

# Michael B. Gardner

OF COUNSEL

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Michael Gardner brings a distinctive blend of legal insight, environmental expertise, and corporate leadership to his role as Of Counsel. With decades of experience spanning government agencies, corporate boardrooms, and high-stakes regulatory landscapes, Michael provides trusted counsel to businesses navigating complex compliance matters and strategic transactions.

Michael advises clients across a broad spectrum of legal and operational areas:

- Business law, environmental regulation & multi-jurisdictional compliance
- Federal environmental statutes & Ohio-specific programs
- Corporate governance, finance, HR, and operational risk
- Due diligence in M&A, internal investigations, and litigation oversight

He has served as a senior in-house attorney for major U.S. coal producers and previously worked as a mine inspector with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

## Practice Areas

Construction  
Real Estate  
Energy Law  
Tax  
Occupational Safety & Health

## Education

J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law

M.B.A., Executive Management, Ashland University

B.S., Environmental Biology, Ohio University

## Credentials

Admitted to practice in U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, and all Ohio state courts

Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Role	Organization
General Counsel	Ohio's largest surface coal mining company (NYSE-listed MLP)
Associate General Counsel	Largest independently-owned coal mining firm in the U.S.
Mine Inspector	Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**Professional and Civic Engagement:**

- Member, LawPact®
- Member, American Corporate Counsel Association, Northeast Ohio
- Volunteer Attorney, Hospice of the Western Reserve
- Mentor, Cleveland Municipal School District
- Volunteer, Legal Aid, Brief Advice and Referral Clinics
- Graduate, Leadership Geauga, Class of 2004

Michael's breadth of experience – from inspecting mines to advising publicly traded companies – gives clients a nuanced and practical edge in managing regulatory risk and navigating today's business landscape.

***Delivering practical and creative solutions since 1995***