



## Larry Liebesman, Esq.

### Senior Advisor

A nationally recognized environmental lawyer with more than 40 years of experience, including 11 years at the U.S. Justice Department, Larry specializes in federal Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Larry has extensive experience negotiating federal and state environmental approvals, including Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act permits for commercial, residential, public works and mining projects. He has also defended challenges to those permits and approvals in Federal and state courts.

Larry handles matters regarding cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay including the impact of storm water on the Bay's water quality. He also sits on the Howard County Maryland Environmental Sustainability Board addressing water quality and climate resiliency issues.

He has authored multiple amicus briefs for major environmental cases before the United States Supreme Court. These included briefs for:

- *SWANCC, Rapanos and Sackett*, which involved the definition of Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act;
- *South Florida Water Management District v. Miccosukee Tribe*, which centered on the Clean Water Act's definition of "discharge";
- *Babbitt v. Sweet Home Chapter of Communities for A Great Oregon*, which involved the Endangered Species Act's "take" definition;
- *Bennett v. Spear* covering the rights of property owners to sue under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and
- *S. Environmental Protection Agency v. Defenders of Wildlife* dealing with the EPA's delegation of clean water permitting authority to states.

Larry has testified before Congress on proposed legislation to reform the ESA and is co-author of the Endangered Species Act Desk Book: A Guide to Endangered Species Law for the Environmental Law Institute (2nd Ed., 2010). He also authored The Water Suppliers Guide To Wetlands Regulation and Management for the American Water Works Association (1996). While at Justice, he was lead counsel in *NRDC v. EPA*, which upheld major portions of the EPA's NPDES program and *Bersani v. EPA*, which upheld EPA's veto authority under Section 404(c) of the CWA. He also worked at EPA and spent a detail at the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) working on CEQ's NEPA regulations.

Larry was an adjunct professor at George Washington University and University of Baltimore Law Schools, where he taught courses on Endangered Species and Wetlands Law.

### Education

JD with honors, The George Washington University Law School

BA, magna cum laude, Rutgers University

### Memberships and citations

Member, District of Columbia and Maryland Bar Associations

Chambers USA – America's Leading Business Lawyers guide, Environment Law (2008-2014)

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers magazine (2011-2015)  
Who's Who Legal

Special Achievement and Special Commendations Awards, Department of Justice

Consultant of the Year, Home Builders Association of Maryland

Phi Beta Kappa

Planning Co-Chair, American Law Institute Course of Study on "Species Protection and the Law"

Chair, Water Quality Committee, American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources

Council of Partners, Environmental Law Institute

Maryland State Water Quality Advisory Committee

### Contact

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