

R. Latane Montague

Partner

Washington, D.C.

Biography

Latane Montague is one of the transportation industry's most experienced and successful regulatory lawyers.

Latane's practice focuses on both safety and environmental regulation of the transportation industry. He has represented the world's leading manufacturers of cars, trucks, rail cars, and heavy-duty nonroad and marine propulsion systems in nearly all of the highest-stake safety and emissions crises to face the industry over the last 20 years.

Latane has also represented the world's leading automakers, engine makers, and railroad equipment suppliers in every major rulemaking that the U.S. EPA, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) have undertaken for these industries over the last two decades.

Latane brings a deep understanding of highly technical engineering issues to every matter he handles, and combines that technical background with a deep knowledge of the related laws and regulations. He solves problems for his clients across all aspect of their business, at all levels, and is as effective on test tracks and in engineering development labs as he is in the corporate boardroom.

Clients appreciate his unique ability to explain complex technical issues in simple terms to industry leaders, government policy makers, and investigators. Latane



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Practices

Environment and Natural Resources
Transportation

Industries

Automotive
Manufacturing and Industrials

Areas of focus

Automotive Regulatory
Rail

Education and admissions

Education

has strong and long-standing relationships with the EPA and DOT regulators who develop and enforce the rules, regulations, and policies that impact his clients. Latane is respected by industry and regulators alike for his ability to cut quickly through to the critical technical and legal issues. He uses that insight to create innovative compliance strategies for high-stakes issues, and solve the most complex problems at the interface between law and engineering.

Representative experience

Assisting automakers in responding to NHTSA information requests and investigations on dozens of motor vehicle safety defect and compliance issues.

Representing vehicle and engine makers before the EPA and California Air Resources Board regarding certification and compliance with emissions and fuel economy standards.

Representing the Railway Supply Institute for the last 25 years in every major federal rulemaking and proceeding before the FRA, PHMSA, and NTSB affecting the industry.

Advising leading automakers and suppliers on implementing smart-mobility business plans and related compliance with state and local regulations.

Assisting international rail tank car owner in investigation proceedings before the NTSB following a high-speed derailment that released over 210,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia.

Advising leading automakers and suppliers on implementation and development of federal regulations and guidance for autonomous vehicles.

Representing tank car manufacturers in proceedings before the FRA and PHMSA to develop new requirements for shipments of crude-oil-by-rail and toxic inhalation hazardous materials.

Investigating and negotiating settlement of the largest EPA automotive emissions compliance enforcement investigation in the history of the Clean Air Act.

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, Order of the Coif, 1997

B.A., University of Virginia, 1992

Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

Virginia

Awards and rankings

- Transport: Rail and Road (Litigation and Regulation), Leading Lawyer, *Legal 500 US*, 2019-2021
- Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Actions: Automotive/Transport (Defense), *Legal 500 US*, 2018-2019

Latest thinking and events

- Insights
 - Getting The Deal Through: Automotive 2022
- News
 - NHTSA finalizes MY2024-2026 Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards
- News
 - NHTSA finalizes significantly increased fuel economy civil penalties
- News
 - NHTSA issues occupant protection safety standards for automated driving system equipped vehicles
- News
 - NHTSA upgrades New Car Assessment Program
- Published Works
 - EU Products Law - Second edition