

Barbara J. Koonz

MANAGING PARTNER / CHAIR, ENERGY & RENEWABLE RESOURCES

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I am committed to understanding my clients' business and their goals, and implementing a strategy to achieve those goals is my focus and core strength as a lawyer. As the former CFO and general counsel of a family-owned business, my mindset is to embrace each client's business as if it were my own. Whether negotiating before a regulatory agency, obtaining permitting for complex projects or developing alternative energy project solutions, I strive to consistently achieve favorable outcomes that align with my client's best interests.

Barbara focuses her practice in the areas of environmental and energy law, with an emphasis on environmental permitting and compliance, development and transfer of electric generation facilities, renewable and clean energy projects, coastal and port-area projects, and A-901 licensing.

For over 30 years, Barbara has advised domestic and overseas businesses with respect to New Jersey state and federal environmental permitting, regulatory compliance and requisite scientific data to best manage environmental remediation, ISRA compliance, New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permitting, air permitting, CAFRA permitting, waterfront development and wetlands permitting. She also serves as local counsel to secure all requisite local, state, energy and environmental permitting and approvals for the development and operation of electric generation facilities, including renewable and clean energy projects in New Jersey.

Departments

Environmental

Practice Groups

Energy & Renewable
Resources

Environmental

Construction Contracting &
Risk Management

Financial Incentives &
Economic Development

Education

Seton Hall University School
of Law, J.D., 1989

University of Pennsylvania,
Graduate Studies in
Hydrogeology, 1985

Franklin & Marshall College,
B.A., 1983

Bar Admissions

New Jersey, 1989

U.S. District Court, District of
New Jersey, 1989

Florida, 2012

Barbara J. Koonz (Cont.)

As a geologist and attorney, Barbara brings broad-based expertise to the task of advising private and public entities involved in the fossil fuel, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and renewable energy industries in connection with the acquisition, project management, development and permitting of energy facilities and related infrastructure. This work includes the coordination of due diligence for energy projects on behalf of developers and investors.

Barbara regularly represents solar energy providers and hosts in connection with the development of grid-supply, net-metered and community solar photovoltaic (PV) projects, including some of the largest solar PV projects in New Jersey. In connection with solar and other distributed energy projects, Barbara, on behalf of power providers and off-takers, drafts and negotiates engineering, procurement and construction agreements (EPCs), power purchase agreements (PPAs), rooftop leases, and related property rights and access agreements. She provides counsel to clients regarding eligibility and compliance with BPU renewable energy requirements, including the solar renewable energy certificate (SREC) program and the newly implemented Transition Incentive (TI) program. Further, she provides advice regarding interconnection agreements with local electric distribution companies and regional transmission organizations such as PJM.

Her work has encompassed the permitting, development and transfer of renewable and clean energy projects; A-901 licensed solid waste facilities, recycling facilities, public wastewater and solid waste facilities, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facilities, linear and pipeline development projects as well as securing grants and funding for redevelopment projects and assisting solid waste service vendors to obtain the required A-901 licenses and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity required under New Jersey law to operate within the state.

She has represented state, national and global manufacturers and large shipping operators and investors in matters involving due diligence for acquisitions and local, state and federal environmental permitting of their U.S.-based operations, including solar and other renewable energy, clean energy, manufacturing, recycling and solid waste facilities. In addition, she has counseled global, federal, state and local governments on the development of regulatory protocol for environmental resources, both in New Jersey and beyond.

Barbara has extensive experience in negotiating regulatory issues and resolving related enforcement actions with public agencies, including the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Her work has encompassed the permitting and transfer of A-901 licensed solid waste facilities and transporters, public wastewater and solid waste facilities, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facilities, linear and pipeline development projects, and scrap metal and other recycling facilities, as well as securing grants and funding for redevelopment projects and the management of contamination from hazardous materials, range lead reclamation and historic pesticides.

Barbara has secured environmental permits and approvals for a comprehensive range of projects and facilities including interstate pipelines, LNG facilities and independent power producers, overseeing all aspects including due diligence and the coordination of stakeholders, state agencies and federal entities

including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She has also counseled property owners, public utilities and government entities on cost-effective acquisitions of energy infrastructure rights-of-way (ROW) through easements, permits and surface access agreements.

Results may vary depending on your particular facts and legal circumstances.

HONORS & AWARDS

- American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL) Fellow
- Selected for inclusion in 2026 by *NJBIZ* on a list called “Leaders in Law”
- Recipient of a 2025 Leading Women in Business Award by *NJBIZ* (a publication of Bridge Tower Media)
- Selected for inclusion in 2025 by *NJBIZ* (a publication of Bridge Tower Media) on a list called “Law Power List”
- Selected for recognition by the Commerce & Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) on its list of 2024’s “Enterprising Women in Commerce”
- Listed in *Chambers USA* (a publication of Chambers and Partners) in the Environment practice area (2021 - present)
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® (a trademark of Woodward/White, Inc.) in the Energy Law, Energy Regulatory Law (2025) and Environmental Law (2024 - present) practice areas
- Listed in *New Jersey Super Lawyers* (a Thomson Reuters business) in the Environmental and Energy & Natural Resources practice areas (2024 – present)

Please visit our Award Methodology page for a description of the standard or methodology on which these accolades are based. Attorney Advertising: No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

UNIQUELY NJ

- New Jersey State Bar Association; Corporate Sustainability, Cleantech, and Climate Change Special Committee, Member and past Co-Chair; Public Utility Law Section; Environmental Law Section
- NAIOP New Jersey; Board of Trustees
- New Jersey Builders Association, Environmental Affairs Committee
- New Jersey Women Lawyers Association
- Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability Brownfield Redevelopment Task Force (former Member)

- Appointed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to serve on the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program (NJLAP) Board of Trustees
- As an advocate for public safety, Barbara is the former chair and serves on the Middlesex County ASAP Board for the rehabilitation and re-entry of drug dependent inmates.

MORE ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCE

- Barbara is a member of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Women's Advancement Initiative (WAI) Focus Group
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources
- Energy Bar Association
- Florida Bar Association

PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Faculty, Advanced Topics in Commercial Leasing

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 20, 2025

Panelist, Legal Trends in Environmental Law

Sponsor: *Atlantic Builders Convention*, March 21, 2024

Faculty, Advanced Topics in Commercial Leasing: 2023

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 16, 2023

Panelist, Legal Trends in Environmental Law

Sponsor: *Atlantic Builders Convention*, March 30, 2023

Co-Moderator and Lecturer, 11th Annual Renewable Energy, Clean Tech and Climate Change Conference

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, December 2, 2022

Faculty, Advanced Topics in Commercial Leasing: 2022

Sponsor: *New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 17, 2022

Panelist, Legal Trends in Environmental Law

Sponsor: *Atlantic Builders Convention*, October 13, 2021

Presenter, The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act: A Strategic Look at New Jersey's New Incentives

Sponsor: *Association of Corporate Counsel New Jersey*, September 30, 2021

Panelist, Legal Trends in Land Use Law & Environmental Law

Sponsor: *New Jersey Builders Association*, September 22, 2020

Panelist, New Revenue Streams Through Solar Development

Sponsor: *NAIOP NJ and Solar Landscape*, May 12, 2020

PUBLICATIONS & ALERTS

Author, Solar ITC Safe Harbors After the “Big Beautiful Bill”: What Developers Need to Know

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, October 30, 2025

Author, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Launches Much Anticipated Garden State Energy Storage Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, June 25, 2025

Author, NJ BPU’s Revised Interconnection Regulations Are Intended to Speed Up Interconnection of Solar and Storage Systems

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, May 29, 2025

Author, Proposed Legislation Creates Uncertainty for New Jersey Legacy Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, March 28, 2025

Author, New Jersey DEP’s Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) Regulations: An Overview of the Proposed Rulemaking and Its Impacts on Development

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, October 28, 2024

Author, BPU Seeks to Reevaluate NJ’s Solar Renewable Energy Credit Competitive Solicitation Incentive (CSI) Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, September 5, 2024

Author, New Jersey BPU Establishes Permanent Community Solar Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, August 21, 2023

Author, New Jersey BPU Deadline for Submission of Applications for Solar Competitive Solicitation Incentive (CSI) Program is Fast Approaching

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, March 14, 2023

Author, 2023 Market Forecast

Real Estate New Jersey, January 2023

Author, New Jersey C-PACE Program to Provide Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities with New Financing Mechanisms for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, August 23, 2022

Author, Negotiating Solar Renewable Energy Agreements: What You Should Know

New Jersey Lawyer Magazine, June 2022

Author, New Jersey BPU Grants Transition Incentive Program Deadline Extension for Registered Solar Projects Under Narrow Circumstances

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, June 10, 2022

Co-Author, Dirty Dirt Law Update: DEP Extends Compliance Deadlines, Opens Registration Process and Establishes Safe Harbor From A-901 Licensure for Providers of Soil and Fill Recycling Services

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, March 17, 2022

Author, New Jersey BPU Announces Transition of Community Solar Pilot Program to Permanent Program; Anticipates Announcement of Program Y2 Awards Shortly

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, October 11, 2021

Author, New Jersey BPU's New Solar Program Maintains a Robust Incentive for Residential Solar Installations

Dimensions, Summer 2021

Co-Author, An Update on NJ's Dirty Dirt Law: DEP Issues New Compliance Advisory with Updated Registration and Licensing Deadlines for Providers of Soil and Fill Recycling Services

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, September 13, 2021

Author, New Jersey BPU Adopts Long-Awaited Successor Solar Incentive Program and Announces Planned Closure of Successful TREC Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, July 29, 2021

Author, New Jersey Legislates Requirement that New Warehouse Construction be "Solar-Ready"

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, June 10, 2021

Author, The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020: An Overview of the Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer (NOL) Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, May 18, 2021

Author, BPU Updates Recommendations to New Jersey Solar Successor Program Straw Proposal: Deadline for Written Comments to Proposal Extended to May 27, 2021

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, May 13, 2021

Author, The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020: An Overview of the Offshore Wind Tax Credit Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 30, 2021

Author, BPU Staff Proposes Major Revisions to Solar Incentive Program and Fast Tracks Request for Comments; Stakeholder Workshops Begin April 21

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 16, 2021

Author, The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020: An Overview of the Food Desert Relief Program (RFI Responses Due Monday, April 12)

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 9, 2021

Author, NJ Solar Community Demonstrates Extraordinarily High Level of Interest in Year Two of New Jersey Community Solar Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 7, 2021

Author, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Announces Opening of Year 2 of the Community Solar Program

Garden State Focus, Winter 2021

Quoted, Energy Projects and Initiatives Will Impact New Jersey

Commerce Magazine, January 2021

Author, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Announces Opening of Year 2 of the Community Solar Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, October 6, 2020

Author, NJ Board of Public Utilities Prepares for Second Year of Community Solar Program

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, August 3, 2020

Co-Author, "Dirty Dirt Law" Compliance Requirements Extended Due to COVID-19

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, May 6, 2020

Author, In the Nick of Time, NJBPU Extends SREC Eligibility for Solar Projects Delayed Due to COVID-19

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 28, 2020

Co-Author, DEP Issues Guidance Regarding Compliance Challenges Arising from COVID-19

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 27, 2020

Co-Author, DEP Upgrades of NJ Water Bodies to Category One Status Trigger Significant Land Use and NJPDES Discharge Restrictions on Neighboring Properties

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 21, 2020

Co-Author, Beware of Dirty Dirt: New Jersey Enacts Stringent Licensing Requirements for Soil and Recycle Fill Providers; Providers of Soil and Fill Recycling Services Must Register with the DEP by April 20, 2020 for a Temporary License

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 13, 2020

Author, Breaking Update for Solar Project Developers and Ongoing Solar Projects: New Jersey BPU Announces April 30 Closing Date for Current Solar Renewable Energy Certificate Program
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 7, 2020

Author, New Jersey BPU Guidance: Projected May 2020 Closure of the SREC Program and COVID-19 Implications
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, April 2, 2020

Co-Author, Attention New Jersey Soil or Recycle Fill Providers or Brokers: Don't Miss April 20, 2020 Deadline for A-901 License Registration
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, March 30, 2020

Co-Author, Climate Change Takes Center Stage as NJDEP Schedules February/March Stakeholder Meetings to Address Critical Regulatory Reform
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, February 18, 2020

Co-Author, New Jersey Enacts Stringent A-901 Licensing Requirements for Soil and Recycle Fill Providers to Protect Against "Dirty Dirt"
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, February 10, 2020

Author, Eligibility for New Jersey's New Solar Transition Incentive Program Clarified by BPU
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, January 15, 2020

Author, New Jersey BPU Adopts SREC Transition Program; Estimates That Renewable Energy Certificate Eligibility May End by April 2020
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, December 19, 2019

Author, An Update on Solar in New Jersey: Expiration of Valuable New Jersey Solar Energy Subsidies Anticipated for 2020
Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP Client Alert, November 12, 2019

NEWS

Barbara J. Koonz Recognized by NJBIZ as a 2026 "Leaders in Law" Honoree
February 9, 2026

2026 Edition of *Best Lawyers* Recognizes 54 Attorneys in 41 Practice Areas: Eight Greenbaum Lawyers Recognized on "Ones to Watch" List
August 21, 2025

Barbara Koonz to Receive *NJBIZ* 2025 Leading Women in Business Award; Selected for Inclusion on *NJBIZ* 2025 Law Power List
July 23, 2025

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

June 5, 2025

Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis Elects Barbara J. Koonz as Managing Partner

April 16, 2025

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

March 20, 2025

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

August 15, 2024

Barbara J. Koonz Featured by CIANJ's Commerce Magazine as One of 2024's "Enterprising Women in Commerce"

August 2, 2024

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

June 6, 2024

Barbara J. Koonz Elected Fellow of American College of Environmental Lawyers

May 31, 2024

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

March 26, 2024

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

August 17, 2023

2023 *Chambers USA* Guide Ranks Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis in Key Practice Areas and Recognizes 22 Attorneys as Leading Individuals

June 9, 2023