



Kirstin M. Etela

Partner

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Overview

Kirstin Etela assists clients with complex environmental and regulatory matters in Connecticut, New York and nationally, including compliance, transactions, permitting, remediation, risk mitigation and emerging issues, including ESG initiatives, environmental justice challenges and the regulation of PFAS. She has successfully structured strategies to facilitate deals and mitigate regulatory and legacy environmental liabilities. Kirstin has experience developing and implementing EHS compliance programs, brownfields redevelopment projects, internal investigations, and crisis management planning and communications to address matters of public interest. She has substantive knowledge and experience with all major federal environmental, health and safety statutes and regulations, and many state requirements, as well as experience in several foreign jurisdictions regarding chemical regulation and remedial obligations.

Prior to Day Pitney, Kirstin was the U.S. general counsel for a global environmental services company providing solid waste management, hazardous waste management, emergency response, and technical and field services to the pharmaceutical, oil and gas, and manufacturing industries, as well as to municipal, state and federal agencies.

Kirstin served in a legal externship with Judge Barrington D. Parker in the Federal District Court of New York and as an intern at the White House Counsel on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, where she focused on U.S. policy toward illegal logging in the developing world.

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Conceptualized and led a global effort to address the transfer of thousands of product registrations in the stock sale of a Fortune 500 company's crop protection business and devised and successfully implemented a strategy to deliver a contractually required percentage of product registrations upon closing

Strategized, successfully negotiated and implemented an incremental approach to a vapor intrusion issue in an environmental justice area and managed communications through a local public relations firm to avoid a citizen suit, penalties and fines for non-compliance and achieving significant cost savings for a Fortune 500 company

Practices & Industries

Corporate & Business Law

Environmental Law

Environmental Litigation & Enforcement

Environmental Permitting & Compliance

Environmental Transactions & Due Diligence

Environmental, Social & Governance

Site Investigation & Remediation

Structured multiple transactions for a Fortune 500 company to dispose of real property and transfer related remedial obligations culminating in over \$20 million cash sales and the reversal of significant environmental reserves

Education and Credentials

Education

Pace University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*; *Pace Environmental Law Review*, Managing Editor

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), M.S.; Graduate Diploma, Business

Tulane University, B.A., *magna cum laude*

Admissions

State of Connecticut

State of New York

U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. [See Awards Methodology.](#)

Recognitions

Named to [Lawdragon's](#) Green 500 List of Leading Environmental Lawyers, 2025-2026

Selected to the list of Connecticut [Super Lawyers](#)® Rising Stars, Environmental Law, 2009-2010

Recipient of the Isaac Rubin Clinical Lawyering and Environmental Law Scholar Award from the White Plains Bar Association

Recipient of the Bohn Vergari Public Service Law Student Award for Environmental Law from the White Plains Bar Association

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Community Involvement

Solid Waste and Recycling Commission of Fairfield, CT, Commissioner, Appointed, 2022-Present

Susan B. Anthony Project, Personnel Committee Chair, Board of Directors, 2017-Present; Advisory Council, 2016-2017

Lawyers for Children America, Board Member, 2016-2019

Fairfield First Selectman's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Chair, 2010-2012

Fairfield Bike Walk Coalition, Co-Founder

Insights

The PFAS Periodical – Q1 2026

Day Pitney PFAS Periodical, March 9, 2026

Preparing for Connecticut's Release-Based Cleanup Regulations, Effective March 1, 2026

Day Pitney Alert, December 1, 2025

The PFAS Periodical – Q3 2025

Day Pitney PFAS Periodical, October 29, 2025

The PFAS Periodical – Q2 2025

Day Pitney PFAS Periodical, June 4, 2025

Update: U.S. SEC Votes to Drop Defense of Climate Disclosure Rules

April 9, 2025

The PFAS Periodical – Q1 2025

Day Pitney PFAS Periodical, February 7, 2025

States Respond to EPA's New Drinking Water Standards for PFAS

August 22, 2024

US EPA Proposes to Designate Five New Chemicals as 'High-Priority Substances' Under TSCA

August 8, 2024

Update: Proposed Connecticut Release Based Cleanup Regulations Available for Public Notice and Comment

July 30, 2024

Day Pitney Sponsors and Speaks at CBIA Energy & Environment 2024 Conference

June 6, 2024

EPA PFAS Update: Two PFAS Designated as Hazardous Substances Under CERCLA

April 30, 2024

EPA PFAS Update: Final Drinking Water Standards and Revised PFAS Disposal Guidance

April 11, 2024

U.S. SEC Votes on Narrowed Climate Disclosure Rule – 10 States Immediately File Legal Challenges

March 8, 2024

U.S. EPA Releases Two Proposed Rules Regulating PFAS Under RCRA

February 16, 2024

Connecticut DEEP Releases Proposed Release-Based Cleanup Regulations for Working Group Review

January 4, 2024

Generations Fall 2023 - ESG and Impact Investing: A Panel Discussion

November 30, 2023

California's Consequential GHG Emissions Reporting Law: The Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act

October 11, 2023

U.S. EPA Releases Final Rule for PFAS Reporting Under TSCA

October 6, 2023

Comment Period on Significant NEPA Revisions Ends on September 29

September 26, 2023

EPA, Army Corps Amend 'Waters of the United States' Rule Following Sackett v. EPA

September 11, 2023

Beta Release and Comment Period Open for Connecticut Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

July 25, 2023

New Interim NJDEP Soil Remediation Standards for GenX Chemicals

June 20, 2023

Connecticut Legislature Passes Environmental Justice Siting Bill

June 12, 2023

Supreme Court Curtails Federal Jurisdiction Over Wetlands Under Clean Water Act

June 7, 2023

Reinstated Superfund Excise Tax—Safe Harbor Rule Protection to End Q3 2023

May 19, 2023

DEEP Issues First Updates To Environmental Condition Assessment Form in a Decade

April 25, 2023

NJDEP Adopts Environmental Justice Rules

April 21, 2023

EPA Considers Expanding List of PFAS Chemicals Regulated Under CERCLA

April 17, 2023

EPA's Second Listening Session on a Proposed Enforcement Discretion and Settlement Policy for PFAS Raises Concerns

March 27, 2023

News

Kirstin Etela Named to 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Environmental Lawyers – The Green 500

Lawdragon, January 23, 2026

Kirstin Etela Named to Lawdragon's 2025 Green 500 List of Leading Environmental Lawyers

Day Pitney Press Release, February 10, 2025

Day Pitney Expands Environmental Practice With Partner Kirstin M. Etela

October 19, 2022

In The Media

"Why do senior women leave the profession and best practices to retain them? What changes/innovations are necessary for women to work and thrive in the legal profession?", Connecticut Bar Foundation Symposium

October 20, 2025

SEC Halts Climate Rule Defense, But CRE May See Little Relief from Reporting Burdens

GlobeSt.com, February 18, 2025

"Emerging Contaminants, Environmental Justice and Resiliency," Reimagining Brownfields: Strategies for Successful Redevelopment, Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast

September 19, 2023

ESG Builds New Avenues in Environmental Law for Day Pitney

Connecticut Law Tribune, July 20, 2023

"Perspectives on the Intersection Between ESG and Environmental Justice," CBIA 2023 Energy and Environment Conference

June 15, 2023

"ESG – From Voluntary to Regulatory: How the ESG Landscape Is Evolving and What it Means for Your Company," Association of Corporate Counsel

March 16, 2023

Etela Joins Day Pitney

Hartford Business Journal, November 30, 2022

Day Pitney Expands Environmental Practice With New Partner

New Haven Biz, October 26, 2022

Fairfield Resident Expands Law Firm's Environmental Practice

CT Insider, October 28, 2022

The Daily Docket – Industry Moves

Thomson Reuters, October 20, 2022

Day Pitney Expands Environmental Practice With New Partner

Westchester & Fairfield County Business Journals, October 20, 2022

Day Pitney Adds Ex-Tradebe Environmental GC in Conn.

Law360 Pulse, October 19, 2022