

SARA A. COLANGELO

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Director, Environmental Law and Justice Clinic & Visiting Professor of Law, Summer 2021 – Present

Director, Environmental Law and Policy Program & Adjunct Professor of Law, Summer 2015 – Summer 2021

- Courses 2015-2022: Environmental Law and Justice Clinic Seminar; Environmental Dispute Resolution Seminar; Environmental Law; and Environmental Lawyering
- Awards: American Thoracic Society’s Presidential Commendation for public health advocacy (2022); Georgetown University Law Center’s Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award (2020)
- Scholarship & Advocacy: Research, write, give academic and professional presentations, provide Congressional testimony, and respond to media inquiries on environmental law with a focus on litigation, enforcement, and community engagement. Direct Georgetown’s Environmental Law & Justice Clinic. The Clinic conducts public interest work on behalf of underserved clients in the areas of environmental justice, pollution control, natural resources, and climate. We teach students lawyering and advocacy skills through work on cases that are excellent learning vehicles, including litigation matters, regulatory work, and other advisory projects. We select matters in which we can protect and promote the health of overburdened communities, and the health of wild places and resources.
- Environmental Law Program Leadership: Managed the environmental law J.D. and LL.M. programming including curriculum, budget and fundraising, academic/career counseling, admissions, alumni, and event development. Co-created and administered the UNEP-Georgetown Global Environment & Sustainability Law Fellowship to enhance the capacity of environmental lawyers in developing nations.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2007

Academics: Dean’s List (2004 – 2007)

RA: Professor Richard Lazarus (2005 – 2007)

Journal: *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*

Clinic: Institute for Public Representation - Environmental Law Section

Brown University, Providence, RI

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, International Relations (Global Environment Track), May 2002

Academics: Phi Beta Kappa

Awards: William Gaston Premium Scholarship for Outstanding Honors Thesis (environmental negotiations) and Overall Academic Excellence; UTRA Fellowship for Teaching & Research

Activities: Women’s Division I Water Polo

PUBLICATIONS & SELECTED WRITINGS

Articles, Book Chapter, and Book

Sara A. Colangelo, *Environmental Justice in U.S. Courts*, in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW BEFORE THE COURTS: A US-EU NARRATIVE (Giovanni Antonelli, Sara A. Colangelo, Michael Gerrard et al., eds., Springer forthcoming).

Sara A. Colangelo, *Forging Complete Justice: Equitable Relief in Environmental Enforcement*, 46 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 2 (2022).

Sara A. Colangelo, *Environmental Enforcement 2021: The Likely Resurgence of Tools Targeting Environmental Justice*, Vol. 54 ABA TRENDS No. 4 (March 2, 2021).

Sara A. Colangelo, *Science Under Assault – Reflections on The War on the EPA: America’s Endangered Environmental Protections* 44 PUB. LAND & RES. REV. 1 (2021).

Sara A. Colangelo, *The Clean Water Act and the Coral Reef: A Decision in County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, ABA ARTICLES, Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources (June 18, 2020).

Sara A. Colangelo, *Transforming Water Transfers: The Evolution of Water Transfer Law and the NPDES Water Transfers Proposed Rule*, 35 ECOLOGY L.Q. 107 (2008).

Sara A. Colangelo, *The Politics of Preemption: An Application of Preemption Jurisprudence and Policy to California Assembly Bill 1493*, 37 ENVTL. L. 175 (2007).

Selected Briefing

Co-author and Counsel of Record, Brief of Amici Curiae 167 Members of Congress in Support of Respondents, *Michael Sackett, et ux. v. Environmental Protection Agency, et al.* (U.S. June 17, 2022).

Lead author and Counsel of Record, Brief of Amici Curiae American Thoracic Society, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, and Leaders of Public Health Schools, et al. in Support of Respondents, *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* (U.S. Jan. 25, 2022).

Co-author, Brief of Amici Curiae Environmental and Administrative Law Professors in Support of Respondents, *Murray Energy v. United States Environmental Protection Agency* (6th Cir. Jan. 19, 2017).

TESTIMONY & PRESENTATIONS

Congressional Testimony

Restoring Balance to Environmental Litigation: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on the Interior, Energy, and Env’t, 115th Cong. (2018) (statement of Sara A. Colangelo, Georgetown University Law Center).

Presentations

Panelist, “Issues of Community Control over Environmental Reforms: EPA Planning & Enforcement” at the Georgetown Environmental Law Review Symposium, Washington, DC (April 2022).

Panelist, “Climate Change at the Interface of Social Movements & International Law” at the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (April 2022).

Panelist, “Authors Roundtable” for the Harvard Environmental Law Review, Cambridge, MA (April 2022).

Panelist, “New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law as a Potential National Model” for the National Association of Environmental Professionals, New Jersey (September 2021).

Panelist, “Basics of the Clean Air Act” at the Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC (July 2021).

Panelist, “Mobile Source Enforcement Update” for the Environmental Law Institute, DC Bar, and Sidley Austin, Washington, DC (April 2021).

Guest lecture, “The Case for Mitigation as Non-Statutory Equitable Relief” at the Environment & Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section, Washington, DC (April 2021).

Panelist, “From Trump to Biden: Environmental Law and the Path Forward” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (March 2021).

Guest lecture, “Themes in Domestic Environmental Law: Analyzing *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*” at the Center for Legal English, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (September 2020).

Panelist, “Basics of the Clean Water Act” at the Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC (June 2020).

Moderator, “Current Issues in Climate Law and Policy” at the Georgetown Law Women’s Forum, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (February 2020).

Panelist, “Federal and State Environmental Law Interaction” at the Conference of Chief Justices, Honolulu, Hawaii (February 2020).

Panelist, “Agency Action on Environmental and Natural Resources Law in the Trump Era” at the American Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Sections on Administrative Law, Environmental Law, and Natural Resources & Energy Law Plenary Session (January 2020).

Panelist, “The Judiciary & Environmental Enforcement: New Precedents, Pending Cases & Trends in the Courts” at the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, & Resources Enforcement Conference, Washington, DC (October 2019).

Panelist, “Basics of the Clean Air Act” at the Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC (July 2019).

Guest lecture, “U.S. Environmental Enforcement Best Practices and Procedures” to delegation of French government ministers and judges at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (July 2019).

Panelist, “The Next Battlegrounds: How the Composition of the Federal Courts Will Shape the Future of Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law” at the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, & Resources, Denver, Colorado (March 2019).

Invited speaker, “Environmental Advocacy” at Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Speaker Series, Alexandria, VA (October 2017).

Panelist, “Public Interest 101: A Discussion with Public Interest Attorneys” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (October 2017; October 2016; October 2015).

Moderator, “Crisis in Flint: A Conversation with the Class Action Attorneys” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (April 2016).

Invited speaker, “Public Interest Fellows Speaker Series: Environmental Law and Public Interest Litigation” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (April 2016).

Guest lecture, “Environmental Advocacy & Litigation Strategy” for UCONN Law School Semester in D.C. at U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC (October 2010).

Selected Opening Remarks

Post-Argument Panel: “*County of Maui, Hawaii v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (November 2019).

“Diversity in Environmental Law” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (April 2019).

Post-Argument Panel: “*Weyerhaeuser v. United States Fish & Wildlife Service*” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (October 2018).

“Environmental Justice in the 21st Century: Threats and Opportunities” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (April 2018).

“The Nature of Injustice: Confronting Race, Class, and the Prison Industrial Complex in the Fight for Environmental Justice” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (October 2016).

“Clean Power Plan Advocates Panel Discussion” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (September 2016).

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

Environment & Energy News, Supreme Court climate ruling may chill regulation (June 2022)

The Washington Post, ‘My anxiety spikes’: Lawyers brace for Supreme Court climate ruling (June 2022)

The Hoya, GULC Environmental Law & Justice Clinic Files Amicus Brief on Supreme Court Case (March 2022)

Environment & Energy News, The jury’s out on Jackson’s climate views (February 2022)

S&P Global Market Intelligence, Biden announces historic court pick at high-stakes time for climate, energy law (February 2022)

Georgetown Law, Georgetown Law Professors and Students Prepare for Upcoming Supreme Court Arguments on Greenhouse Gas Regulations (February 2022)

LLM Guide, Climate Change Boosts Demand for ESG Legal Expertise (January 2022)

Environment & Energy News, Where Supreme Court justices stand on EPA, climate (November 2021)

Missoulain, Trump environmental legacy stumbles in court (March 2021)

LLM Guide, How LL.M. Degrees are Embracing Sustainability and Social Justice (February 2021)

Bloomberg Law, DOJ’s Rapid Rollback of Trump Policies Marks Environmental Reset (February 2021)

Bloomberg Law, Divisive Top Trump Environment Lawyer Reviews ‘Challenging Job’ (January 2021)

Georgetown Law, Georgetown Panel Analyzes Supreme Court Arguments in Clean Water Act Case (August 2020)

Law360, Biggest Environmental Law Rulings So Far in 2020 (July 2020)

Bloomberg Law, Supreme Court Superfund Ruling Sparks Feud in Climate Cases (May 2020)

Bloomberg Law, SCOTUS Superfund Ruling Could Spawn New State Law Claims (April 2020)

Environment & Energy News, Experts See Risk in Resuscitating *Juliana* Case (March 2020)

Georgetown Law, Supreme Court May Alter Scope of Clean Water Act with Maui Case (January 2020)

U.S. News & World Report, Exxon Wins Climate Change Case Over New York (December 2019)

Inside EPA, High Court CERCLA Ruling Could Open Door for Climate Nuisance Cases (December 2019)

Greenwire, Environmental Cleanup Case Tests State, Federal Control (December 2019)

Bloomberg Law, Superfund, Montanans' Cleanup Demands Clash at Supreme Court (December 2019)
Climatewire, Climate Cases May See Ripple Effect from Superfund Battle (November 2019)
Newsweek, New Climate Change Lawsuits Plague Oil Industry During Rough Week (October 2019)
U.S. News & World Report, Climate Change Lawsuits Will Test Oil Companies in Court (October 2019)
Law360, EPA Surpassing Trump's 2-For-1 Deregulatory Goals (August 9, 2019)
Washington Lawyer (lead source in article), Climate Change: Turning to Law in Race Against Time (May 2019)
Environment & Energy News, GOP Praises Interior Legal Policy, Greens Say Bring It On (May 2019)
Bloomberg, GOP to Environmentalists: Pay for Your Own Lawyers (September 2018)
Environment & Energy News Daily, Panel explores lawyer fees in green cases (September 2018)
Georgetown Law, Saving the Planet One Pond at a Time (September 2018)
Western Wire, Experts Tell Congress Ways to Make Environmental Litigation Less Costly (September 2018)
Montana Public Radio, Gianforte Says Environmentalists Take Advantage of EAJA (September 2018)
The Smokey Wire: National Forest News, Hearing on EAJA "abuse" (September 2018)
POLITICO Pro Energy, Failed legal argument against CA car rules gets second wind under Trump (May 2018)
Al Jazeera U.S. Televised Appearance, Justice Scalia's Passing and the Clean Power Plan (February 2016)

LEGAL & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC
Trial Attorney, Environmental Enforcement Section, Fall 2007 – Summer 2015

Duties: Managed complex civil environmental enforcement cases and led interdisciplinary teams for pollution control and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Wrote briefs, complaints, mediation statements, and settlements. Presented in federal district courts: opening statements; direct and cross examinations (fact and expert witnesses); and evidentiary and summary judgment arguments. Significant representative matters: Lead attorney for 23 facility CAA case against Fortune 100 company; lead attorney for \$150 million CERCLA remedial action (priority case in EPA Region 7); successfully briefed and argued for post-trial TRO and civil contempt for violations of CAA injunction; successfully briefed novel questions on scope of CWA citizen suit provision and upheld on all arguments by Eighth Circuit; managed CERCLA divisibility portion of first post-*Burlington Northern* cost recovery trial and won all motions and complete costs; co-counsel on first trial team to establish arranger liability under CERCLA for contaminated highway runoff; co-counsel on settlement negotiations in a \$4.7 billion CWA agreement for major municipality sewer system upgrades.

Awards: Environment and Natural Resources Division:
Special Achievement Award for Meritorious Acts or Service (2014, 2011, and 2009)
Outstanding Performance Award (2012)
Environmental Protection Agency:
EPA Bronze Medal for Commendable Service (2012 and 2009)
EPA Region 10 Trial Commendation (2011)

Nominations: U.S. Department of Justice:

Attorney General's John Marshall Award (2013)

Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions from a New Employee (2011)

Shearman & Sterling LLP, Washington, DC

Litigation Summer Associate, Summer 2006

Conducted legal research on extraterritorial application of U.S. laws. Wrote draft motion to dismiss for failure to join an indispensable party. Wrote memoranda for client advising international criminal tribunal.

U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC

Law Clerk for Environmental Crimes Section, Spring 2006

Researched evidentiary matters and environmental issues related to criminal trials under the CAA and RCRA. Wrote motions, responses, and jury instructions for federal prosecutions under multiple statutes.

Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, Washington, DC

Legal Intern for Senator Dianne Feinstein, Fall 2005

Drafted questions for confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justices. Analyzed proposed legislation.

Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Hague, Netherlands

Legal Intern, Summer 2005

Researched trans-boundary environmental liability principles under private international law and edited resulting article. Assisted negotiations for the Convention on Choice of Court Agreements.

Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, MD

Teacher, September 2002 - June 2004

Taught Biology and Earth Science. Served as academic advisor and varsity water polo and track coach.

Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT

Teacher & Admissions Officer, Summer 2001; Summer 2002

Taught Marine Biology and Public Policy. Served as Admissions Officer and school liaison at events.

AFFILIATIONS & INTERESTS

Board Membership & Affiliations: Board Member of The Georgetown Environmental Law Review; Advisor to People Over Plastic (environmental justice media collective); Honorary Member of the Scientific Committee for the Global Pandemic Network; Advisory Committee for the Maryland Sea Grant Legal Policy Fellow.

Bar Memberships and Court Admissions: Maryland and District of Columbia Bar; Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States; U.S. District Court of D.C.

Interests: triathlon (multi-year national championship qualifier and volunteer team leader focused on increasing diversity and gender balance in sport); water polo (former Academic All-American); swimming (United States Masters Swimming top ten female relay 2014); volleyball (Hall of Fame inductee for high school team)