

Nichole Saunders | Director & Senior Attorney

Environmental Defense Fund | Energy Transition

EXPERIENCE

Environmental Defense Fund – Austin, TX

Director & Senior Attorney / Present

Senior Attorney | 2019 - 2022

Attorney / 2013 - 2019

- Senior member of core team leading development and implementation of domestic and international CCUS policy and advocacy strategies, with a particular focus on the environmental integrity of carbon storage and associated technical, legal, and regulatory considerations
- Direct federal and multi-state oil and gas produced water science and policy strategies, with leading expertise and proficiency on the intersection between chemical and toxicological characterization of produced water and implications for legislative and regulatory decision-making on its disposal and reuse
- Support domestic and international investor and corporate engagement on key areas of expertise including carbon sequestration, produced water and methane flaring
- Write legal and technical filings, comments, testimony, position statements, white papers, reports, presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and other educational and advocacy materials
- Extensive experience collaborating and coordinating with scientific, technical, and policy experts to identify pressing environmental and health risks and challenges associated with energy development and transition and develop legal, regulatory, and operational solutions
- Represent EDF's research, legal, and advocacy positions in numerous capacities as speaker, panelist, presenter, stakeholder, or member for technical and legal consortia, workgroups, multistakeholder organizations, conferences, CLE's, and other meetings.
- Hire, supervise and manage junior staff and interns

Internships & Professional Training

- *Environmental Defense Fund, Austin, TX – 2013*
- *Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, San Francisco, CA – 2012*
- *Lowerre, Frederick, Perales, Allmon & Rockwell, Austin, TX – 2011*
- *Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, New Orleans, LA – 2011*
- *Tulane University Environmental Law Clinic, New Orleans, LA – 2009*
- *Global Green U.S.A., New Orleans, LA – 2008-2010*

EDUCATION

The University of Tulsa College of Law: *Juris Doctorate with highest honors – 2013*

- **Certificate:** Resources, Energy and Environmental Law
- **Martin Fellows Smith Award:** Most outstanding graduate; chosen by faculty for scholarship and leadership
- **Editor-In-Chief:** Energy Law Journal 2012-2013 (Professional Publication of Federal Energy Bar Association)
- **Student Executive Editor:** American Bar Association Year-in-Review Section on Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Law, 2011

Tulane University: *Master of Science, Environmental Biology – 2010*

Tulane University: *Bachelor of Science, Environmental Biology, Psychology, Cum Laude – 2009*

- Honors: Omicron Delta Kappa; Order of Omega; Alpha Lambda Delta

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

- State Bar of Texas (Admitted 2013) – Member, *Oil, Gas & Natural Resources Law Section*
- University of Tulsa College of Law – *Sustainable Energy & Resources Law Board of Visitors*