

Sam Hirsch

Partner

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Areas of Focus

Election Law and
Redistricting

Energy

Environmental and
Workplace Health and
Safety

Government Controversies
and Public Policy Litigation

Native American Law



Overview

Sam Hirsch has led major litigation across a variety of both established and burgeoning practice areas. Sam’s practice is diverse. He is a sought-after partner in the firm's Environmental and Workplace Health and Safety, Energy, Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation, and Election Law and Redistricting practice groups. Across the board, he is revered by clients and colleagues alike for his litigation savvy, critical thinking skills, ability to collaborate among many groups, and unwavering commitment to the success of a case.

In particular, Sam has significant experience in environmental litigation, previously serving as the acting Assistant Attorney General and Principal Deputy at the Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD)—the US’s largest environmental “law firm.” He has worked on cases that cover nearly the entire range of federal environmental and natural-resources statutes. Sam also has an active energy practice and counsels large electric and gas utilities on a range of matters, including issues related to hydroelectric power.

Sam began his legal career at Jenner & Block and was instrumental in creating its Election Law and Redistricting Practice. He has gained a national reputation as one of the leading lawyers in the field, having litigated voting-rights and redistricting cases in more than 20 states, including cases under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Sam has also handled cases raising constitutional claims under the First, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, and Article I's Elections Clause. Sam is a sought-after speaker and author who has

lectured and written on redistricting and election law for audiences at Harvard, NYU, UPenn, Georgetown, the London School of Economics, and more.



Clients trust my deep understanding of litigation, strategic approach to trying complex legal matters, and ability to find the best solution to their legal issue, keeping their key objectives at top of mind.”

Areas of Focus

- Election Law and Redistricting
- Energy
- Environmental and Workplace Health and Safety
- Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation
- Native American Law
- State Attorneys General
- Transitions in Energy and Climate Solutions

Representative Matters

- Helped structure the global settlement that directed more than \$8.1 billion toward restoring damaged natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico in the Deepwater Horizon litigation.
- Drafted portions of the agreements that created the National Academy of Sciences' \$500 million Gulf Research Program, which funds projects to enhance oil-system safety, human health, and environmental resources in the Gulf of Mexico and other US outer-continental-shelf regions that support oil and gas production.
- As the ENRD Indian Resources Section's supervisor:
 - Oversaw all litigation in which the US sought to protect tribal lands, resources, jurisdiction, and treaty rights.
 - Led the DOJ's ground-breaking efforts in working with Native Americans.
- As Deputy Associate Attorney General at the Department of Justice:
 - Supervised ENRD, the Civil Rights Division, the Office of Tribal Justice, and the Access to Justice Initiative on all high-profile matters.

Credentials

Admissions

- District of Columbia

- Maryland

Education

- Harvard Law School, JD, 1993
- Rice University, BA, 1984

Clerkships

- Hon. Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 1993-1994
- The Netherlands, The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, The Hague, 1997-1999

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Native American Law, 2024, 2026
- *Chambers USA*, Native American Law (Nationwide), 2020-2025
- Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2024; High Honor Roll, 2022, 2025
- *Legal 500 US*, Industry Focus, Environment, Litigation, 2018
- Attorney General's 2013 Award for Exceptional Service in Indian Country
- Attorney General's 2012 Award for Distinguished Service
- Thomas J. Watson Fellow, 1984
- Harry S. Truman Scholar, 1982
- US Presidential Scholar, 1980
- Jenner & Block Mentorship Award, 2020

Industry

- American Constitution Society, Co-Chair, Democracy and Voting Issue Group, 2006-2009
- *Election Law Journal*, Associate Editor, 2003-2009