



**EBC Ascending Professionals Webinar
MEPA & EJ 101 – Crossing the Professional Threshold**

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Virtual Program – Webinar

Thank you to our Program Partner



AGENDA

Co-Chairs

Jessica Bardi, Associate, Robinson + Cole
Julie Goldberg, Environmental Planner, VHB, Inc.

Planning Team

Michael Campinell, Associate, Beverage & Diamond PC
Tiffany Hawco, Environmental Specialist, Eversource

12:00 p.m. **Welcome:** Jessamyn Cox, Operations and Programs Coordinator
Environmental Business Council

Program Introduction

- Julie Goldberg, Program Co-Chair, Environmental Planner, VHB, Inc.

12:10 p.m. **MEPA Legal Basics**

- Jonathan Schaefer, Partner, Robinson + Cole

12:25 p.m. **Overview of MEPA EJ Protocols, Lessons Learned, and Mapping Tools**

- Tori Kim, Director, Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA)
- Page Czepiga, Assistant Director and Environmental Justice Point of Contact, MEPA

12:55 p.m. **MEPA Benefits & Challenges: A User's Perspective**
 • Stephanie Kruel, Senior Regulatory and Resilience Advisor, VHB

1:10 p.m. **Moderated Discussion**

Moderator: Jessica Bardi, Program Co-Chair, Associate, Robinson + Cole

Panel Members:

- Page Czepiga, MEPA
- Tori Kim, MEPA
- Stephanie, Kruel, VHB
- Jonathan Schaefer, Robinson + Cole

1:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Jessica Bardi, Associate

Robinson + Cole

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Jess is an Associate in Robinson + Cole's Real Estate and Development Group, where she focuses her practice on land use and environmental law and associated litigation. Jess advises clients on a variety of matters including zoning, planning, subdivision, local and state wetlands permitting, Chapter 91 licensing, the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, Army Corps of Engineers permitting, NPDES permitting and Chapter 21E. She has appeared on behalf of clients in a broad range of proceedings, including wetlands permitting appeals and land use disputes in front of the Massachusetts Superior Court, Massachusetts Land Court, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and local Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals.

Jess received her J.D., cum laude, from New England Law Boston, where she was an Editor for The New England Journal on Civil and Criminal Confinement and President of the school's Environmental Law Society. Jess received her B.S. in marine biology and environmental conservation studies from the University of New Hampshire.

Julie Goldberg, Environmental Planner

VHB, Inc.

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Julie Goldberg is an Environmental Planner at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) where she works with public and private sector clients on sustainability planning and environmental compliance. Julie graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering in

2021. During college, she helped address social and environmental impacts of implementing water distribution systems in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua through Engineers Without Borders (EWB), supported women in STEM initiatives on campus and mentored girls interested in STEM through Society of Women Engineers (SWE), conducted laboratory research on contaminated water remediation, and led the Lehigh University Partnership for Sustainable UN Missions student team to help integrate sustainable practices within interested UN Missions. Julie interned with VHB as an Environmental Planner in 2018 and as a Water Resources Engineering Intern in 2020. In 2019, Julie interned with Corporate Environmental Advisors, Inc. (CEA) as an Environmental Engineering Intern with a focus on site investigation and remediation.

Since graduating, she has obtained her Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) designation through the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and the Engineer Intern (EI) status from the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. While Julie has a wide variety of project experience at VHB, which includes sustainability management plans; climate action plans; environmental justice analysis and outreach plans; city and town master plans; environmental compliance and permitting for transportation, infrastructure, and urban development projects; stormwater management programs; MS4 compliance; and airport sustainability planning, she has a particular passion for environmental justice (EJ) and climate justice. She looks forward to continue gaining project experience in climate equity, as well as approaching policy and permitting in general through both an engineering and social lens.

SPEAKERS

Page Czepiga, Assistant Director and Environmental Justice Point of Contact
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA)
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
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Page is currently the Assistant Director and was a former Environmental Analyst at the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, which is part of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). She provides guidance to MEPA and state agency staff, project proponents, and the general public to support consistent application of MEPA regulations and policies during project review. As a former Environmental Analyst her prior responsibilities included conducting environmental impact reviews, soliciting comments on projects from the general public and state agencies, representing the EEA Secretary at public meetings, coordinating project reviews with stakeholders, and making recommendations to the Secretary regarding the need for additional review and analysis of a project. Prior to joining MEPA, Page provided planning and permitting support at a mid-size environmental engineering and consulting firm. Page is an AICP certified planner and received her B.S. in Community and International Development from the University of Vermont.

Tori T. Kim, Director
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA)
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
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Tori Kim is Assistant Secretary and Director of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). Tori previously served as EEA's General Counsel for two and a half years, and before her time at EEA, Tori worked for the Baker-Polito

Administration as Deputy General Counsel in the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. Prior to her work in the Administration, Tori served as Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and as Associate/Counsel in the Litigation Department at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in New York and Boston.

Stephanie Krueel, Senior Regulatory and Resilience Advisor

VHB

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Stephanie is an environmental entitlement permitting and coastal regulation/policy specialist at VHB, a Boston-based engineering and planning firm. She provides guidance to real estate developers, institutions, and government agencies on planning and building for future climate conditions. Stephanie has prior experience as a conservation agent, floodplain manager, community planner, and zoning reviewer in the public and non-profit sectors. She currently holds leadership positions with Boston Harbor Now's Climate Round Table and NAIOP's Climate Change Resiliency Committee. Stephanie maintains an Envision™ Sustainability Professional certification and holds a Master of City Planning degree from Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Psychology from Emory University.

Jonathan Schaefer, Partner

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Jon Schaefer, a partner in the firm's Environmental, Energy + Telecommunications Group, focuses his practice on environmental compliance counseling, permitting, site remediation, occupational health and safety, energy regulatory compliance and siting, and litigation related to federal and state regulatory programs. His experiences enable him to work effectively with experts and legal counsel to help clients minimize risk and solve compliance, enforcement, transactional, and regulatory matters.