

Ira Feldman

BIOGRAPHY

Ira Feldman has 25 years experience as an attorney and management consultant focusing on environmental regulatory innovation, strategic environmental management, sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility. Ira has cut an interdisciplinary swath across three usually distinct spheres: "big picture" environmental policy; environmental law and regulation; and environmental management. In the climate change arena, Ira is at the leading edge of the convergence of sustainability, climate adaptation and ecosystem services. He represents Irbaris in such relevant initiatives as the UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme on adaptation and our collaboration with WRI on ecosystem services. Ira represented Irbaris at the COP-15 in Copenhagen and is a contributing author to the IPCC.

In the US, Ira served as Special Counsel at US EPA Headquarters and he has long played a leading role in defining future domestic policy directions through his participation in environmental management and sustainability policy initiatives such as the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the Multi-state Working Group on Environmental Performance (MSWG). Around the world -- in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia -- Ira has worked with governmental entities, multilateral organizations, NGO's, and industry organizations (from large multinationals to SME's) on a wide range of implementation, policy development, and training activities.

Ira is a recognized leader in the development of corporate voluntary excellence programs, environmental performance tools and strategies, and international standards such as the ISO 14000 series, ISO 26000 and GRI. His most recent work emphasizes the role of ESG (environment-social governance) factors in the financial sector; the emerging legal and regulatory significance of ecosystem services; planning for climate change adaptation (as compared to GHG mitigation); and, the implications of "soft law" or "private law" for business and government.

QUALIFICATIONS

BA interdisciplinary environmental studies, University of Pennsylvania (1979)

MS interdisciplinary environmental studies, University of Pennsylvania (1980)

JD Columbia University School of Law (1985)

Advanced Certificate (Risk Assessment and Environmental Toxicology), Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (1995)

Advanced Certificate (Management of Public and Not-for-Profit Organizations), Georgetown University School of Public Policy (2003)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Past chair, ABA/SEER Climate, Sustainability & Ecosystems Committee (currently vice chair for ecosystem services and climate adaptation)

Vice chair, ABA/SIL Corporate Social Responsibility Committee

Board member, International Society of Sustainability Professionals

Officer and Board member, Multistate Working Group on Environmental Performance

Council of Partners, Environmental Law Institute

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Greentrack Strategies, president & senior counsel (1996–present)

Capital Environmental, vice president (1995-96)

US Environmental Protection Agency, Special Counsel, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) (1990-95)

Skadden Arps, associate attorney (1987-89)

Kaye Scholer, associate attorney (1985-87)