

# Victor Y. Xu

## Senior Associate

he/him/his

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Victor advises government subdivisions, water districts, public utilities, businesses, and trade associations on natural resources, water quality, hazardous waste management, and other critical environmental problems. He is passionate about helping clients navigate both complicated regulatory frameworks and urgent challenges in litigation.

Victor has proven expertise on both sides of the aisle in cases involving the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 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 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. 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


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## 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.
- Counsel to numerous natural resources clients in CERCLA cost-recovery cases.
- Counsel to client regarding trespass on gold mining claims.
- 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

- 2027 Best Lawyers “Ones to Watch”
- Executive Committee Member, Oregon State Bar Environment and Natural Resources Section


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# 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).
- Panelist, Oregon State Bar Environment & Natural Resources Committee, Annual CLE, “EPA Under the Second Trump Administration,” October 2025.


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