate at a California law firm, working with public entities in the areas of construction, real estate, and environmental regulation.

### Education

J.D., Pepperdine University  
 Caruso School of Law,  
 2015

- National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (NAALJ)
- International and Comparative Law Certificate

B.A., Colgate University,  
*cum laude*, geology, 2011

- Dean’s Award for Academic Excellence
- Keck Geology Consortium Fellowship

### Bar Admissions

California, 2017  
 District of Columbia, 2023  
 Oregon, 2023  
 Washington, 2023

### Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, Central  
 District of California  
  
 U.S. District Court,  
 Northern District of  
 California

### Languages

Spanish

## Professional Activities

- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Environmental Section
  - Executive Committee Member, 2023-present
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER)
  - Energy Committee, Co-Chair, 2025-2026
  - Energy Committee, Vice Chair of Written Content, 2024-2025

## Civic Activities

- Long Beach Ronald McDonald House
  - Board of Trustees, Member, 2024-present
- FuturePorts
  - Board of Directors Executive Committee, Treasurer, 2025
  - Board of Directors Executive Committee, Member, 2024-present

## Representative Experience

### Renewable Energy

- Drafts and negotiates Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) agreements and related agreements for a variety of solar, onshore wind, and BESS projects in numerous states across the country, from 50MW to 170MW for international renewable energy company.
- Drafts agreements related to construction, purchase and lease of biogas facilities.
- Advises national renewable energy EPC contractor on environmental contract provisions and site issues.
- Represents steel manufacturing company in a dispute with an EPC contractor regarding a solar project collapse.

### Environmental Litigation & Compliance

- Represent clients at the Portland Harbor Superfund site in Portland, Oregon, including assisting with insurance recovery efforts.
- Advises company on California air permitting requirements.
- Advises international data center company regarding air permitting requirements and navigating violations.
- Represent entities at BKK Superfund site in West Covina, CA.
- Advises a manufacturing company with Los Angeles County Regional Water Board order compliance.
- Represented a national energy company in asserting statutory and common law claims related to PFAS contamination arising from aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) against manufacturers of AFFF and PFAS in California.
- Second-chaired California arbitration hearing defending international energy company against environmental contamination claims and obtained arbitration award in client's favor.
- Advised national energy client on environmental review and permitting requirements for remediation project in California.

### Commercial Litigation

- Represents international shipping company in various chassis lease disputes.
- Key member of team that obtained a \$1.5 million verdict in large energy company's favor in a franchise dispute.
- Successfully obtained dismissal of large regional grocery store chain client in antitrust class action related to price-gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Publications

- "Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council Provides Clarity on Renewable Energy Project Compliance with Statewide Planning Goals," Miller Nash, *From the Ground Up* (Oct. 2023)

- “PFAS Year-End Review: EPA Lays Groundwork for Tighter Regulatory Scrutiny,” Miller Nash, coauthor (Feb. 2023)
- “EPA Issues Historic Proposed Rule to Designate PFOS and PFOA as Hazardous Substances Under CERCLA,” Miller Nash, *From the Ground Up*, coauthor (Aug. 2022)
- “EPA and States Issue Temporary Policies: Air and Water Permit Compliance During COVID-19,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *From the Ground Up* (Apr. 2020)

### **Presentations**

- “Environmental Law & EPC,” Blattner Company, webinar, presenter (May 2025)
- “Powering Ahead: Perspectives on State-Level Energy Permitting Reform,” American Bar Association, webinar, panelist (Mar. 2025)
- “ESG: Trends, Risks, and Coverage Issues,” The Litigation Section of the American Bar Association, 2022 Women in Insurance Network, panelist (Oct. 2022)

### **Recognition & Honors**

- Selected for inclusion as a Southern California Super Lawyer—Rising Star, 2023-present