English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP

Joye Beth Spinks

Associate

270.781.6500

jspinks@elpolaw.com

Overview

Joye Beth Spinks is an environmental law and civil litigation associate at ELPO whose practice combines her background in science, education, and advocacy. After earning degrees in Biology and Science/Math Education from Western Kentucky University, she began her professional career as a high school biology and environmental science teacher in Ohio County, Kentucky, where she taught for four years.

Her commitment to education and environmental stewardship continued at Boston University School of Law. While in law school, she interned with the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and the Kentucky Department of Education, and served as President of the Education Law Association. One of the most formative experiences of Joye Beth's legal education was working as a law clerk at ELPO. As a Bowling Green native, she was drawn to the firm's established environmental law practice and the opportunity to build a career close to home. After

PRACTICE AREAS

- Environmental Law
- Business Litigation
- Planning & Zoning
- Litigation

graduating from law school, she joined ELPO full time in 2019.

Today, Joye Beth assists clients with a wide range of environmental matters, including permitting, regulatory compliance, enforcement actions, transactions, litigation, and the interpretation of complex statutory and regulatory requirements. Her practice regularly involves issues arising under the Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; Oil Pollution Act; the Kentucky Brownfields Program; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund); and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Joye Beth values the opportunity to support businesses that contribute to the economic development of the Commonwealth both through her work at ELPO and as a volunteer. She is active in several community and professional organizations focused on development of current and future business leaders. She often volunteers with Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce programs such as Bowling Green Young Professionals and Leadership Bowling Green. She is also a frequent presenter on environmental law topics at Kentucky Chamber of Commerce environmental conferences and has co-authored a publication on the topic of Wetlands Considerations in Real Estate Transactions.

An engaged member of the community, Joye Beth has served in leadership roles with Bowling Green Young Professionals, the Kentucky Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Stuff the Bus Foundation. She also volunteers with Leadership Bowling Green and serves as an advisor to Western Kentucky University's Alpha Gamma Delta chapter.

Joye Beth lives in rural Logan County with her husband and their lively group of pets.

Credentials

Education

- Boston University School of Law, 2019
- Western Kentucky University, Bachelor of Science in Biology and Science/Math Education, *summa cum laude*, 2011

Admission

- Kentucky, 2019
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, 2019
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, 2022

Affiliations

- Bowling Green-Warren County Bar Association, Member
- Kentucky Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division 2nd District Representative 2021-2022
- Kentucky Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, Executive Committee member; Kentucky Legal Food Frenzy Chair, 2026
- American Bar Association, Member

Community Involvement

- Leadership Bowling Green, Class of 2022
- Stuff the Bus of Southern Kentucky, Board Member, 2020 – 2023
- Alpha Gamma Delta New Member Experience Advisor, 2020 – Present
- Bowling Green Young Professionals, 2019 - Present
- ELEVATE Kentucky, Class of 2024
- Bowling Green Young Professionals, Chair, 2024
- Bowling Green Young Professionals, Membership Committee Chair, 2026
- Leadership Bowling Green Day Chair

Insights

News

- ELPO Law Attorneys Speak on Environmental Law
- LEGAL UPDATE: EPA Announces Proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)
- ELPO LAW ATTORNEY JOYE BETH SPINKS NAMED SECOND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE FOR KBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
- ELPO Law Attorneys Published in American Bar Association's Environmental Law Resource Book
- Joye Beth Spinks Joins Stuff the Bus Foundation Board
- 25th Annual School Law Institute Held in Partnership with GRREC, WKU, and ELPO Law
- Joye Beth Spinks Joins ELPO as Associate Attorney
- LaJuana Wilcher, Sarah Jarboe, Joye Beth Spinks contribute to ABA year-end review
- Shelby Blankenship, Joye Beth Spinks serve as summer associates

Presentations

- Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention (2022)
- Kentucky Rural Water Association Utility Law Seminar (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Kentucky Air & Waste Management Association/Kentucky Chapter of Hazardous Materials Managers Environmental Practitioners Workshop (2025)
- Kentucky Environmental Permitting and Reporting Conference (2022-2026)
- Kentucky Environmental Conference (2024, 2025, 2026)

Publications

Co-author of chapter on Wetlands Considerations in Real Estate Transactions for the ABA's Fifth Edition of *Environmental Aspects of Real Estate and Commercial Transactions: Acquisition, Development, and Liability Management*.