



Victor Y. Xu

Senior Associate

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Victor counsels businesses, municipalities, water districts, and public utilities on water quality, hazardous waste management, natural resources, and other environmental concerns. He is passionate about helping clients navigate the complex regulatory frameworks governing industrial dischargers, public water systems, publicly owned treatment works, and manufacturers.

Victor has broad expertise in litigating issues under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), state hazardous waste laws, federal Indian law, tort law, and unfair trade practices statutes. His practice spans federal and state courts in both trials and appeals.

Often, Victor's work intersects with emerging contaminants like PFAS. As a co-author of the PFAS Deskbook (Environmental Law Institute, 2023), and through his robust PFAS practice, Victor is well-versed in the quickly evolving litigation and regulatory landscape surrounding PFAS.

Previously, Victor clerked for the Honorable Harris Hartz in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Honorable James Sweeney II in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Victor graduated from Stanford Law School, where he led a community law pro bono and gained invaluable court experience as a member of the school's criminal prosecution clinic. Before that, he graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, with distinction.

SERVICES & INDUSTRIES

[Clean Water & Water Quality](#)

[PFAS & Emerging Contaminants](#)

[Consumer Products](#)

[State, Municipal, and Local Government](#)

EDUCATION

- J.D., Stanford Law School (2020)
- B.A., Stanford University (2017), with distinction

CLERKSHIPS

- Law Clerk to the Hon. James R. Sweeney II, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- Law Clerk to the Hon. Harris L. Hartz, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Oregon
- State Bar of Colorado (inactive)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

Representative Matters

- Represents municipal water providers in multi-district litigation on ground and surface water contamination caused by U.S. military's discharges of fluorinated aqueous film-forming foam.
- Counsel to major agribusiness in challenges to a federal land exchange, with implications for global food security.
- Assisted with environmental reviews for major wastewater recycling project in arid climate.
- Advises municipalities and water districts on managing emerging contaminants in wastewater effluent and sludge.
- Counsel for manufacturers, designers, and retailers in apparel, outdoor recreation, and other industries on issues such as PFAS regulatory compliance, greenwashing, and agency enforcement actions.
- Counsel to publicly owned treatment works in water quality permitting appeals.
- Counsel to major transportation sector client on stormwater system compliance.
- Counsel to coastal community on land use issues and prescriptive easements.
- Pro bono counsel under Oregon Appellate Pro Bono Program.

Recognition and Activities

- Executive Committee Member, Oregon State Bar Environment and Natural Resources Section

Publications and Presentations

- Contributing Author, *PFAS Deskbook* (Environmental Law Institute, 2023).
- Panelist, American Apparel and Footwear Association, Footwear Workshop, "PFAS: Here Today, Gone in 2025," June 2023.
- Speaker, American Apparel and Footwear Association, Environmental Committee Meeting, "EPA's PFAS Reporting Rule," October 2023.
- Author, *PFAS and Greenwashing Litigation: It's Not Easy Being Green*, 38 ABA Journal on Natural Resources & Environment (Winter 2024) (with James Pollack).