ArentFox Schiff LLP
Attorneys

Sarah L. Lode

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Sarah focuses her practice on environmental- and energy-related litigation, regulatory compliance, and permitting.



Industries

Energy & Cleantech
Agriculture & AgTech

Practices

Environmental

Education

Indiana University Maurer School of Law, JD, summa cum laude, 2019

Ferris State University, BS, magna cum laude, 2015

Ferris State University, AAS, magna cum laude, 2015

Joliet Junior College, AA, high honors, 2013

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Chicago

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Sarah handles complex litigation, quasi-litigation, administrative, and regulatory matters under federal, state, and local environmental and permitting laws as well as advises clients on environmental compliance prior to disputes arising.

Sarah has a broad range of experiences from being a part of large litigation teams handling complex CERCLA sites to drafting comments for and participating in agency rulemaking at the state and federal level. Sarah's practice ranges from the above-mentioned work to her work counseling independent power producers on compliance with every-changing federal and state coal combustion residual and groundwater regulations and advising others on compliance and impact of U.S. EPA Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule.

She also has extensive experiencing working hand-in-hand with large-scale and community wind and solar clients, advising on siting, zoning, and environmental compliance concerns. Sarah has experience not only advising on renewable energy issues, but she also represents renewable energy developers before local government permitting and siting hearings. Sarah is well versed in coordination with municipalities, including annexation and extra-territorial jurisdiction concerns, permitting distributed energy resources, and coordination with counties for permitting and development of commercial scale wind projects.

Sarah's approach to practice begins with understanding the bigger picture, regardless of the subject matter. She then employs her experience to absorb key case facts, understand client goals, and quickly turn to developing creative potential solutions.

Boards, Memberships & Certifications

- Public Interest Law Initiative, Alumni Network Leadership Council, PILI Graduate Fellow Representative (2019)
- Girl Scouts of America
- American Legion Auxiliary

Professional Activities

During her time as a Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) Graduate Fellow at the UIC John Marshall Veterans Support Legal Center and Clinic, Sarah worked closely with veterans to complete discharge upgrades and veteran's benefits appeals.

Publications, Presentations & Recognitions

Sarah's recent presentations and publications include:

- "The Year in Review: Case Law and Statutory Update – Illinois Statutory and Regulatory Update," (co-presenter) *Illinois State Bar Association and Chicago Bar Association's 22nd Annual Environmental Law Conference* (May 10, 2024)
- "State and Federal Environmental Inspections: Best Practices to Prepare For and Undergo an Inspection" (co-presenter) *ArentFox Schiff LLP Environmental Group CLE Webinar* (March 29, 2023)
- "Proposed Changes to 401 Water Quality Certification Rules Could Entail Project Delays," (co-author) *Water Conditioning and Purification Magazine* (WC&P) (Aug. 15, 2022)
- "Accessing Justice: The Interplay of Design Thinking, Legal Education, and Technology," *Indiana Journal of Law & Social Equity*, Access to Justice Symposium, Bloomington, Ind. (Feb. 2017)

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US District Court, Northern District of Illinois