

Matt

Partner

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Matt Paulson represents companies in the oil and gas, refining, power and chemical manufacturing industries on environmental matters, including strategic permitting, regulatory compliance, investigations, enforcement, crisis response, civil and appellate litigation and transactions. His work includes advising clients on issues arising under all the major federal environmental laws and their state counterparts.

Matt regularly advises clients at the early project planning stages, assisting with scoping a broad array of regulatory and permitting requirements across all media and disciplines, from air, water and waste permitting to endangered species and cultural resource reviews, as well as other federal, state, and local requirements that can affect project timing and viability. He regularly represents clients in state and federal enforcement actions and internal investigations involving alleged environmental violations at major industrial facilities.

Matt also advises energy companies on sustainability/ESG reporting, related policy issues, and strategic risk and risk mitigation related to climate change/greenhouse gas initiatives, including scoping CCUS projects, conducting GHG lifecycle and scenario analyses, and evaluating alignment with third-party disclosure formats, among other strategic climate/ESG initiatives.

Matt's deep, facility-level understanding of the industries he represents, coupled with a highly strategic approach help him evaluate key legal risks and drive toward practical, successful outcomes for his clients.

Industries

[Energy](#)

Practices

[Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage](#)

[Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#)

[Environment, Lands and Resources](#)

[Government Enforcement & Investigations](#)

[Incident Prevention & Response Litigation](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Downstream Transactions](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Midstream Transactions](#)

[Environmental Litigation & Enforcement Defense](#)

[Environmental Permitting &](#)

[Regulation](#)

[Transaction Diligence & Support](#)

Credentials

Education

- University of Houston Honors College, J.D., 1998, *with honors*
- University of Connecticut School of Law, B.A., 1995

Bar Admissions

- Colorado
- Texas

Chambers USA

- Texas Environment, 2012 – 2024
- Nationwide Climate Change, 2010 – 2017

The Legal 500 United States

- Environment: Transactional, 2017, 2024
- Environment: Litigation, 2016
- Environment: Regulatory, 2016, 2023 – 2024

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Environmental Law, 2014 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Environmental, 2021 – 2025

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Regulation, 2023 – 2024
- *Lawdragon Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law*, Environmental Law, Including Permitting, Enforcement, Litigation, 2024

Thomson Reuters

- *Texas Super Lawyers*, Environmental, Environmental Litigation, 2014 – 2016, 2018 – 2020, 2024
- *Texas Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Environmental, 2007 – 2011

Law Business Research Ltd.

- *Who's Who Legal*, Environment, 2016, 2023

Resources

TCEQ Accepting Comments on Proposed Changes to Penalty Policy

Blog Post

ESG Seminar: Best Practices for M&A and Quick Hits on In Different Disciplines

Video

Publications & Speeches

- “The Weaponization of Misinformation in Environmental Compliance,” Texas Chemical Council, Air Conservation Committee Quarterly Virtual Meeting, September 12, 2023.
- “Managing Legal and Regulatory Risk in ESG Reporting,” 4C Health/Safety/Environmental Conference, Austin, April 5, 2023.
- “Managing Legal and Regulatory Risk in CCUS Project Development,” 4C Health/Safety/Environmental Conference, Austin, April 5, 2023.
- Co-presenter, “Oil and Gas Update: Big Month for Methane,” Bracewell Environmental Essentials Webinar Series, December 13, 2022.
- “ESG for EHS Professionals – Intermediate Training,” 4C Health / Safety / Environmental Conference, Austin, April 6, 2022.
- “ESG Issues in Different Disciplines – Environmental,” Bracewell 2021 ESG Virtual Seminar, June, 17, 2021.
- “Crisis Response Strategies for In-House Counsel,” 18th Annual Gas and Power Institute, Houston, September 26, 2019.
- “Regulatory Updates: Hot Topics for Energy Infrastructure Projects,” Southern Gas Association Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting and Construction, Frisco, February 13, 2019.
- “TSCA Reform, Take 2: Reconciling Trump’s Deregulatory Agenda and a Congressionally-Mandated Program,” 4C Health / Safety / Environmental Conference, San Antonio, April 3, 2018.
- “Strategic Permitting: From Project Planning to First Fire,” Bracewell Fall 2016 Environmental Law Seminar, Houston, November 15, 2016.
- “Environmental Challenges Facing Midstream,” Bracewell Oil and Gas Regulatory Symposium, Houston, October 6, 2016.
- “RMP Amendments, Methane Rules, and ERC Developments,” 28th Annual Texas Environmental Superconference, Austin, August 4, 2016.

- "TSCA Reform: A Work in Progress," The Auditing Roundtable, South Central Regional Meeting, Austin, August 3, 2016.
- "Preparing for and Defending Environmental Enforcement Actions," Association of Corporate Counsel South/Central Texas Chapter, San Antonio, July 6, 2016.
- "EPA's Clean Power Plan: The Sky is the Limit," Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, June 23, 2016.
- "Proposed Amendments to EPA's Risk Management Program Regulations: Scoping Potential Legal Challenges," Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, June 22, 2016.
- "Appellate Challenges to Environmental Rules," Bracewell Spring 2016 Environmental Law Seminar, Houston, May 17, 2016.
- "The Integration of the RMP and PSM," Bracewell Spring 2016 Environmental Law Seminar, Houston, May 17, 2016.
- "Major Accident Response and Planning," Association of Corporate Counsel South Central Texas Chapter's Oil & Gas Law Lunch and Learn, San Antonio, April 28, 2016.
- "EPA's Effort to Expand Risk Management Program Requirements - Necessary Improvements in Chemical Safety or a Failure to Implement and Enforce Existing Regulations," 2016 American Institute of Chemical Engineers Spring Meeting & 12th Global Congress on Process Safety, Houston, April 12, 2016.
- "Proposed Amendments to EPA's Risk Management Program Regulations," The Auditing Roundtable, South Central Regional Meeting, Houston, February 29, 2016.
- "Misinterpreting Machiavelli? Where the Ends and the Means Collide with Sound Law, Science And Policy: The Impacts of EPA's Ozone NAAQS Revision on the Midstream Oil and Gas Industry," The Institute for Energy Law's Midstream Oil & Gas Law Conference, Houston, December 3, 2015.
- "Strategic Permitting," Bracewell Fall 2015 Environmental Law Seminar, Houston, November 18, 2015.
- "EPA's RMP Initiative," Bracewell Fall 2015 Environmental Law Seminar, Houston, November 18, 2015.
- "How Did ERCOT Perform in 2014?," ERCOT Market Summit 2015, Austin, February 26, 2015.
- "Hot Air Issues – 2014," Texas Chemical Council, Air Conservation Committee Quarterly Meeting, Houston, November 13, 2014.
- "The Drive to Inherently Safer Systems and Technology," Chemical Safety and Security Seminar, Houston, September 16, 2014.

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- “Greenhouse Gas Permitting in the Wake of UARG v. EPA,” Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies Annual Meeting, Austin, September 12, 2014.
- “Hot Air Topics,” Texas Chemical Council, Air Conservation Committee Quarterly Meeting, Houston, April 1, 2013.
- “Clean Air Act Update,” Houston Bar Association Environmental Section Luncheon, Houston, February 1, 2013.
- “Greenhouse Gas Permitting,” Texas Chemical Council/Association of Chemical Industry of Texas 2012 Environmental, Health and Safety Seminar, Galveston, June 1, 2012.