

Jessica Ann Bernardini

Associate

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"I provide a holistic approach to problem-solving by leveraging my technical background. I listen closely to clients to offer thoughtful and practical legal advocacy."

Jessica Bernardini helps clients navigate environmental and energy regulation, from permitting and compliance to enforcement defense and complex, multiparty Superfund disputes. As a former consulting engineer with more than a decade of experience, she brings technical depth to her legal work.

Jessica advises clients on environmental permitting and compliance, including stormwater and industrial wastewater, hazardous and solid waste, and environmental releases, and she handles settlement negotiations and appeals of environmental penalties. On the transactional side, Jessica provides environmental due diligence for acquisitions of petroleum-related infrastructure, from bulk terminals to retail gasoline stations, and of contaminated real estate.

Jessica also guides clients through complex private-party disputes involving legacy operations. In multiparty CERCLA cost allocation proceedings at complex Superfund sites, she develops the technical and legal strategies that minimize clients' share of liability.

Earlier in her career, as a consulting engineer to private and public entities, she concentrated on environmental permitting and compliance for heavily regulated industries, including waste management companies and renewable natural gas developers. Before joining Miller Nash, Jessica practiced at law firms in Oregon where she focused on energy and environmental matters. There, she handled contested cases before the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) and the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). She also completed a secondment at Avangrid Renewables, LLC.

Professional Activities

- Northwest Environmental Business Council, Member, 2024-present
- Oregon Women Lawyers, Member
- Oregon State Bar
  - Environmental and Natural Resources Section, Executive Committee Member, 2023-present

Education

J.D., Lewis & Clark Law School, *cum laude*, 2021
- Certificates in Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Energy, Innovation, and Sustainability Law
- Submissions Editor, *Environmental Law*
- Environmental Law Fellow
- Dean's Scholarship for Excellence
- Dean's Scholar List
- Moot Court

M.S., University of California, Berkeley, 2007

B.S.C.E., Rutgers University, Honors, 2006

Bar Admissions

Oregon, 2021
Washington, 2023
Colorado, 2022

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

Civic Activities

- Oregon Energy Fund, Board Member, 2026-present
- Victim Rights Law Center, Pro Bono Attorney, 2021-present
- Lewis & Clark Law School, Small Business Legal Clinic, Pro Bono Attorney, 2021-2023

Representative Experience

Environmental

- Regularly represented a variety of manufacturing and commercial operations to come into or maintain compliance with state, municipal, and local stormwater and industrial wastewater regulations.*
- Assisted manufacturing clients with regulatory compliance of latest PFAS laws regulating food packaging and consumer products.*
- Successfully negotiated or defeated citizen suits brought against clients under the Clean Water Act.*
- Successfully negotiated settlements of environmental enforcement actions.*
- Represented large manufacturing company in the remediation design phase of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.*
- Represented a utility in defending a federal class action alleging groundwater impacts from nitrogen loading, including coordinating expert analysis and supporting mediation.
- Negotiate settlements with private parties and consent decrees with government agencies in contamination disputes at multi-party sites.
- Advised on environmental issues related to property acquisitions for commercial and industrial properties. Successfully negotiate prospective purchaser agreements with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Provided environmental counsel to an infrastructure investor in its acquisition of a bulk liquid terminal, including due diligence, transfer of air quality and stormwater permits, and coordination with state and city regulators.

Litigation

- Represented an electric utility in state court litigation for breach of contract claims.

Energy

- Provided environmental due diligence for the financing of renewable energy projects, which involved multiple state and federal environmental regulations, as well as contract drafting and negotiation.
- Represented public utility before Oregon Court of Appeals for appeals of OPUC decisions.
- Represented electric and natural gas utilities in general rate case proceedings before the OPUC.
- Represented utility in state permitting under EFSC for 500-kV transmission line. Successfully litigated disputed issues in contested case proceeding resulting in issuance of a site certificate.

**Prior to joining Miller Nash*

Publications

- "Under Pressure: Where Landfill Gas Regulation Stands Today," American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, *Trends* (Mar. 2026)
- "The Latest on California's PFAS Laws Regulating Textile Articles and How to Prepare for Upcoming Deadlines," Miller Nash, *From the Ground Up* (Oct. 2024)
- "Leveraging Mandatory Licensing Under the Clean Air Act—a Novel Framework to Domestic Reduction of Greenhouse Gases," Lewis & Clark Law School, *Environmental Law* (Apr. 2021)

Presentations

- "Environmental Barriers to Oregon's Renewable Energy Transition," Oregon State Bar Environmental & Natural Resources Section, "2025 Environmental & Natural Resources Law: Year in Review" Annual CLE, moderator (Oct. 2025)
- "Adaptation, Equity," Texas Symposium on Climate Change and Energy Transition, moderator (Apr. 2025)

Recognition & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* (Portland, OR)
  - Energy Law, 2026-present
  - Environmental Law, 2026-present

Personal Activities

Outside of work, Jessica loves spending time outdoors—mountain biking, snowboarding, or exploring the Pacific Northwest on her motorcycle.