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|  | Robert M. Olian | |
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| PRACTICES   * Environmental * White Collar: Government Litigation & Investigations   AREAS OF FOCUS   * Compliance Counseling - White Collar * Compliance Management * Contaminated Sites and Natural Resource Damages * Environmental Crisis Management * Environmental Enforcement, Litigation and Internal Investigations * Environmental Experience in the Energy Sector * Environmental Torts and Public Nuisance Litigation * Grand Jury Investigations * Internal Investigations * NEPA and Natural Resource Protection * Regulatory Advocacy and Counseling   INDUSTRIES   * Energy | | ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS   * U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit * U.S. District Court, N.D. of Illinois - General * U.S. District Court, N.D. of Illinois - Trial Bar * U.S. District Court, C.D. of Illinois * U.S. District Court, S.D. of Illinois * Illinois   EDUCATION   * Harvard Law School (J.D., 1977) * Harvard Kennedy School (M.P.P., 1977) * Harvard University (A.B., 1973, *cum laude*) |

ROBERT M. OLIAN works primarily on contested matters involving compliance and civil or criminal enforcement proceedings. Mr. Olian also has experience in managing complex legal projects, such as environmental impact statement proceedings and the siting of new facilities in environmentally sensitive areas.   
  
Mr. Olian is a Fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers, and is admitted to the Trial Bar in the Northern District of Illinois. He belongs to various environmental committees or sections of the Chicago and American Bar Associations and has written and lectured on a variety of topics related to environmental litigation. He is listed in Chambers USA’s America’s Leading Lawyers for Business, Who’s Who, Who’s Who in American Law, The Legal 500 US, and Best Lawyers in America. He headed Sidley’s Chicago Environmental practice group and was co-leader of the firm’s national Environmental practice from 1994–2014.  
**Of Particular Interest**  
Mr. Olian served as the steering committee chair for more than 300 PRPs at the Fisher Calo (Kingsbury, IN) site through the signing of a judicial consent decree and as one of four key members of a committee that completed the transfer of the remaining remediation at the site to a consulting firm. He is now serving as one of three trustees monitoring the consultants’ implementation of the cleanup.   
  
**Selected Representations**

* Represented a refinery in federal class action and state court jury trial alleging property value diminution resulting from underground contaminant migration.
* Represented a refinery in negotiations with state and local governments to establish parameters for brownfields redevelopment of refinery property.
* Represented a waste disposal company in class action jury trial alleging health impacts (including cancer), fear of cancer, and property value diminution (settlement prior to verdict being rendered).
* Represented two industrial clients in EPA debarment proceedings arising out of criminal pleas to violation of environmental laws. On appeal of an adverse decision for one client, the debarment period was halved; a pre-decision presentation on behalf of the other client led to an EPA decision not to pursue discretionary debarment of the client or its exchange-listed parent.
* Represented an electric utility in connection with an attempt to impose successor liability for the cleanup of a manufactured gas plant. The bench trial resulted in verdict of no liability for our client.
* Defended a major waste disposal company in connection with a criminal investigation of the company’s recycled drum transportation procedures. The case was dropped by the U.S. Attorney’s office without an indictment being handed up.
* Represented a hazardous waste disposal company in a 45-day administrative trial appealing the denial of a permit for the company’s PCB incinerator.
* Defended a refinery in a federal enforcement action alleging violations of the Benzene Waste NESHAP.
* Represented a waste disposal company in contested hearings to site waste-to-energy plants in Illinois.
* Counseled a consortium of civic leaders regarding the environmental impact statement prepared in connection with a proposed Chicago World’s Fair.
* Advised the state tollway authority in connection with environmental matters for the siting and construction of a new toll road.

Publications

* [“New CERCLA Settlement Obstacles,” *Illinois State Bar Association*, September 2010.](http://www.sidley.com/files/Publication/c3833cf7-6c16-4611-836b-993ab9081e58/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/1bfe2e02-dad0-412e-81b0-9a1aba8d8983/7874782_1.pdf)

Memberships & Activities

* American College of Environmental Lawyers, Fellow
* Chicago Bar Association
* American Bar Association