



William J. Jackson

Partner

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About

Bill Jackson is member of the firm's national Environmental Law practice group and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Bill has one of the most sophisticated and successful environmental and natural resource damages litigation practices in the country. For thirty years, Bill has represented states, port authorities, railroads and energy-sector clients in noteworthy contamination cases that are often valued into the hundreds of millions or billions of dollars at stake. Bill is known and valued as a fierce advocate for his clients and for achieving remarkable results in complex litigation that can involve literally hundreds of parties. His ability to navigate beyond obstacles that seem insurmountable is the reason his client's turn to him again and again.

Notably, Bill recently secured over \$2.5 billion in settlements with DuPont and 3M for PFAS contamination in the State of New Jersey. Bill is also currently serving as lead counsel for fifteen states and sovereigns, public water providers, and private-sector clients in both litigation and administrative actions related to contamination and natural resource damages from Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He is on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee and Chairs the State/Sovereign Committee in the sprawling AFFF MDL in Charleston, South Carolina.

Previously, Bill was lead counsel for the state of New Jersey in the Passaic River litigation, recovering over \$355 million in damages (including \$67.5 million for restoration projects) and up to \$400 million more in remediation costs, which is the largest settlement of its kind in the state's history. Bill also represented the state of Louisiana and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office in the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, including leading Jindal Administration efforts to identify and quantify billions of dollars in economic and natural resource damages to the state of Louisiana, all of which were ultimately recovered as part of a \$20 billion global settlement, the largest environmental and natural resource damages recovery in history.

Bill's multi-dimensional understanding of environmental issues, proven and effectual advocacy skills, and complete understanding of the practical and policy impacts environmental regulation has on industrial, commercial and governmental enterprises, enable him to create an approach to environmental litigation that ends in the right result. Bill's focus is to win either in or out of court in the most cost-effective way possible for his clients. He knows first-hand that environmental litigation can have huge implications to governmental actors, trustee agencies, industry and the impacted communities, and he has unique abilities to bring all parties together and to achieve lasting solutions.

With a demonstrated capacity to successfully prosecute complex environmental litigation, often in tandem with the requisite state and federal administrative processes, Bill has proven time and again that he is able to balance the public and policy needs of his clients. Bill also has extensive skill in representing parties to significant commercial litigation disputes, including suits involving partnership and corporate formation issues, alter ego and de facto merger issues, fraudulent transfer, civil-RICO, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and negligent misrepresentation, tortious interference and breach of contract and indemnity matters. Clients appreciate Bill's fundamental ability to quickly analyze their case, no matter how daunting or complex, and advise them regarding the most practical and effective course of action.

Experience

Served as lead trial counsel for the State of New Jersey in prosecuting New Jersey's case against DuPont for knowingly discharging PFAS and other contamination from DuPont's Chambers Works site into the waters and environment of New Jersey for decades. Following a month of trial in federal court in Camden, DuPont and related companies agreed to a record setting settlement with New Jersey valued at \$2 billion in remediation, restoration, costs, and damages. On the eve of this trial, 3M settled-out for up to \$450 million more in PFAS damages to New Jersey. At \$2 billion, DuPont's settlement with New Jersey is the largest environmental recovery for a single plaintiff - and is one of the largest legal recoveries of any kind - in the history of the country.

Serving on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee and Chair of the States/Sovereigns Committee in *In Re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation*, in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, and individually representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Government of Guam, the State of Hawaii, the State of Indiana, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of New Hampshire, the State of New Jersey, the State of New Mexico, the State of North Carolina, the State of Oregon, the State of Rhode Island, the State of Tennessee, the State of Texas, the State of Washington, and dozens of local governments and water providers in asserting claims in the AFFF MDL.

Representing the State of Maryland and all state agencies in bringing claims for costs and damages resulting from the DALI's collision with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the Port of Baltimore in March 2024.

Representing the State of Ohio against Norfolk Southern for the environmental and natural resource impacts caused by its derailment and response in East Palestine, Ohio.

Representing the State of Ohio and Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost in litigation against DuPont and Chemours for decades-long discharges of a perfluorinated chemical (PFOA) from its Washington Works Plant in Parkersburg, West Virginia into Ohio and seeking to recover all past and future costs to investigate, remediate, and restore lands and waters of Ohio contaminated by PFOA, as well as damages and equitable relief.

Representing the State of North Carolina in bringing claims against DuPont and Chemours for GenX contamination from their Fayetteville, North Carolina plant across a broad swath of the Cape Fear River and Coastal North Carolina.

Represented the Attorney General of Guam in bringing an action against the United States to recover a portion of the costs of removal and remedial action incurred by Guam arising in connection with military contamination and operations on the island for decades. Following a 9-0 opinion from the United States Supreme Court, Guam recovered almost \$65 million from the United States for World

War II era contamination on island.

Represented the State of New Mexico and New Mexico Environment Department in seeking remediation, costs and damages arising from the Gold King Mine blowout and decades of mining waste contamination of the Animas and San Juan Rivers, including an original action in the United States Supreme Court. Through this action, New Mexico recovered approximately \$50 million in costs and damages and forced remediation at the Bonita Peak Mining District.

Representing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in seeking remediation costs and natural resource damages arising from island-wide groundwater contamination in both multi-district litigation and trial sites in the District of Puerto Rico. To date, Puerto Rico has recovered well over \$100 million in damages.

Serving as Special Counsel to the Attorney General of the District of Columbia related to the federal investigation, remediation and restoration of the Anacostia River following decades of contamination from upstream military installations and industrial users.

Served as lead counsel for the State of New Jersey in the Passaic River litigation, recovering over \$355 million in damages, including \$67.5 million in restoration projects, and up to \$400 million more in remediation costs for the state. Prior to recent PFAS recoveries, the Passaic River recovery was the largest settlement of its kind in the history of New Jersey.

Represented the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office in the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, including leading Jindal Administration efforts to identify and quantify billions of dollars in economic and natural resource damages to the State of Louisiana, all of which were ultimately recovered as part of a \$20 billion global settlement, the largest environmental and natural resource damages recovery in history.

Recovered \$100 million in environmental remediation and costs, property and natural resource damages and economic protections for the Port of Houston Authority, a Texas navigation district and assigned natural resource trustee, arising from the intentional discharge of DDT and other pesticides into the Houston Ship Channel.

Represented the San Diego Unified Port District in litigation filed in the Southern District of California recovering tens of millions in costs and damages from Monsanto for navigational impacts and injuries to the natural resources of the San Diego Bay arising from bay-wide PCB contamination.

Representing private sector clients in significant natural resource damages and remediation matters across the country, including the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Oregon, the Clark Fork River Basin Superfund Site in Montana, and the Malone Superfund Site on Galveston Bay.

For twenty years, served as co-national counsel for Union Pacific Railroad in its system-wide effort to assess, remediate, and recover environmental remediation costs and property damages at dozens of sites across the country.

Represented numerous port authorities in pursuing claims against petrochemical and pesticides plants for releasing hazardous materials onto the ports' properties, submerged lands and waterways, impacts to navigation and commerce, remediation and disposal costs, and resulting public economic impacts.

Representing numerous clients in litigation concerning contractual allocation, indemnity and assumption agreements, allegations of alter ego, successor liability, fraudulent transfers and

breaches of fiduciary duties, and civil-RICO and related conspiracy and fraud matters.

Representing various public and private condemning authorities in condemnation matters.

Honors

Law360 Environmental MVP, 2025.

Fellow, American College of Environmental Lawyers, 2023.

Ranked as Band 1 (top 10) Environmental Lawyers in Texas by *Chambers USA*, 2021-2026.

Lawdragon 500 Leading Environmental & Energy Lawyers, 2021-2026.

Alumni of the Year, University of Houston Law School, 2020.

The Best Lawyers in America® (Woodward/White, Inc.), Environmental Law, 2018-2026.

Ranked as one of the leading practitioners in the Environmental area by *Chambers USA* in 2011-2025.

Recommended in *US Legal 500* for his work in the Environment Litigation area, 2018-2025.

“Top rated Environmental Litigation Attorney” in Texas, *Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters), 2011-2024.

Selected as one of the Irish Legal 100 by *Irish America Magazine*, 2018-2022 and 2024-2025.

Rated AV-Preeminent by *Martindale-Hubbell*.

Life Fellow of the Texas and Houston Bar Associations.

Received the President’s Award in 2017 and the Dean’s Award in 2014 for outstanding service to the University of Houston Law Center.

Received the 2017 Wildlife Award from Houston Wilderness

Received the 2019-2020 University of Houston School of Law Alumni Association Award

Led the litigation team the *Texas Lawyer* selected as the 2015 “Litigation Group of the Year” for Environmental Litigation in the state of Texas.

Affiliations

University of Texas College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Circle; University of Texas System Chancellor’s Council; University of Texas System Ashbel Smith Endowment Circle Member

University of Houston Law Foundation, past-president, board of directors, chair of Building Committee

Houston Bar Association, former director and former director of Environmental Section

University of Houston Law Alumni Association, former president, officer and director

Houston Young Lawyers Association, former president, officer and director

Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, former chair and trustee

Texas Young Lawyers Association, former director

American Association of Port Authorities, member

Gulf Ports of the Americas Association, member

Texas Ports Association, member

National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, member

Community

Bill is actively involved in a wide variety of civic and community organizations, especially those focused on issues impacting quality of life, the environment and children, including:

Galveston Bay Foundation, advisory board, former trustee and special counsel to the executive board; chair, Guardian of the Bay Luncheon

Rice University, teaching "Introduction to Environmental Law & Policy" to a class of forty graduate and undergraduate students, Spring Semester 2023

Houston Wilderness, board of directors

Trees for Houston, board of directors, chair 2019 Root Ball

Leadership Houston, Class XXIII

Justice for Children, former member of the national board of directors and treasurer

Related Services

Commercial Litigation

Condemnation and Eminent Domain

Energy

Environmental

Environmental Litigation

Environmental Regulation

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Land Use

Litigation

Manufacturing

Natural Resource Damages

Waterways

PFAS and Emerging Contaminants

Ports

Public Sector and Government Entities

Railroads

Toxic Torts and Products Liability

Education

University of Houston Law Center, J.D., 1992

- Houston Law Review, associate editor; American Jurisprudence Award

The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., 1989

- Government

Admissions

Texas

Courts

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals–District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals–Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals–Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court–Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court–Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court–Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court–Western District of Texas

U.S. District Court–Eastern District of Arkansas

U.S. District Court–Western District of Arkansas

U.S. District Court–District of New Mexico

U.S. District Court–District of Alaska