

MICHELLE WALKER OWENBY

EDUCATION

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

L.L.M. in Environmental Law, *summa cum laude*, August 2011

- Relevant course work: Risk Assessment, Climate Change, Renewable Energy & Other Alternative Fuels, Natural Resources Law, Ecology, Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development and Teaching Projects

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, May 2003

- Notes Editor, Vermont Law Review 2001-2003
- Vermont Law School Dean's Fellow (writing instructor) 2003
- Member, Environmental Law Society

The Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

B.S., History of Technology and Society with 15 specialized hours in public policy, August 1999

EXPERIENCE

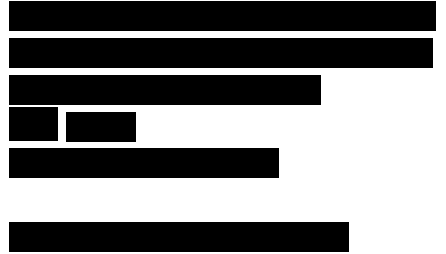
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Nashville, Tennessee

Director, Division of Air Pollution Control 12/15-present

- Leads a division with eight programs, manages operations across the state and oversees four local air programs in Knox, Hamilton, Davison, and Shelby counties.
- Oversees program operations in ambient monitoring, air quality forecasting, compliance validation and inspections, permitting, regulatory and state implementation plan development and enforcement.
- Serves as the Technical Secretary for the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board.
- Accomplishments: improved division work processes to meet or exceed established national levels for SRF timeframes; restored Tennessee's Ambient Monitoring Network and dramatically improved the program's TSA audit performance; successfully transitioned permitting section from geographic based permitting to sector based permitting; led division through 8 successful fee rulemakings to improve program revenue in light of declining emissions; developed and implemented successful succession plans for critical program work functions.

CONTACT



Michelle Walker Owenby leads a division of over 120 state workers across 8 program areas and manages a 15-million-dollar program budget. The division implements the Tennessee Air Quality Act and applicable delegated programs under the federal Clean Air Act as well as directing strategic plans and considerations around air quality management approaches in Tennessee.

Michelle is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, Georgia and Vermont.



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Nashville, Tennessee

04/12-11/15

Director and Assistant Commissioner, Office of Policy and Planning

- Developed strategic work plan for environmental policy and department process improvement and performance work.
- Advised Department senior leadership regarding the development of environmental policy initiatives and manage multi-disciplinary teams to study and develop recommendations for policies and procedures related to numerous environmental issues.
- Drafted or led a team to draft strategic comments on proposed EPA actions.
- Managed an interagency team in the development of a state energy plan focused on lead-by-example opportunities for Tennessee state government.
- Managed the Department’s Customer Focused Government strategic and operational performance plan, including measuring progress and reporting to the Governor’s office.
- Served as the Department’s representative in the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) 2015 Integrated Resource Planning working group that will assist TVA in developing a long-term plan for future resource generation and management.
- Managed the Department’s formal review and commenting on Tennessee projects undergoing review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

Environmental & Natural Resources Law Clinic¹, Vermont Law School

South Royalton, Vermont

09/09-08/11; 01/12-04/12

Fellow and Staff Attorney

- Developed and managed the New England Community Toxics Program in partnership with Toxics Action Center to provide legal advice and counseling to New England communities and citizens dealing with environmental issues.
- Lead student legal teams to develop strategies and solutions for environmental issues in Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities.
- Instructed various seminar classes on the factual investigation and research associated with client representation and case development.

Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP

Atlanta, Georgia

12/07-08/09

Associate, Environmental and Construction Group

- Advised clients on all environmental aspects of the re-development of impacted properties; represented clients in administrative appeals.
- Represented clients with regard to liability under and regulatory compliance with environmental statutes and regulations, including negotiation of administrative settlements with EPA and EPA’s regulation of nanomaterials under TSCA.

¹ Currently referred to as the Environmental Advocacy Clinic.

Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP

Nashville, Tennessee

09/03-11/07

Associate, Environmental and Regulatory Group

- Advised commercial and manufacturing clients with regard to regulatory compliance with environmental statutes and regulations.
- Represented clients in proposed state and federal regulatory changes, administrative litigation matters (permit appeals) and enforcement actions.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BOARD POSITIONS

- Board Member (regional representative for southeast) and Co-Chair of the Program Funding Committee for the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, 2017-Present (former Officer in various roles)
- Board Member, Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies, 2016-Present
- Board Member of the Southeastern States Air Resources Managers, Inc., 2015-Present

LEADERSHIP AND MENTOR PROGRAMS

- Green Leadership, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, 2014
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Mentor, 2021
- Tennessee Government Executive Institute, 2022

RECENT WRITTEN PRODUCT

- Tennessee’s comments on EPA’s 2015 proposal to revise the definition of “Waters of the United States.”
- Lead statewide engagement effort to seek public input around EPA’s 2015 Clean Power Plan Proposal, lead development of Tennessee’s comments.
- Various comment letters regarding proposed actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2015-2023).