

Erika Powers

Partner

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Erika Powers is a partner in the Chicago office of Barnes & Thornburg. She is a member of the Environmental Department, and concentrates her practice in the area of water quality. She advises members of the regulated community – including corporations, trade organizations, and municipalities – on water quality issues nationwide, including water quality standards, the listing and delisting of impaired water bodies, total maximum daily loads development and implementation, effluent guidelines for wastewater discharges, and Clean Water Act permitting, compliance, and enforcement issues.

Ms. Powers handles water regulatory matters involving state and federal environmental agencies, as well as Clean Water Act administrative and judicial litigation matters. She participates in water quality rulemaking and policy development, advises clients on compliance with water quality regulations, assists clients in challenging agency decisions in federal and state courts, and defends clients against citizen suits and agency enforcement actions seeking damages and penalties.

In addition to her water practice, Ms. Powers also deals with the environmental issues that arise during real estate and commercial transactions. Her experience has included representing both plaintiffs and defendants in government and private party Superfund and other cost recovery actions.

Ms. Powers is past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) Environmental Law Committee and is a member of the CBA Legislative Subcommittee and Young Lawyers Section Environmental Law & Energy Committee. She is also a member of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, as well as the State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section.

Ms. Powers received her JD *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School in 1994 and her undergraduate degree from Alma College *summa cum laude* in business finance in 1990.

Ms. Powers is licensed and has practiced in both Michigan and Illinois. She is currently admitted to practice before all Michigan and Illinois state courts, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Illinois and the Eastern District of Michigan.