

A professional headshot of David Farer, a middle-aged man with short hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light green and white.

David Farer
Partner
Practice Leader | Environmental

 Roseland

T: 732.476.2476
F: 732.476.2477
dfarer@greenbaumlaw.com

- Provides counsel on the impact of environmental laws on real estate and business transactions
- Cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties including brownfields, environmental compliance and insurance issues, contractual allocation of environmental risks, transaction-triggered environmental laws, liability under federal and state Superfund laws
- Fellow and past President, American College of Environmental Lawyers; co-chairs International Pro Bono Committee

As a leader of the firm's environmental practice, David focuses his representation of clients on the impact of environmental laws on transactions and real property in New Jersey and around the nation. A nationally renowned environmental lawyer, he has remained on the cutting edge of developments in the environmental sector since the 1980s. He has extensive experience related to the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties including brownfields, environmental compliance and insurance issues, institutional and engineering controls, assessing and negotiating liability under federal and state Superfund laws, resolution of environmental issues in bankruptcy proceedings, litigation and dispute resolution arising from those issues, and sustainable building initiatives.

David advises clients on environmental contractual protection techniques, due diligence, transaction-triggered environmental laws, funding options for brownfields redevelopment, state and federal cleanup liabilities, deed

notices and use restrictions, and environmental disclosures. He has substantial experience as special environmental counsel in bankruptcy proceedings, dealing with state and federal environmental authorities in the process of estimating and resolving environmental liabilities of bankrupt entities.

David has served as a court-appointed Special Master in environmental lawsuits in New Jersey. He regularly mediates environmental disputes and is a qualified mediator under New Jersey court rules, with a specialized focus on matters involving environmental laws and issues, including insurance-related claims. He has been selected by the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to serve on the District's Panel of Mediators and has continued to be appointed to successive terms on the panel.

David is a past President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL), where he currently co-chairs the International Pro Bono Committee with a focus on leading and continuing ACOEL's efforts in developing pro bono projects in Cuba. Among his speeches in international settings have been presentations at Oxford University's Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, and at the XI International Convention on Environment and Development in Havana, Cuba. Since 2015, he has led and participated in several multi-day symposia in Havana with Cuban counterparts and ACOEL colleagues on reinvigorating and expanding U.S./Cuba environmental cooperation, as has also participated in related webinars.

Prior to joining the firm, David chaired the environmental practice at Farer Fersko, where he established that firm's environmental practice in 1984. For over forty years, he has written and lectured extensively on environmental issues in New Jersey, nationally, and internationally. He developed and chaired longstanding national courses of study and related publications on environmental law topics for the American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education, and longstanding programs and associated manuals on ISRA, brownfield and other New Jersey laws, and environmental insurance for the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Areas of Focus

Practice Areas

- Environmental
- Air Permitting
- Brownfield Cleanup & Redevelopment
- Contractual Allocation of Environmental Risks
- Environmental Compliance & EHS
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Environmental Insurance
- Environmental Issues in Lending Transactions
- Environmental Land Use Permitting
- Environmental Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Environmental Government Enforcement Actions

- Federal & State Superfund & Lien Laws
- ISRA & Other Transaction-Triggered Environmental Laws
- Reimbursement & Financing of Cleanup Costs
- Remediation of Contaminated Properties
- Environmental Issues in Real Estate Transactions & Redevelopment
- Environmental Issues in Real Estate Transactions & Redevelopment

Credentials

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts, 1978
- New Jersey, 1979
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1986
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, 1995

Education

- Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1978
- Lafayette College, B.A., 1975

Insights & More

Announcements

2026 Edition of Best Lawyers Recognizes 54 Attorneys in 41 Practice Areas: Eight Greenbaum Lawyers Recognized on "Ones to Watch" List

8.21.25

2025 Chambers USA Guide Ranks Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis in Key Practice Areas and Recognizes 18 Attorneys as Leading Individuals

6.04.25

Thirty-Five Attorneys from Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis Selected for Inclusion in 2025 Edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers

3.19.25

2025 Edition of Best Lawyers Recognizes 56 Attorneys in 39 Practice Areas: Ten Greenbaum Lawyers Recognized on "Ones to Watch" List; Three Selected for "Lawyer of the Year" Recognition

8.14.24

2024 Chambers USA Guide Ranks Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis in Key Practice Areas and Recognizes 20 Attorneys as Leading Individuals

6.05.24

Thirty-Four Attorneys from Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis Selected for Inclusion in 2024 Edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers

3.25.24

Who's Who Legal Recognizes Greenbaum Attorneys in 2023 Global Guides

9.18.23

2024 Edition of Best Lawyers Recognizes 59 Attorneys in 38 Practice Areas: Twelve Greenbaum Lawyers Recognized on "Ones to Watch" List; Five Selected for "Lawyer of the Year" Recognition

8.16.23

Greenbaum Partner David B. Farer Leads Delegation of U.S. Environmental Lawyers at Cuba Symposium

3.13.23

Who's Who Legal Recognizes Greenbaum Attorneys in 2022 Global Guides

9.08.22

2023 Edition of Best Lawyers Recognizes 51 Attorneys in 36 Practice Areas: Nine Greenbaum Lawyers Recognized on "Ones to Watch" List; Seven Selected for "Lawyer of the Year" Recognition

8.17.22

Client Alerts

The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020: An Overview of the Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive Program

3.29.21

Published Articles

ACOEL Posts Video of ACOEL-Columbia Univ-EDF-FANJ Joint Webinar on US-Cuba Environmental Cooperation

4.28.25

ACOEL Delegation Participates in U.S.-CUBA Environmental Symposium in Havana

March 2023

Columbia University Publishes Proceedings of ACOEL-Columbia Univ-EDF-FANJ Joint Webinar in US-Cuba Environmental Cooperation

October 2021

Cuba-US Strategies on Furthering Environmental Cooperation

2021

Seminars & Events

Environmental Insurance: Latest Developments and Emerging Issues

11.02.21

Cuba-US Working Together Again: Lessons from Environmental Cooperation

2.21.21