Kristen M. Motel

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Practice Groups
Cannabis Law
Digital Infrastructure
Energy + Environmental
Land Use, Zoning + Development

Kristen is a partner in the firm's Land Use, Zoning & Development, Energy & Environmental, and Digital Infrastructure groups. Additionally, she serves as Chair of the Cannabis Law group. Her practice includes federal, state and local environmental permitting and compliance, real estate development, and wireless telecommunications siting. Kristen regularly represents national developers, homeowners and small businesses before municipal and state land use and environmental agencies. Her background in environmental compliance allows her to integrate technical experience into her legal representation. Clients consult with Kristen on various aspects of development and seek her advice regarding New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act, coastal redevelopment and numerous state and local land use laws.

Kristen's practice also includes advising clients in the emerging field of cannabis law. An active member of the Westchester County Bar Association's Cannabis Law Committee and the Cannabis Industry of New York (CANY), Kristen helps coordinate the progression of legal services needed to bring cannabis businesses from idea to reality.

Prior to joining Cuddy & Feder, Kristen clerked for the judges of the Connecticut Superior Court. While in law school, she interned at the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic, the U.S. EPA Region 2's Superfund Division, and with Hon. Judge Cathy Seibel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Kristen has co-authored a paper on climate change adaptation that was presented at the 2014 Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law Climate Change.

Kristen worked as an environmental consultant prior to becoming an attorney, serving as a compliance advisor for clients. The various projects she administered included wastewater, storm water, and air permitting, as well as hazardous materials operations and management.

Education

- Pace University School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, Certificate in Environmental Law; 2015
- University of Rhode Island, B.S., cum laude; 2008

Admissions/Courts

- New York
- Connecticut

Awards + Recognitions

- Global Top 200 Cannabis Lawyers, 2024-2026
- Recipient of the inaugural New Leader Trailblazer Award at WCA's Annual Fall Leadership Event, 2023
- Recipient of the Business Council of Westchester's Rising Star: 40 Under 40 Award honoring young professionals in Westchester County demonstrating leadership, foresight and excellence in their profession, 2023
- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, 2023-2027
- **Westfair Communications Millennial & Gen Z Award, 2021**
- New York Metro – Top Women Super Lawyers, 2021
- Super Lawyers® New York Metro Edition Rising Stars, Land Use & Zoning (2018–2024); Cannabis Law (2025)
- Westchester Women's Bar Association Justice Sondra Miller Scholarship Recipient, 2015

Professional Associations

- Cannabis Association of New York (CANY), Policy Committee Member
- Executive Committee, New York State Bar Association, Local and State Government Law Section
- Westchester County Association, Co-Chair of the Real Estate Sustainability Subcommittee; Steering Committee Member, Policy Playbook Project
- Westchester Women's Bar Association, Past State Director, Past Vice President
- New York Bar Association
- Westchester County Bar Association
- Hudson Valley Cannabis Industry Association

Community Service

- Annual Volunteer for the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Amphibian Migrations & Road Crossings Project
- Westchester County Bar Association, Cannabis Law Committee
- Westchester County Executive's Climate Crisis Task Force, Land Use Initiative Co-Chair
- Westchester Women's Bar Association; Environmental & Land Use Committee, New Lawyers Committee, Membership Committee, and Networking Committee
- University of Rhode Island, We're Offering Women Wisdom, Founder & Board of Directors Member