

CONTACT

rac@vnf.com
202.298.1927

PRACTICES

Air
Litigation & Investigations
Native Affairs
Real Estate
Waste & Hazardous Substances

EDUCATION

American University, Washington
College of Law
North Carolina State University
Oklahoma State University

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Bar

ROBERT A. CONRAD
ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Robert assists clients on matters related to environmental and American Indian law. His primary focus is counseling developers and other owners of land, industrial and manufacturing concerns, private equity groups, and tribal entities on regulatory issues and litigation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Clean Air Act (CAA) and other environmental statutes. In addition, Robert has experience handling environmental aspects of real estate transactions and helps policyholders navigate insurance recovery issues. Robert is skilled in drafting pleadings, engaging in discovery, reviewing and analyzing contracts and insurance policies, and undertaking research on behalf of his clients.

In addition to his environmental work, as a citizen of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Robert is well-equipped to assist clients with regulatory and litigation matters related to American Indian law, including economic development work, federal regulatory issues, environmental compliance, and federal-tribal consultation, as well as trust fund litigation.

Representative Experience

Regulatory

- Drafting memorandum regarding RCRA civil penalty calculations in order to assist client in negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Drafting memorandum analyzing viable CERCLA clean-up cost recovery options.
- Providing technical and legal support for settlement negotiations between a hydropower client and various state and federal agencies, which culminated in the signing of a Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement.
- Assisting an energy industry group in the development and execution of a unique, one-of-a-kind program bringing together tribal leaders and industry professionals in a dialogue to improve tribal/industry relationships.
- Assisting a coalition of hydroelectric licensees at a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) technical conference presenting arguments disputing agency annual charges.
- Drafting hydropower client response to tribal comments opposing preliminary permit application.
- Drafting an Initial Statement for amendment to a hydropower license.

Litigation and Investigations

- Drafting various response documents for a case related to liability under CERCLA.
- Assisting a property owner in a CERCLA liability case, including production of documents for discovery, drafting responses to interrogatories, and drafting other filings.
- Assisting a tribal client in challenging the federal government's accounting of tribal trust assets.

- Reviewing and analyzing documents and draft memoranda related to a multinational internal investigation into potential violations of U.S. environmental laws and potential false statements to regulators.
- Reviewing and analyzing documents related to an internal investigation into a manufacturer's compliance with requirements of the EPA Energy Star program.
- Assisting in document production and deposition preparation for government investigation regarding market manipulation.

Government Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Intern, 2015

Awards and Honors

"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers*

Environmental Law, 2022

Native American Law, 2022

Legal 500 - Recommended Attorney

Native American Law, 2021

"Ones to Watch" by Best Lawyers

2022

Articles and Presentations

- ["Environment & Energy Report" INSIGHT: On-Site Environmental Health, Safety During Covid-19](#), Bloomberg Law, 04/14/2020
- [ABA's "Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2018" - Hydro Power Chapter](#), 04/23/2019
- [ABA's "Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2017" - Hydro Power Chapter](#), ABA's "Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2017", 04/30/2018

Alerts

- Undefined Contractual Language Leads to Years of Litigation Over Environmental Liabilities, 05/07/2021
- Legal Challenge to Federal Ban on SEPs May Result in Change in Enforcement Policy, 10/15/2020
- EPA Approves Oklahoma Regulatory Control Over 'Restored' Tribal Land, 10/09/2020
- PFAS — What You Need to Know in Transactions, 10/01/2020
- SBA Allows Tribal Casinos to Apply to Newly Replenished Paycheck Protection Program, 04/27/2020
- Coronavirus Relief Fund: Treasury Issues Guidance for Tribal Governments, 04/24/2020
- D.C. Circuit Decision Loosens Restrictions on Solid Waste, 03/23/2018
- FERC Revises License Term Policy for Hydropower Projects, 10/19/2017
- BLM's Final Methane and Waste Prevention Rule Creates Compliance Uncertainty, 11/21/2016