

Michael Ceja Martinez is Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environmental and Natural Resources Division. Mike was appointed in December 2021. He returns to ENRD after two years as Managing Senior Counsel at Democracy Forward Foundation, a nonprofit legal organization that represents organizations, individuals, and municipalities in impact litigation and regulatory advocacy. He previously served as a trial attorney in the Division, where he represented the United States and federal agencies in environmental matters under various pollution control laws, including CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. During that time, he co-chaired a CERCLA trial regarding the cleanup of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation.

Mike began his legal career as an associate in the litigation group at Steptoe & Johnson, LLP.

He is a graduate of Stanford University and Columbia Law School, where he was a Senior Editor of the Columbia Law Review and President of the Latinx Law Students Association. He clerked for the Honorable Philip R. Martinez of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Honorable S. James Otero of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. He was born and raised in Southern California.

