

ERIK D. OLSON

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EXPERIENCE

- 2013-PRESENT **NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL** WASHINGTON, DC
Senior Strategic Director for Health & Senior Attorney; Previously Director, Health Program
- Helps to oversee advocacy and strategy on health, drinking water, pesticides, toxic chemicals
 - Senior strategist and advocate on numerous lobbying, litigation, and advocacy campaigns.
- 2008-2013 **THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS** WASHINGTON, DC
Deputy Director, Pew Health Group; Senior Director, Food Programs
- Oversaw food safety, additives, school foods, & antibiotics in animal agriculture projects
 - Created campaign that enacted the first overhaul of FDA food safety laws in 70 years
 - Developed proposal for extensive water infrastructure project
- 2006-2008 **SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS** WASHINGTON, DC
General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director
- Oversaw Committee legal, legislative and oversight activities and staff with Staff Director.
 - Supervised nearly 100 hearings, and the passage of dozens of bills.
 - Helped draft/negotiate major legislation including on climate change, Energy (enacted in 2007); Consumer Product Safety Improvement law; water legislation; Mercury Export Ban.
- 1991-2006 **NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL (NRDC)** WASHINGTON, DC
Director, Advocacy Center & Executive Director, NRDC Action Fund (2006)
Senior Attorney (1991-2006); Director, Public Health Program; Director, Drinking Water Project
- Oversaw major advocacy campaigns for NRDC including drinking water, climate change, toxics, and land and natural resources campaigns, managing about a dozen staff.
 - Chaired Campaign for Safe & Affordable Drinking Water with over 300 health and other groups. Successfully fought to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996.
 - Litigated major federal cases on safe drinking water and other issues.
 - Helped lead successful effort to strengthen the pesticide laws, resulting in enactment of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, and litigated to improve implementation.
- 1986-1991 **NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION** WASHINGTON, DC
Counsel, Environmental Quality Division
- Advocacy, lobbying, media, and litigation on pollution and toxics issues including drinking water, Superfund and hazardous waste, Clean Water Act, Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- 1984-1986 **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** WASHINGTON, DC
Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Water Division and Waste Division
- Regulatory review, client counseling, and litigation including briefing and arguments on Safe Drinking Water Act, underground injection, hazardous waste, Clean Water Act, etc.

EDUCATION

- 1984 **UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D.**
Order of the Coif legal honors society; Editor of environmental law journal
- 1981 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, COLUMBIA COLLEGE, A.B.**
Independent major in Environmental Biology & Policy, Dean's List

BOARDS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Currently serves or has in the past served on numerous boards and committees including as: a Board Member of Food Policy Action; a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Food Forum; a member of the Board of Directors for Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation; a member of the Board of Directors for the Keystone Center; a member of the Board of Directors for Protected Harvest; a member of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council; a member of several EPA Regulatory Negotiations and advisory committees on Safe Drinking Water Act regulations; a member of the EPA-AWWARF Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts research advisory committee; a member of the Policy Committee of Children's Environmental Health Network; a member of the League of Conservation Voters vote advisory committee; a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for Alexandria RiverRenew (Combined Sewer Overflow) project; and a member of many other professional committees.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Numerous blogs and analyses posted at <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/erik-d-olson>
- Testified in U.S. Congress more than 50 times on issues including drinking water, PFAS and other toxic chemicals, pesticides, oil spills, and hazardous waste.
- Levin R, Villanueva CM, Beene D, Cradock AL, Donat-Vargas C, Lewis J, Martinez-Morata I, Minovi D, Nigra AE, Olson ED, Schaidler LA, Ward MH, Deziel NC. US drinking water quality: exposure risk profiles for seven legacy and emerging contaminants. *J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol*. 2023 Sep 22; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41370-023-00597-z>
- Mona Hanna-Attisha and Erik D. Olson, Preexisting Conditions That Kill Us, *Fam Community Health*. 2021 Apr-Jun 01;44(2):76-77. doi: 10.1097/FCH.0000000000000288.
- Kristi Pullen Fedinick, Mae Wu, and Erik D. Olson *Threats on Tap: Widespread Violations Highlight Need for Investment in Water Infrastructure and Protections*. (2017)
- Erik D. Olson and Kristi Pullen Fedinick *What's in Your Water? Flint and Beyond*, (2016)
- Maffini MV, Alger HM, Olson ED, Neltner TG. Looking Back to Look Forward: A Review of FDA's Food Additives Safety Assessment and Recommendations for Modernizing its Program. *Compr Rev Food Sci Food Saf*. 2013 Jul;12(4):439-453. doi: 10.1111/1541-4337.12020. PMID: 33412683.
- Erik D. Olson, Protecting Food Safety: More Needs To Be Done To Keep Pace With Scientific Advances And The Changing Food Supply. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2011 May;30(5):915-23. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2010.1265.
- Neltner, T. G., N. R. Kulkarni, H. M. Alger, M. V. Maffini, E. D. Bongard, N. D. Fortin, and E. D. Olson, Navigating the U.S. Food Additive Regulatory Program, *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety* (2011)10:342–368, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1541-4337.2011.00166.x/abstract>.
- Erik D. Olson et al., *What's On Tap?: Grading Drinking Water in U.S. Cities*, (2003)
- Ronnie B. Levin, Paul R. Epstein, Tim E. Ford, Winston Harrington, Erik Olson, and Eric G. Reichard, U.S. Drinking Water Challenges in the Twenty-First Century. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2002 Feb;110 Suppl 1(Suppl 1):43-52. doi: 10.1289/ehp.02110s143.
- Paul Mushak, Matthew McKinzie and Erik D. Olson *Arsenic and Old Laws: Arsenic Occurrence in Drinking Water, Its Health Effects, And EPA's Outdated Arsenic Tap Water Standard*, (2000)
- Erik D. Olson, *Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?* (1999)
- Erik D. Olson and Diane Cameron, *The Dirty Little Secret About Our Drinking Water: New Data Show Over 100 Known Drinking Water Disease Outbreaks in the US. From 1986-1994, and Strong Evidence of More Widespread, Undetected Problems* (1995)
- Brian Cohen and Erik D. Olson, *Victorian Water Treatment Enters the 21st Century: Public Health Threats from Water Utilities' Ancient Treatment and Distribution Systems* (1994)
- Erik D. Olson, *Think Before Your Drink: Urgent Release 1992-1993 Update* (1994)
- Erik D. Olson, *Think Before Your Drink* (1993)