

Philip Sandick

Senior Associate

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Phil Sandick is an attorney in Alston & Bird's Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group. He focuses his practice on regulatory compliance and complex litigation across the environmental spectrum, including in the Natural Gas Act, RCRA, CERCLA, air, water, and land use areas. Phil has litigated cases at both the trial and appellate levels in both state and federal courts and was recognized in the inaugural "Ones to Watch" list by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Environmental Law in 2021.

Phil also advises clients on human rights and environmental compliance, leveraging his experience working with the International Criminal Court, the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues David Scheffer.

Before joining the firm, Phil served as a law clerk to the Hon. Amy Totenberg in the Northern District of Georgia. He earned his J.D. cum laude and LL.M. with honors in international human rights from the Northwestern University School of Law. He is actively involved in the community as a member of the Access to Justice Committee for the State Bar of Georgia. Phil is also a conceptual photographer and mixed-media artist whose works can be found in public and private collections in the U.S. and abroad.

Representative Experience

Litigation

- Member of the class action defense team for Porsche Cars North America Inc. and Porsche AG in multidistrict litigation in the U.S. and abroad in the Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" MDL.
- Member of the national trial counsel team for a Fortune 500 automotive parts supplier in asbestos litigation.
- Member of the national trial counsel team for a global raw asbestos supplier.
- Represented an interstate natural gas pipeline company in state and federal court in the expansion of its capacity, which necessitated dozens of Natural Gas Act condemnation actions. Established the propriety of using preliminary injunctions in the context of Natural Gas Act condemnations in the Eleventh Circuit. Removed a related state tort suit to federal court based on substantial federal question jurisdiction and won a dismissal on the merits that was affirmed on appeal.
- Defeated a motion to vacate a Clean Water Act consent decree covering the Everglades on behalf of a Native American tribe.
- Defended an aerosol manufacturing company and its corporate parent in lawsuits alleging property damage and personal injury arising out of a chemical spill that entered an urban water feature near the client's facility.
- Representing a carpet manufacturer in a lawsuit by a municipality alleging that multiple defendant operations contaminated a local drinking water source with PFOA and PFOS.

- Representing a glass manufacturer in a purported class action for alleged contamination in historical fill. Obtained a dismissal on the merits of all claims but one and a stay of the remaining claim based on primary jurisdiction.
- Represented multiple educational institutions in tort lawsuits based on an alleged failure to supervise and/or provide a safe environment for their students.
- Won habeas release under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 of an individual who was held in ICE provisional detention for over five years while he awaited adjudication of his asylum application.

Compliance and Enforcement

- Represented a Fortune 500 appliance manufacturer in avoiding liability for a multimillion-dollar remediation of historic contamination under a state remedial action program.
- Advised a construction and commercial equipment manufacturer on Clean Air Act emissions defect reporting.
- Represented an auto-auction company in a state enforcement action involving stormwater and hazardous waste issues.
- Advised a manufacturer of diatomaceous earth products on federal and state labeling requirements.
- Conducted and coordinated global due diligence among international and local counsel in 10 jurisdictions for a Fortune 50 company in a hazardous materials service expansion.

Transactions

- Represented an educational institution across multiple campuses in various land use issues, including on-campus easement sales and off-campus easement acquisitions.
- Represented a reverse pharmaceutical distributor/third-party logistics provider in license transfers in all 50 states during an acquisition.
- Conducted due diligence for buyers and sellers in multiple real estate transactions involving more than 100 properties across the country.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “Judge Leigh Martin May: The College Years,” *11th Circuit Historical News*, Spring 2019.

Professional & Community Engagement

- State Bar of Georgia, Access to Justice Committee
- Friends of Constitution Hill, South Africa, founder and chair
- Federal Bar Association
- National Native American Bar Association
- Columbia University, Alumni Representative Committee
- Columbia College, class agent

Court Admissions

- Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

Education

- Northwestern University (J.D., 2014)
- Northwestern University (LL.M., 2014)
- Columbia University (M.A., 2009)
- Columbia University (B.A., 2005)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- District of Columbia (Pending)

Related Services

Litigation | Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources | Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability | Chemical & Product Regulation | Environmental Litigation | Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) | Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions | Environmental Enforcement Defense | Land Use | Oil & Gas Litigation | Air Quality | Brownfield Contaminated Sites | Environmental Crisis Management | Internal Investigations & Environmental Audits | Environmental Appellate Litigation | Oil & Gas