



Freedom S.N. Smith

Partner

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Freedom S.N. Smith is an environmental partner in the firm's Real Estate, Environmental & Energy Law (REEL) Group and works in the areas of compliance and risk management, environmental and toxic tort litigation, brownfields and development, agriculture, procurement, and general litigation. Freedom's clients are involved in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture, energy, real estate, and construction.

Freedom has experience representing companies, municipalities, and citizens in a wide variety of areas in both state and federal courts as well as in administrative proceedings across the country. She has litigated cases for both public and private clients involving contracts, accidental releases of contamination, property transfers, leaking underground storage tanks, cost recovery actions, environmental and other insurance and coverage claims, environmental enforcement actions or clean-ups under a wide variety of regulatory programs, including CERCLA/SUPERFUND. She has also handled numerous complex lawsuits involving business disputes, including cases involving breach of contract, products liability, and fraud.

Freedom advises and represents entities and individuals with regard to regulatory and compliance matters; managing environmental liability in business transactions, including the transfer of operations may be contaminated or potentially regulated by environmental laws; business certifications, and procurement. She works with numerous corporations, municipalities and utilities on all aspects of environmental compliance, permitting, wastewater discharges, responding to governmental agencies, dealing with citizen complaints, brownfields redevelopment, and policy issues.

Freedom is often called upon to use her general litigation and administrative agency experience to assist in representing Ice Miller clients in other venues, such as before the Indiana Department of Administration and, the United States Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Freedom has co-authored several environmental articles and newsletters regarding environmental information requests, administrative actions, and regulatory issues.

Freedom is actively involved with the American Bar Association's (ABA) section of Environment, Energy, and Resources and currently serves as the Chair for the Pesticides, Chemical Regulation, and Right to Know Committee. Freedom is also

Services & Industries

- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Certified Business Enterprises
- Compliance Programs
- Data Centers
- Environmental Due Diligence & Transactions
- Environmental Insurance Coverage
- Environmental Litigation
- Environmental Permitting & Enforcement
- Environmental Regulation
- Environmental
- Food & Agribusiness
- Insurance Coverage & Recovery
- Litigation
- Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Procurement

involved with the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA), serving on the Board of Governors, as the Chair of the Environmental Law Section, and also a member of the Planning Committee for ISBA's Leadership Development Academy Program. Freedom was a 2019 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Freedom currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for Foster Success and on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council, Early Learning Indiana, Impact 100 Indianapolis, and Earth Day Indiana. Freedom also serves as part of the Women's Fund of Central Indiana's Community Engagement Committee.

Prior to joining Ice Miller LLP in 2005, Freedom served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Andrew S. Effron of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. Similarly, she served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Patricia Riley of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Freedom also clerked as a Honors Law Clerk for the Washington, D.C. office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of General Counsel—Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office in 2003, and served as a legal clerk in the appellate section of the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2002.

Freedom graduated, *cum laude*, from Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2001, and was a managing editor for the *Indiana Law Journal*, and a Moot Court Quarterfinalist. She graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana in 2001 where she received her Bachelor of Arts in computer science and biology, *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

She is admitted to practice in the state of Indiana, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Education

- DePauw University (B.A., *with honors*, 2001)
 - Biology and Computer Science
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law (J.D., 2004)

Admissions

- Indiana
- United States District Court - Northern District of Indiana
- United States District Court - Southern District of Indiana
- United States Court of Appeals - Seventh Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL), 2024
- Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), 2019
- Graduate, NITA Deposition Skills Training
- Graduate, United Way Leadership Series
- Member, Indiana State Bar Association
- Member, Indianapolis Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association (ABA)
- Member, Federal Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Indianapolis Bar Association
- Indiana State Bar Association

- Impact 100 Indianapolis

Awards & Honors

- The *Lawdragon Green 500*: Leaders in Environmental Law, Environmental & Natural Resources Law, 2024-2026
- *The Best Lawyers® in America*, Environmental Law, 2024-2026
- Indiana *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2017-2019
- 100 Black Lawyers - Indiana
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Managing Editor, *Indiana Law Journal*, 2003-2004
- Finalist, Center for Leadership Development (CLD) Achievement in Professions Award
- *Chambers USA* America's Leading Lawyers for Environment Law, 2023-2026

Community Involvement

- Chair, Board of Directors, Foster Success
- Board of Directors, Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council
- Board of Directors, Early Learning Indiana
- Board of Directors, Impact 100 Indianapolis
- Member, Community Engagement Committee Women's Fund of Central Indiana
- Member, IU Maurer School of Law BLSA Alumni Board
- Board of Governors, Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA)
- Chair of the ISBA Environmental Law Section
- Member, ISBA Planning Committee for the Leadership Development Academy Program.
- Chair, ABA Pesticides, Chemical Regulation, and Right to Know Committee
- Fellow and Current City Representative of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), 2019
- Former member, Alumni Association Board of Directors, DePauw University
- Former Member Board of Directors, AYS, Inc.
- Former Advisory Member of Board of Directors, Second Helpings

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Vietnamese Company in Expanding Sustainable Packaging Operations in the United States

Ice Miller serves as legal counsel to Plascene Inc., a subsidiary of Vietnam's DUYTAN Group, providing strategic legal guidance as the company strengthens its position in the United States plastics market and advances its commitment to sustainable packaging.

Founded in 2011, Plascene has grown from a single manufacturing facility in Oxnard, California, into a recognized leader in food-grade PET and recycled PET (rPET) bottles and jars. The company now operates 15 production lines with an annual capacity exceeding 270 million bottles, serving global clients across the food, beverage, and nutraceutical sectors. Plascene has built long-standing partnerships with brands whose products are distributed in leading retailers, including Costco, Walmart, Trader Joe's, Target, and Sam's Club. As part of DUYTAN Group—Vietnam's largest plastic manufacturer with more than 38

years of industry experience—Plascene benefits from its parent company's global network and shared dedication to sustainability.

The deal team was led by partner Mai Zymaris and supported by partners Justin Swindells, Wonnie Lee, Freedom Smith, Olga Voinarevich, Ken Robinson, Terri Czajka, John Cannizzaro, and Brad Jones. Associates Grace Dahm, Amy Flowers, Zenas Shi, and law clerk Kelly Xia provided additional assistance. Ice Miller's Vietnam Practice interdisciplinary team has counseled Plascene on intellectual property protection, international trade compliance, commercial and IP-related contracts, tax credits, employee benefits, and cross-border transactions. The firm's guidance has enabled Plascene to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while strengthening its competitive position in the global packaging market.

"Ice Miller stands out by combining that same 'Big Law' caliber expertise with the personalized, flexible service of a boutique firm—all at reasonable rates. No issue is too small; the team always prioritizes practical solutions over billable hours or high-profile wins," said Plascene General Counsel Minh Khoa D. Tran. "What impressed me most is their remarkable responsiveness and flexibility. Despite Plascene not being their largest client, they treat us as a top priority, seeing our future potential and supporting our U.S. expansion every step of the way."

Plascene's continued expansion demonstrates how thoughtful legal counsel can support mission-driven manufacturers as they scale across jurisdictions and advance industry standards for sustainable production.

Key Matters

Reported and Representative Cases

- Evansville Greenway and Remediation Trust v. Southern Indiana Gas and Elect. Co., et. al, 3:07-cv-66-SEB-WGH, (S.D. Ind. Feb. 23, 2012), available at <https://casetext.com/case/greenway-v-southern-indana-gas-elec-co>
- Cooper Industries LLC v. The City of South Bend, No. 49S04-0711-CV-541 (Ind. Jan. 22, 2009), available at <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/in-supreme-court/1442276.html>
- Planz v. Foster, 888 N.E.2d 756 (2008)

Published In

- "Noteworthy Environmental Cases to Keep Your Eye On," *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, April 2025
- "SCOTUS to determine when permits are necessary to pollute navigable waters," *Indiana Lawyer*, March 2019
- 2018 Res Gestae, ISBA Leadership Development Program Session 5
- "You Have Received an Environmental Information Request Demanding Data within 30 days. What Now?," *Building Excellence*, March 2017
- "2007-2008 Environmental Law Survey: A System in Flux," *Indiana Law Review*, Vol. 42, No. 4, 2009
- "2008-2009 Environmental Law Survey," *Indiana Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 3, 2010
- "2009-2010 Environmental Law Survey," *Indiana Law Review*, Vol. 44, No. 4, September 2011
- "2010-2011 Environmental Law Survey," *Indiana Law Review*, Vol. 45, No. 4, 2012
- "FIFRA PREEMPTION AFTER BATES V. DOW AGROSCIENCES," Agricultural Management Committee, September 2014
- ABA SEER TSCA Standard for Taking Regulatory Action Under TSCA ("Safety Standard") Briefing Paper
- "What to do when the EPA sends an Information Request," *Indiana Lawyer*, October 8, 2014

Thought Leadership

April 2025

Pratt's Energy Law Report | Noteworthy Environmental Cases to Keep Your Eye On
Pratt's Energy Law Report

January 15, 2025

Noteworthy Environmental Cases to Keep Your Eye on in 2025

August 30, 2023

Army Corps and EPA Issues New Water of the United States Rule Following Sackett Ruling

June 12, 2023

Sackett v. EPA: The Scope of Clean Water Act Jurisdiction over Wetlands and Implications

March 16, 2022

Environmental Protection Agency Publishes Rule Officially Allowing New ASTM Standard for All Appropriate Inquiry Environmental Diligence Requirement

February 23, 2022

White House Furthers Environmental Justice Work with Release of Draft Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

February 8, 2022

EPA Seeks Comments on Its Draft Lead Strategy and Changes Made Due to the Recent Infrastructure Law

February 3, 2022

EPA Seeks Small Business Input on PFAS Reporting and Recordkeeping under TSCA

February 2, 2022

Green for the Urban Core: USDA Announces New Committee

January 25, 2022

Another Battle Arises as to Waters of the United States as EPA's New Proposed Rule and Sackett Supreme Court Petition Seek Different Outcomes

April 8, 2020

COVID-19 and Public Assistance under the Stafford Act

March 30, 2020

The Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Enforcement

March 26, 2020

2020 Indiana Legislature Update: Environment and Energy

Speaking Engagements

- "Environmental Due Diligence in M&A Transactions," Strafford CLE Webinar, December 19, 2023
- "Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Definition of Empty Containers and Standards for Managing Used Containers: Old Laws and Coming Changes," 2023 Indiana Environmental Conference and Winter Technical Meeting, December 7, 2023

- "Conflicts of Interest," Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum's Applied Professionalism Program, October 20, 2023
- "Sackett v. EPA: Impact on Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Over Wetlands," Strafford CLE Webinar, September 20, 2023
- "Redefining the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule: Future Impact of Water Protection, Regulation and Permitting," Strafford CLE Presentation, April 4, 2023
- "Enforcement Rising: The Department of Justice and EPA's Environmental Justice Initiatives and Their Impacts on Diligence, Compliance, and Enforcement Issues," Indiana Environmental Conference, December 8, 2022
- "Ethical Considerations in Administrative Law," American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (ABA SEER) 30th Fall Conference, September 23, 2022
- "Environmental Due Diligence in M&A Transactions: All Appropriate Inquiry, Bona Fide Purchaser Defense," Strafford CLE Presentation, June 2021
- "Federal and State Regulatory/Policy Update (New Federal Water Rule, IDEM Risk Changes, Other EPA/IDEM Policies)," Indiana Continuing Education Forum (ICLEF), November 2020
- Environmental Symposium, IU McKinney Law School, 2019
- "Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reform: An Update on Implementation (Chemical Inventory) and Hot Topics," Manufacturers for Plastics Processors (MAPP) Webinar, December 12, 2018
- "Climate Change and Indiana," Indy Chamber Environmental CLE, 2018
- "Responding to EPA Information Requests," Strafford CLE Presentation, 2018
- "The Personal Responsibility of Officers and Directors for Civil and Criminal Violations of Environmental Law," Indiana Chamber of Commerce Environmental Conference, October 2017
- Panel Speaker, "Using Your Gifts: Philanthropy and Service," DePauw University, March 2013
- Panel Speaker, "So You Want to Go to Law/Med School: Where Do I Begin?," DePauw University Healthcare and Legal Professionals Weekend, March 2013