



U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources Division

*Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001*

*Telephone (202) 514-2701
Facsimile (202) 514-0557*

Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden

John C. Cruden was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 16, 2014 as the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD).

Before becoming AAG, Mr. Cruden served as President, the Environmental Law Institute, a nationally-recognized bipartisan organization well-known for its work in educating, publishing, and researching environment, energy, and natural resource issues.

Mr. Cruden has a long history of public service at the Department of Justice and in the military. From 1991-1995 he was the Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, ENRD and then from 1995 to 2011 a career Deputy Assistant Attorney General for ENRD.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Mr. Cruden was the Chief Legislative Counsel of the Army. After graduating from West Point, Mr. Cruden served in Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces units in Germany and Vietnam. After law school, he attended the Army's Judge Advocate General's year-long Graduate Course, where he was named outstanding graduate, and simultaneously obtained his Master's degree from the University of Virginia in Government and Foreign Affairs. His subsequent military assignments include: criminal prosecutor in Germany and civil trial lawyer in the Pentagon; Chief of Litigation Branch, Europe; General Counsel, Defense Nuclear Agency; Staff Judge Advocate in Germany; and Director of Administrative and Civil Law, Judge Advocate General's School, Charlottesville, Virginia. His military education includes being a Fellow, Army War College, and the Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Cruden has on three occasions received the Presidential Rank Award from three different Presidents. He has also received the Department of Justice's Muskie-Chaffee Award, the Federal Bar Association's Younger Award, and the American Bar Association's Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service. Mr. Cruden's military awards include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Mr. Cruden was the first government attorney to be elected and serve as the President of the District of Columbia Bar, the second largest bar in the nation. He was also the first government attorney to be selected as the Chairman of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources. He is a past member of the Board of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, the Board of the District of Columbia Bar Association, and the Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia Circuit's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. John is a frequent lecturer for the American Bar Association and the American Law

Institute and is listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in American Law. In 2007, he was listed by a national magazine as one of the top 500 lawyers in America. In 2014 he was named as a "Legend of the Bar," by the DC Bar.

Mr. Cruden was raised in Michigan and is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, University of Santa Clara (summa cum laude, 2006 Alumni Special Achievement Award), and the University of Virginia.

He is also a volunteer swim coach for the Special Olympics and a past recipient of Fairfax County's Volunteer of the Year award for his work with mentally handicapped children. He is married and has two adult children.