



**Echikson, Thomas G.**

**Chief Counsel, Office Of The Chief Counsel**

Tom Echikson joined FHWA as Chief Counsel in August 2014. As Chief Counsel, Tom is part of the Agency's leadership team and oversees a team of 49 lawyers responsible for all legal matters within FHWA. This work includes legal and policy matters arising under federal transportation, administrative and environmental laws and touches upon an extensive range of subjects. He works closely with Agency leadership and the Agency's program offices.

Before joining the FHWA, Tom spent more than 25 years in private practice at several law firms in Washington DC as an environmental counselor and litigator. His work focused on environmental enforcement, litigation, regulatory counseling, permitting, advocacy and toxic tort defense. He defended clients in civil and criminal enforcement matters under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA, CERCLA, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. He also counseled clients and litigated cases involving claims for costs and damages associated with contaminated properties, including toxic tort defense, contaminated site cleanup, cost recovery and natural resource damage issues. Additionally, he represented clients in administrative and regulatory rulemaking, permitting and variance proceedings before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and agencies within the Department of Interior, including challenges to and defense of federal environmental and natural resource regulations in the District Courts and Courts of Appeal. A large part of his practice involved providing counsel to clients regarding compliance with and litigation arising under NEPA and other natural resource laws in the context of federal permitting and authorizations.

Tom received a B.A. in Earth Sciences and Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College, and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C. and New York.