

Contact

Robert J. Kafin

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Robert J. Kafin currently serves, by appointment of the NYC Mayor, as chair of GrowNYC, the operator of 54 Greenmarkets and other environmental conservation programs in New York City. He devotes most of his time to not-for-profit civic and environmental organizations, while continuing as an optional service partner at the firm, where he remains available to advise its clients. He is the founder and a member of the firm's Environmental Practice Group.

Bob is a former member of the senior management of the firm, serving as its Chief Operating Partner for 15 years and also as its General Counsel.

He is the former chair of the Times Square Alliance, the business improvement district for the Times Square neighborhood in Manhattan.

Bob has concentrated his outside client service in the area of environmental law since 1971. As such, he has handled complex problems arising under the entire spectrum of environmental issues which face businesses and has a sophisticated understanding of their legal, political, regulatory, scientific and transactional aspects and regulatory schemes under the major federal environmental laws and state analogues, including the Clean Air Act, Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Oil Pollution Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Superfund,

and Toxic Substances Control Act.

In addition, Bob has reviewed and evaluated environmental compliance and liabilities in major transactions involving almost every type of industry. He also has assisted clients with “Brownfields” projects in working their way through the regulatory and financing maze created by new statutes and regulations setting up voluntary clean-up and liability protection programs.

Land use regulation and environmental impact analysis has been another branch of Bob’s environmental law practice. He has worked extensively on the environmental impact and zoning problems of major real estate developments and industrial facilities, including the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, for which he supervised the preparation of environmental impact statements and obtained permits for the major sports facilities.

He is also a former Chair of the Adirondack Council a nonprofit which works to preserve the ecological integrity and wild character of the six million acre Adirondack Park.

Practices

Corporate/Transactional, Environmental

Education

Harvard Law School, J.D.
magna cum laude
Franklin & Marshall College, A.B.
magna cum laude
Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions & Qualifications

New York

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, New York, Northern District
U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District

U.S. District Court, New York, Western District

Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

New York State Bar Association (Former Chair of Environmental Law Section)

New York City Bar

Real Estate Environmental Liability News (Board of Editorial Advisors)

Awards & Recognition

Chambers USA: New York: Environment (Senior Statesman) 2003-2011, 2013-2017

New York Super Lawyers 2010-2020

Fellow, The New York Bar Foundation

Best Lawyers in America 2006-2027

Lake George Land Conservancy 2015 Volunteer of the Year

The Legal 500 United States: Environment: Transactional 2023

Government Service

Chair, Council on the Environment of New York City, (Current)

Counsel, New York State Senate, Albany, NY

City Judge, Glens Falls, NY