



ASSOCIATE

## Carla A. Valdes



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Carla Valdes combines her extensive scientific expertise and legal insight to guide clients through complex environmental and eminent domain matters.

With a strong foundation in geology and years of experience in environmental research and enforcement, Carla brings a unique perspective to her legal practice. After earning a Master of Science in Geology from the University of Utah, she worked on high-impact environmental projects, including mercury contamination in the Great Salt Lake and groundwater contamination plumes. Her tenure at the EPA honed her skills in compliance enforcement and policy analysis, which now inform her strategic approach to litigation and client advocacy.

At Zausmer, Carla divides her time between environmental litigation and eminent domain matters. She handles high-stakes environmental cases, including those involving hazardous contaminants, and works on renewable energy initiatives. Known for her ability to navigate complex scientific reports and data, Carla conducts in-depth research to address issues at the intersection of environmental law and science.

Carla's approach emphasizes meticulous preparation and a deep understanding of the scientific and regulatory frameworks that shape her cases. Whether drafting research memos on the environmental impacts of transmission lines or analyzing decades of data in groundwater contamination cases, she is dedicated to delivering thorough, well-supported recommendations to her clients.

Outside of work, Carla enjoys spending time with her partner, their dog, and two cats. She also loves exploring her neighborhood and immersing herself in stories through gaming and audiobooks.

### PRACTICE AREAS

Construction Law  
Eminent Domain  
Energy Infrastructure  
Environmental Law  
Real Property

### EDUCATION

**Wayne State University Law School,**  
Juris Doctor, 2024

**University of Utah,**  
Master of Science in Geology, 2016

**University of Michigan,**  
Bachelor of Science in Earth &  
Environmental Science, 2013

### BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Michigan

### PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

Michigan Bar Association  
American Bar Association  
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan

### PUBLICATIONS

"Total- and Methyl-mercury Response to Causeway Closure in the Great Salt Lake, Utah" *Environ. Sci Technol.* 51 (9), pp 4887-4896.

### PRESENTATIONS

"Total- and Methyl-mercury Response to Causeway Closure in the Great Salt Lake, Utah," Geological Society of America Conference, October 2015  
"Total- and Methyl-mercury Response to Causeway Closure in the Great Salt Lake, Utah," American Geophysical Union Conference, December 2015



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