

2025 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar

Speaker Profiles



Kelly Anderson

Director, Office of Watersheds
Philadelphia Water Department
Philadelphia, PA

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Kelly Anderson is the director of Philadelphia Water Department's (PWD) Office of Watersheds. Wet Weather Compliance, Water Resources Compliance Modeling, Watershed Management, and Climate Change Adaptation are all under her supervision. PWD has extensive water resources protection programs that focuses on actively managing and coordinating the necessary programs that best protect the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, the sources of the City of Philadelphia's drinking water supply.

Ms. Anderson's team is responsible for managing and assessing risks to the watershed, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations, developing watershed assessments, informing capital infrastructure projects, working closely with watershed and regional stakeholders and evaluating water policies and their implications on PWD's watersheds and receiving waters. Ms. Anderson started with PWD in 2005, after graduating from Drexel University with a degree in Environmental Science and Environmental Policy. In 2022, Ms. Anderson completed a fellowship at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment with a focus on water innovation and utility leadership.



Fredric Andes

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Chicago, IL

Fred Andes is involved in clean water issues on the national and state levels. He was selected by the EPA to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. He is serving as coordinator for the Federal Water Quality Coalition, which is a group of municipal and other regulated parties that is participating in EPA's rulemaking on TMDLs and other key Clean Water Act programs.

Mr. Andes is also advising trade associations, industries, and municipalities on TMDLs, permits, and other water quality matters on the state and federal levels, including development of water quality standards, listings, TMDLs, and permit conditions.

Mr. Andes has been recognized by *Illinois Super Lawyers Magazine* since 2014. He also regularly appears on the *Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA* lists for his work in environmental law. Before coming to Barnes & Thornburg, Mr. Andes was a partner with the Chicago law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. Prior to working in Chicago, he spent nine years practicing environmental law in Washington, DC.

Mr. Andes graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1980. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in 1977. Mr. Andes is a member of the Illinois State, District of Columbia, and American Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in the state of IL, Washington DC, the US District Courts for the Northern District of IL and the Washington DC, and the US Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and DC Circuits.



Amanda Aspatore

Chief Legal Officer

National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all

sizes nationwide on legal, regulatory, and policy matters to ensure they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all. Prior to joining NACWA, Ms. Aspatore worked as the Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Environment at the Edison Electric Institute and the Vice President, Water Law & Policy at the National Mining Association. Ms. Aspatore also served as a law clerk in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Virginia and the US Department of Transportation's Office of Hearings.

Ms. Aspatore has received certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Standards Academy, and is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law, where she served on the Environmental Law and Policy Review, and Washington and Lee University. Ms. Aspatore is admitted to practice in VA.



Brian Bakke

Wastewater Director

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Columbia, MO

Brian Bakke brings more than 25 years of industry experience to the role of wastewater director. He enjoys developing relationships and strategic partnerships with wastewater clients and collaborating with project teams to meet our clients' needs.

His technical expertise includes optimizing the use of biogas at wastewater treatment plants. This involves assessing facilities utilizing cogeneration systems, evaluating other biogas uses, and optimizing system function for maximum efficiency. Brian is also considered an expert with BioWin and other modeling programs, and has assisted both municipal and industrial clients in identifying cost-effective solutions.

Active in the industry's professional organizations, he has authored or co-authored articles for the Water Environment Research Foundation and Industrial Wastewater magazine and has presented numerous papers at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibit.



F. Paul Calamita

Chairman
AquaLaw PLC
Richmond, VA

Paul Calamita has represented public utilities nationwide in a wide range of regulatory, litigation, policy, and financial matters for over 30 years. He earned a BS in Biology from the College of

William and Mary and his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. He co-founded AquaLaw with his partner, Chris Pomeroy, in 2002.



Beth Card

Senior Policy Advisor
Smith, Costello & Crawford
Boston, MA

Beth Card is a senior policy advisor at Smith, Costello & Crawford, serving clients on matters pertaining to energy and environmental regulations and policy. She recently concluded her role as the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. This cabinet level position serves as the Governor's chief advisor on energy and environment and directs efforts that protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. This role oversees the work of the Commonwealth's environmental, natural resources and energy regulatory agencies. This involves developing policy and legislative initiatives, leading programs and projects, creating budget pathways for implementation, and serving as the front-line communicator with the press and public. In addition, the Secretary serves as the Chair the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. In this role she engaged with federal agencies such as the US

Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers on priority matters and funding pertinent to Commonwealth programs.

Ms. Card has more than twenty-five years of service in state agencies and quasi-governmental organizations where she has been a leader on environmental and energy policy development and implementation of regulatory programs. Prior to joining the Baker-Polito Administration, Ms. Card served as the Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). During her time at MWRA, Card developed and oversaw the implementation of environmental policies on behalf of the Authority that provides water and sewer services to 3.1 million people and more than 5,500 large industrial users in 61 metropolitan Boston communities. Before joining MWRA, Ms. Card worked at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for over six years as both Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning and Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources. Her portfolio as MassDEP included programs that manage water and air resources as well as waste management. She was instrumental in work related to implementation of the global warming solutions act, the lead in schools' initiative, wastewater planning on Cape Cod, and revising water management act requirements.

Ms. Card has a JD from the Massachusetts School of Law and a BA from the University of New Hampshire.



Steven Christopher

Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility
Nashville, TN

Steven Christopher is Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel of Investigations at the TN Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of TN. Prior to working at the Board, Mr. Christopher was a Managing Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle TN and the Cumberlands, a private non-profit law firm that provides free legal representation to indigent persons in civil and administrative legal matters. Mr. Christopher is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Vanderbilt University Divinity School.



Mickey Conway

NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Mickey Conway was named as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado in January 2018. He

served as Metro's General Counsel for the 4 years prior to his appointment as CEO. Metro Water Recovery operates two treatment plants and collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of approximately 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area.

Prior to working at Metro Water Recovery, Mr. Conway represented wastewater and public entities for nearly twenty years as an attorney. He holds a BA from Southern Methodist University and a JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Mr. Conway currently serves as President on NACWA's Board of Directors.



Matt Edling

Partner
Sher Edling LLP
San Francisco, CA

For nearly twenty years, **Matt Edling** has represented public entities in large individual actions, as well as plaintiffs in complex litigation. He currently serves as counsel for several states, counties and cities in litigation related to climate damages, water and land contamination, and natural resources damages involving myriad petrochemical, agricultural, and other man-made chemicals.

Recently, Mr. Edling served as trial counsel for CA's toxics agency arising out of its largest-ever contaminated site cleanup, which was caused by airborne lead emissions. California Dep't of Toxic Substances Control, et al. v. NL Indus., Inc., et al., No. 2:20-11293 (C.D. Cal.). As lead counsel working on behalf of water providers on Long Island, he helped secure more than \$65 million in consent judgments and settlements arising out of contaminated drinking water. Bethpage Water District v. United States, et al., No. 22-cv-2050 (E.D.N.Y.); South Farmingdale Water District v. United States, et al., No. 22-cv-2051 (E.D.N.Y.). His efforts as lead counsel on behalf of California public entities resulted in \$630 million in infrastructure improvements to abate transboundary water contamination. City of Imperial Beach, et al. v. International Boundary and Water Commission, et al., No. 18-cv-457 (S.D. Cal.). As most relevant to this topic, Matt continues to represent states, cities, and water suppliers related to PFAS.

Over his career, Mr. Edling, frequently in tandem with public counsel, has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for clients, including PFAS contamination recoveries. He understands the need to balance the public and policy implications involved in environmental litigation and bring stakeholders together in and out of the courtroom to achieve lasting success.

He has been named among the highest class of attorneys for professional ethics and legal skills, with an AVPreeminent rating by Martindale Hubbell.



Will Gardner

Partner

Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP

Indianapolis, IN

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-gardner-b005a311/>

Will Gardner is a partner in Taft's Environmental practice group. He works with large multinational companies, small and midsize businesses, and public sector clients on environmental compliance and permitting matters. He defends clients involved in environmental enforcement actions, government investigations, and third-party lawsuits related to compliance with environmental laws. He also routinely works with buyers, sellers, and lenders on M&A and real estate deals and assists those clients in structuring transactions to minimize and allocate environmental liabilities and risks.

Among other issues, Mr. Gardner routinely advises clients involved in traditional and alternative electricity generation, renewable fuels, manufacturing, solid and hazardous waste industries (collection, processing, and recycling), and public and private water and wastewater utility services. He also assists clients involved in carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) projects, including preparing and negotiating pore space leases and advising on the quickly evolving legislative and regulatory landscape for CCUS.



Gary Gold

Of Counsel

Best Best & Krieger LLP

Washington, DC

Gary Gold is an attorney and engineer with nearly two decades of experience in natural resources. Drawing on his interdisciplinary background, Mr. Gold guides public agencies and Tribal Nations through complex legal and regulatory environments with particular expertise in the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, other federal laws governing natural resources.

Mr. Gold previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary—Water and Science at the US Department of the Interior where he played a key role in negotiating settlements to resolve water rights claims and in advancing construction of water infrastructure including the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

Mr. Gold started his career as a Water Resources Engineer at Austin Water Utility (Texas). As an attorney, Mr. Gold has worked on regulatory compliance matters for Salt River Project (Arizona) and served as a natural resources advisor to US Senators on both sides of the aisle. Mr. Gold is a former National Science Foundation Research Fellow.

Mr. Gold holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona, a MS in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and a JD from the Arizona State University College of Law.



Devon Goodrich

Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Law Department
New York, NY

Devon Goodrich has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Environmental Law Division of the New York City Law Department since 2011. She practices environmental and municipal law, working on a variety of issues relating to New York City's drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment systems, parks, and solid waste management.

From the beginning of Ms. Goodrich's career at the Law Department, her work has included counseling and litigation involving the City's wastewater management. She has counseled the City on Clean Water Act compliance, from meeting the requirements of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the City's 14 wastewater treatment plants, which treat approximately 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day, to development and implementation of long-term control plans to reduce combined sewer discharges to New York City's water bodies.

She has also regularly counseled and litigated on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to enforce the City's Watershed Regulations and protect the City's water supply system – which supplies approximately 1.1 billion gallons a day of high quality, affordable drinking water to over nine million people.

Ms. Goodrich received a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA with highest honors in English from Cornell University.



Jennifer Harrington

General Counsel & Legislative Liaison
Narragansett Bay Commission
Providence, RI

Jennifer Harrington currently serves as General Counsel and Lobbyist to the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) in Providence, RI. The NBC operates the two largest secondary wastewater treatment facilities in New England and has won numerous awards for its outstanding treatment performance.

Prior to Ms. Harrington joining the NBC, she worked for a private firm where she developed extensive expertise in the areas of civil litigation, real estate, insurance, and corporate law.

Since Ms. Harrington joined the NBC, she has concentrated in the areas of environmental compliance and prosecutions, regulatory, ethics, insurance, real estate, legislative review, contract, permitting and litigation matters. She has also worked extensively to ensure that various Policies and Rules and Regulations remain in compliance with all relevant State and Federal Laws.

Ms. Harrington earned a BS degree in Marketing at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, and her JD degree at The Southern New England School of Law in Dartmouth, MA. She has maintained a longstanding relationship with the University of Massachusetts School of Law, formerly known as Southern New England School of Law, and continues to aid the school in its various endeavors.



Jamie Heisig-Mitchell

Co-Chair, Water Quality Committee
Chief of Water Quality
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell became Director of Water Quality in November of 2022, overseeing the Central Environmental Laboratory (CEL), Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention (P3), and the Technical Service Division (TSD). In her previous position as Chief of TSD, she managed staff involvement in environmental and wastewater monitoring and research as well as assuming responsibility for HRSD's permit negotiations and oversight of regulatory compliance with Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act programs. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell serves on the board of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) and the University of Colorado Boulder's Water Reuse Advisory Board, is Chair of VAMWA's Water Quality Committee, Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Biosolids Committee,

Past-President of the Virginia Biosolids Council, member of the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Institutional Biosafety Committee, and has served on numerous VA Department of Environmental Quality Advisory Panels and Subcommittees. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell received her MS from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.



Laurie Horridge

NACWA Board Member

Executive Director

Narragansett Bay Commission

Providence, RI

Laurie Horridge assumed the role of Executive Director of the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC), RI's largest clean water agency, in 2019. As Executive Director, she leads a staff of 270 environmentalists to provide wastewater collection and treatment services to approximately 400,000 people in the Greater Providence and Blackstone Valley areas.

Ms. Horridge oversees a \$330M combined capital and operating annual budget to support RI's two largest wastewater treatment facilities. Under her leadership, the Narragansett Bay Commission was named a Utility of the Future for the second time and received its third Excellence in Management Award at the Platinum level. Since she assumed the Executive Directorship, the Narragansett Bay Commission has received the largest WIFIA loan in Region I and two subsequent WIFIA designations. She has continued the Commission's leadership in renewable energy production by diversifying and enlarging the Commission's renewables portfolio to include additional solar, wind, and biogas facilities, ensuring that the Commission will reach its goal of providing 100% of energy demand through renewable sources.

In her 30-year career at the NBC, she served as General Counsel and Director of Administration, playing key roles in regulatory matters, labor negotiations, contract disputes, property acquisitions and public relations issues. She is currently managing the third and final phase of the NBC's Combined Sewer Overflow Project, the largest public works project and the most important clean water project in the history of RI.

Ms. Horridge holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Providence College and a JD from Western New England University - School of Law. She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association and has been an elected member of its House of Delegates since 1991. Ms. Horridge is active in several clean water organizations besides NACWA, including the New England Water Environment Association, Rhode Island Clean Water Association, Water Environmental Federation, American Water Works Association and the Rhode Island Chief Executive Officer Council. She also serves on the Personnel Board of her hometown in East Greenwich, RI.



Emily Jackson

Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee

Chief Legal Officer

Metro Water Recovery

Denver, CO

Emily Jackson is the Chief Legal Officer for the Metro Water Recovery in Denver, CO. Metro operates two wastewater treatment plants, a fifty-five-thousand-acre farm and extensive collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of over 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area. Prior to taking the position at Metro, Ms. Jackson worked for the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Jackson sits as Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Legal Affairs Committee. She holds a BA from the University of Colorado and a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. Ms. Jackson is a member of the Colorado bar.



Ann McIver

Director, Environmental Stewardship

Citizens Energy Group

Indianapolis, IN

Ann McIver is the Director of Environmental Stewardship for Citizens Energy Group, leading environmental and natural resources compliance programs for the district energy systems, as well as the natural gas, drinking water and wastewater utilities, implementation of the Industrial Pretreatment Program, and the state-certified drinking water lab serving analytical needs across Citizens. She champions Citizens' Commitment to Sustainability. Prior to this role, she served in the Thermal business, including an assignment as Manager of Operations for the Steam business. She started her career in the Office of Air Quality at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Ms. McIver served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Council of Industrial Boilers from 2016 – 2020 and as a member of the Advisory Board at the Lugar Center for Renewable Energy. In the community, Ann served a member of the Board of Directors for Volunteers of America's Ohio & Indiana affiliate from 2016 – 2024 and is currently a member of the Board for the Yvonne Perkins Legacy Foundation.

Ms. McIver earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana University. She and her husband David live in Brownsburg, IN. She is an avid road cyclist, a sport she took up in 2013.

**Hilary Meltzer**

Chief, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law
New York, NY

Hilary Meltzer became Chief of the Environmental Law Division of the New York City Law Department in 2019 after serving as Deputy Chief for nine years and has been a member of that Division since 1992. She practices environmental and municipal law, focusing especially on issues relating to New York City's drinking water supply and stormwater management systems.

She has worked on the negotiations and implementation of the 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2017 Filtration Avoidance Determinations for the City's Catskill and Delaware Water Supply Systems – which together supply approximately 1.1 billion gallons a day of high quality, affordable drinking water to over nine million people. She also remains involved in implementing the 1997 New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement, a landmark agreement among the City, New York State, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the communities in the watershed, and several environmental advocacy organizations to protect water quality as well as the economic vitality of the upstate communities.

Her work includes counseling and litigation – both affirmative lawsuits to protect water quality and compliance work and defending against challenges to the City's operation of its water supply system. She participated in the negotiation of New York City's 2005 Combined Sewer Overflow consent order and the Citywide MS4 permit that took effect in 2015, and is currently working with over a dozen City agencies to develop a workable approach to compliance.

Ms. Meltzer received a JD from Yale Law School and a Bachelor's degree with distinction in mathematics from Swarthmore College. She teaches a clinic, "Representing the City," at New York University Law School.

**Erika Powers**

Partner
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP
Ann Arbor, MI

Erika Powers' clients include municipalities, utility districts, trade organizations and other regulated parties across the country. She advises on a wide variety of Clean Water Act (CWA) issues, including wet weather management and wastewater treatment, including negotiation of federal consent decrees to reduce combined and sanitary sewer overflows. She also

assists clients with matters involving water quality standards, the listing and delisting of impaired water bodies, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development and implementation, effluent limitations guidelines for wastewater discharges, and water permitting, compliance and enforcement.

Notably, she provides veteran legal counsel regarding regulatory matters involving state and federal environmental agencies, as well as CWA administrative and judicial litigation. She advocates to support her clients' interests in water quality rulemaking and policy development, crafts strategies to achieve client objectives while maintaining compliance with water quality regulations, helps clients contest agency decisions in federal and state courts, and defends clients against citizen suits and agency enforcement actions seeking damages and penalties.

Listed among The Best Lawyers in America in environmental law, Ms. Powers is valued for her ability to balance national water policy with the daily challenges of managing local, regional and multistate water-related initiatives. She helps clients achieve their goals while addressing agency concerns in the decision-making process. Because many of her clients are at the forefront of innovation in water quality law and face the challenge of budgetary constraints, she remains steadfastly dedicated to helping them maximize their results with limited resources while adhering to state and federal regulations.



Erika Spanton

Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
Seattle, WA

Erika Spanton maintains a robust mixed practice of litigation, regulatory, and white collar defense work focused on water quality, Safe Drinking Water Act, and marine decarbonization

matters.

Ms. Spanton has significant litigation and appellate experience in both federal and state courts. Her work includes a range of high-stakes state and federal matters at each stage of litigation, including settlement negotiations, mediations, arbitration, discovery, and trial. She has first-chaired numerous arbitrations and trials, as well as supported large, complex trial teams. Recent successes include successfully defeating class certification in high-stakes litigation in California, and negotiating an early, favorable resolution of citizen suit actions alleging Clean Water Act violations in CA and WA.

Ms. Spanton also has deep regulatory expertise with federal and state stormwater, wastewater, spill prevention and countermeasure (SPCC), and Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. This includes assisting clients with environmental, health, and safety audits, compliance assessments and internal investigations, providing counsel

on high-stakes enforcement and compliance matters, adeptly foreclosing enforcement escalation, and successfully negotiating penalty reductions. Erika's deep regulatory expertise with federal and state wastewater and stormwater requirements, combined with her strong negotiation, litigation, and appellate skills, also enables her to help clients achieve successful outcomes in the face of challenging NPDES permit applications or modifications involving unattainable regulatory targets and public scrutiny.

Additionally, Erika has a strong command of international, national, and state treaties, laws, and regulations impacting the fisheries and aquaculture industries. She also frequently counsels clients on how best to navigate complex state and federal permitting requirements implicated by marine carbon dioxide removal operations. Ms. Spanton co-leads B&D's Water Practice and co-founded and leads B&D's Fisheries & Aquaculture industry group. Her strong background in environmental sciences continually informs her legal practice.



Allyn Stern
Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
Seattle, WA

As a former EPA Regional Counsel with 30 years of agency experience, **Allyn Stern** joined Beveridge & Diamond in 2019, bringing deep governmental insight to help clients navigate complex environmental regulations. She counsels both public and private sector clients on developing proactive environmental compliance strategies, resolving enforcement matters, and engaging effectively with regulatory agencies to achieve practical, implementable solutions.

Ms. Stern works extensively with municipalities and utilities on Clean Water Act issues involving drinking water, wastewater, PFAS in biosolids, stormwater management, and compliance with water quality standards and other permit obligations. Her experience also includes advising on air and waste regulation, Superfund cleanups, reuse and recycling initiatives, and disaster preparedness.



Charles Stephens
Senior Executive Policy Director
National Rural Water Association
Washington, DC

Charles Stephens has served his country for over 25 years, having begun his career in the US Army. After serving ten years in the military, he started his civilian career as a Budget Analyst

for the Defense Logistics Agency. Most recently, Mr. Stephens served as Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs for USDA Rural Development, where he oversaw the funding programs that provided financing to thousands of rural communities across the country. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland Baptist University and a master's degree in public administration from Strayer University. In 2015, Mr. Stephens completed the Leadership for a Democratic Society program at the Federal Executive Institute. In his role at the National Rural Water Association, Mr. Stephens will act as a policy expert in rural development, water infrastructure funding and financing, and implementation of technical assistance and training programs.



Trent Stober

Senior Vice President
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Columbia, MO

Trent Stober is the Senior Vice President with experience in water quality assessment and regulatory projects that have shaped major municipal infrastructure programs across the nation. He has managed projects that include wastewater and stormwater utility planning, discharge permitting, assessment of receiving water-beneficial uses and their attainability, and watershed monitoring and management.

Mr. Stober is passionate about collaboration between regulators, utilities and other stakeholders to address community priorities related to the Clean Water Act and other infrastructure needs. In his role as director, he manages a diverse staff in technical areas such as integrated municipal planning, regulatory and enforcement action support, program and project management, asset management, and utility operations. He is a regulatory specialist with a history of applying his experiences, knowledge and practical approaches to solve challenging problems.

Mr. Stober is proud of being a trusted advisor for many communities as they address more stringent regulatory requirements, including some of the most complicated quality issues in Missouri and Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. He has testified quarterly on water quality and permitting issues for over 10 years before the Missouri Clean Water Commission, which is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Protection Program.

He holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri and was recently inducted as a member of the University's Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

**Theo Theocles**

Director of Legal Affairs
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
Agawam, MA

Theo Theocles, Esq. recently joined the Commission as the Director of Legal Affairs and Chief Procurement Officer. In this role, Mr. Theocles will offer legal advice to the Executive Director and department directors and their staff on operational issues, procurement, policy, and other legal issues faced by the Commission. Mr. Theocles will provide procurement as well as legal and operation support for the Commission's WIFIA Program, which includes 27 water and wastewater infrastructure projects to be completed in the next several years. He will also work with the Commission's finance team to streamline and standardize some procurement and contract functions.

Prior to joining the Commission, Mr. Theocles worked for the City of Springfield, most recently as an Associate City Solicitor and Deputy Procurement Officer, where he helped modernize the department and was directly responsible for the procurement, contracting, and legal support for over \$500 million in various City construction projects.

Mr. Theocles is a Springfield native and attended Cathedral High School. He earned his bachelor's degree at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and his JD at Western New England University School of Law.

Outside of work, Mr. Theocles enjoys fishing, hunting, cooking, music, the law, and football. In 2019, he was selected one of Business West's 40 under 40 for excellence in Municipal Law and Procurement. In addition to a law degree, Mr. Theocles also holds an LLM (Master of Laws) in Estate Planning and a certificate in Local Government and Leadership from Suffolk University.

Mr. Theocles resides with his wife Jenny, two-year-old son George, and yellow lab, Sadie.

**James Tupper**

Partner
Marten Law
Seattle, WA

James Tupper focuses his practice on environmental law, with an emphasis on water quality, water resources, and shoreline development. Mr. Tupper has successfully represented business associations and local governments in resolving complex disputes involving stormwater regulation and water resources policy. His work includes advising clients

on federal and state rulemaking and legal challenges to rulemaking. He frequently represents clients in enforcement matters in state and federal court. He also advises clients regarding hazardous waste cleanup issues in real estate development and financing. James served two terms on the Washington Pollution Control Hearings Board and Shorelines Hearings Board.

Since 2006, Mr. Tupper has been included on each year's Washington Super Lawyers list. James is recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2019 for work in environmental law, land use and zoning law, environmental litigation, land use and zoning litigation, and natural resources law. Mr. Tupper was named the *Best Lawyers 2015 Environmental Litigation "Lawyer of the Year"* in Seattle.



David Uhlmann

Partner
Marten Law
Washington, DC

David Uhlmann has more than three decades of incomparable leadership experience solving some of the nation's most prominent and difficult environmental challenges. At Marten Law, Mr. Uhlmann represents state and local governments, trade associations, and corporate clients seeking strategic counsel regarding values-driven solutions to environmental problems.

Prior to joining Marten Law, Mr. Uhlmann served as EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance—the top enforcement official in the United States—as well as Deputy Assistant Administrator and a Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator. In those roles, he led approximately 2800 employees nationwide responsible for enforcement and compliance assurance activities under the federal environmental laws.

As EPA Assistant Administrator, Mr. Uhlmann developed National Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Initiatives for 2024-2027, including mitigating climate change, addressing PFAS contamination, and limiting exposure to coal ash contamination. Uhlmann established the first-ever EPA Climate Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Strategy, the Strategic Civil-Criminal Coordination Policy, and the PFAS Enforcement Discretion Policy for CERCLA Cases.

Prior to his appointment at EPA, Mr. Uhlmann was a law professor and Director of the Environmental Law and Policy Program at the University of Michigan for 15 years. He previously served for 17 years at the US Department of Justice, the last seven years as Chief of the Environmental Crimes Section, the top environmental crimes prosecutor in the country.

Mr. Uhlmann's work as lead prosecutor in *United States v. Elias*, a knowing endangerment case that left a 20-year-old worker severely and permanently brain-damaged, is chronicled in *The Cyanide Canary*. He is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers. He received a JD from Yale Law School and a BA in history and political science with high honors from Swarthmore College. After law school, Uhlmann clerked for US District Court Judge Marvin H. Shoob in Atlanta, GA.



Nathan Vassar

Partner

Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend P.C.
Austin, TX

Nathan Vassar is a Principal at Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. in Austin, TX. His practice focuses on assisting clients with enforcement defense matters, regulatory compliance, water quality matters, and water resources development. Mr. Vassar helps communities facing Clean Water Act compliance issues and represents clients in enforcement and civil litigation matters before federal and state courts and administrative agencies. Prior to the practice of law, Mr. Vassar worked in state politics as a Legislative Director for a State Senator in VA. and interned during law school with then-Tenth Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch in Denver, CO. Mr. Vassar received his BA at the University of Virginia and his JD from the University of Texas School of Law.



Jared Voskuhl

Director of Regulatory Affairs

California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Sacramento, CA

[linkedin.com/in/jared-voskuhl/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jared-voskuhl/)

Jared Voskuhl directs the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)'s regulatory advocacy program for water quality matters before the California EPA and the California Natural Resources Agency, including nutrient management, PFAS, microplastics, infrastructure finance, water conservation, collection systems, aquatic toxicity, and recycled water. Prior to joining CASA in 2018, Jared worked in California water policy over three legislative sessions for a local public agency and a state trade association, and he also served as president of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. He holds a law degree from the University of California, Davis, a Master's degree in Sociology from Northwestern University, and dual Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and English.

**Jordan Wimpy**

Attorney
Mitchell Williams, PLLC
Little Rock, AR

Jordan Wimpy is a Member of the Little Rock law firm of Mitchell Williams Selig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC, where he Co-Chairs the Environmental and Natural Resources Practice Group. His practice focuses on environmental, agriculture, energy and natural resource issues. He regularly represents utilities, business clients, and trade associations in all aspects of the environmental permitting, compliance and enforcement processes. He also provides advice and counsel to landowners negotiating conservation easements, utility easements, surface use agreements, and environmental mitigation/reclamation standards for energy infrastructure projects.

He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Wimpy studied law at Vermont Law School where he received both his JD and Master of Environmental Law & Policy degrees with high honors in 2012.

Mr. Wimpy is a past chair of the Agricultural Management Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources. He is past chair of the Arkansas Bar Association's Environmental Law Section.

**Mike Witt**

NACWA Board Member
General Counsel
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
Newark, NJ

Mike Witt is the General Counsel for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC). One of the oldest dedicated environmental agencies in the United States, PVSC provides wastewater service to over 1.5 million residents located 48 municipalities throughout northeastern NJ. Prior to becoming General Counsel, he was in private practice and served PVSC for 19 years as Special Environmental Counsel, representing PVSC in regulatory and litigation matters with the both US Environmental Protection Agency and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to environmental law, his 25 years of law practice has included government entity representation, appellate practice, intellectual property, and government information requests, among other areas.

Mr. Witt's public service includes appointment by the New Jersey Supreme Court to the Attorney Ethics Committee, membership on the New Jersey State Bar Association's Renewable Energy, Cleantech and Climate Change Committee,

membership on the NJSBA Committee on Continuing Legal Education, and serving as Chair and a Director of the NJSBA Local Government Law Section. He also regularly teaches a number of continuing education courses, including Ethics for Engineers for the New Jersey Water Environment Association (NJWEA).

In addition to serving on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA) Board of Directors, Mr. Witt is a member of NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee, has given presentations at a number of NACWA events, and is a member of the Editorial Board for NACWA's Wet Weather Consent Decree Handbook.

Mr. Witt holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a JD from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is also proud (overly so) to be the first attorney in NJ inducted as an honorary member of NJWEA's Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers.