

TIMOTHY J. HOPKINS, ESQ.

Hopkins Expert Services | Hopkins Law Services

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Headed legal operations for Suffolk County Water Authority for over 30 years, including 23 years as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel (2000-2023). Led drinking water contamination litigation for the nation's largest public groundwater supplier serving 1.2 million residents, resulting in settlements and judgments exceeding \$280 million. Helped draft and lobby for passage of 13 New York State laws related to water law and environmental protection, creating legal frameworks enabling water utilities to recover contamination costs from responsible polluters. Trial experience with contamination litigation. Provides expert consultation, reports, and testimony on Safe Drinking Water Act compliance, water contamination litigation and damages, and drinking water contaminant response. Also provides legal counsel to water utilities through Hopkins Law Services.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Safe Drinking Water Act compliance and regulatory interpretation
- Water contamination litigation strategy and damages calculation
- MCLG-based damages frameworks and health-protective standards
- Contaminants of concern including PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, perchlorate, MTBE, PCE, TCPA
- Public water system operations, management, and capital planning
- Legislative drafting and lobbying for environmental protection statutes
- Statute of limitations issues in contamination claims
- Collateral source rules and environmental grant coordination

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Suffolk County Water Authority Contamination Litigation (1993-2023)

Managed contamination litigation program for SCWA recovering over \$280 million from polluters through settlements and judgments. Prosecuted complex cases on behalf of the nation's largest public groundwater supplier. Worked with hydrogeological experts, toxicologists, and environmental engineers selected by outside counsel, providing critical information on SCWA operations, treatment strategies, and MCLG-based damages theories.

Highlighted Contamination Cases

- *Suffolk County Water Auth. v. Dow Chem. Co.*, No. 17-CV-06980 (E.D.N.Y. filed Nov. 30, 2017) (1,4-dioxane)
- *In re AFFF Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2873, No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG (D.S.C. filed Dec. 7, 2018) (PFAS)
- *Suffolk County Water Auth. v. Dow Chem. Co.*, 121 A.D.3d 50, 991 N.Y.S.2d 613 (2d Dept. 2014) (PCE)
- *In re Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether ("MTBE") Products Liab. Litig.*, 591 F. Supp. 2d 259 (S.D.N.Y. 2008) (MTBE)
- *State of New York v. Fermenta ASC Corp.*, 166 Misc. 2d 524, 630 N.Y.S.2d 884 (Sup. Ct. Suffolk Cty. 1995), *aff'd*, 238 A.D.2d 400, 656 N.Y.S.2d 342 (2d Dep't 1997) (TCPA)

Testimony and Litigation Experience

- Conducted 100+ depositions and cross-examinations, providing unique insight into testimony strategy and vulnerability assessment from both plaintiff and defense perspectives
- Hands-on trial experience, including successful cross-examination and impeachment of defense expert at trial
- Served as fact and Rule 30(b)(6) witness in contamination litigation

PUBLICATIONS

Environmental Law Reporter

Hopkins, Timothy J., "MCLGs in Water Contamination Litigation: Why Health-Based Standards Matter," 56 ELR 10037 (Jan/Feb 2026).

Hopkins, Timothy J., "A New Path to Achieving Health-Based Drinking Water Standards," 56 ELR 10105 (Mar/Apr 2026).

LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Helped draft and lobby for passage of 13 New York State laws related to water law, environmental protection, and utility operations, including:

- CPLR § 214-h (Statute of Limitations for Contamination Claims)
- Public Health Law § 1167-a (Collateral Source Protection for Environmental Grants)
- CPLR § 214-h (Revival Provisions for Emerging Contaminants)
- Water authority governance and operational statutes
- Environmental protection and groundwater quality legislation

This legislation helped create legal frameworks enabling New York water utilities to pursue contamination claims against polluters, protect grant funding, and address statute of limitations barriers for contaminants of concern.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Juris Doctor, Touro University Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center (1992)

Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering, Union College (1986)

Bar Admissions:

New York State – New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division Second Department

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, Northern District of New York

Professional Memberships:

Environmental Law Institute (ELI)

New York State Bar Association - *Member, Environmental & Energy Law Section, Enforcement & Compliance Committee*

EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES

- Contamination litigation strategy and damages calculation
- MCLG-based damages frameworks and expert report
- Treatment technology evaluation and cost reasonableness
- Safe Drinking Water Act compliance, regulatory interpretation, and policy analysis
- Public water system operations and management standards

CONTACT INFORMATION

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AVAILABILITY: Available for case consultation, expert reports, deposition and trial testimony nationwide.