

SARA A. COLANGELO

Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

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

Teach Environmental Law and Justice Seminar and supervise students representing underserved clients in the areas of environmental justice, pollution control, climate change, and natural resources.

Environmental Law & Policy Program Director; Adjunct & Visiting Professor of Law, 2015–2021

Managed the Environmental Law & Policy Program, including environmental curriculum, budget and fundraising, academic/career counseling, admissions, alumni engagement, and events. Co-created the UNEP-Georgetown Fellowship to enhance capacity of environmental lawyers in developing nations. Taught Environmental Law; Environmental Dispute Resolution; and Environmental Lawyering.

Teaching Award: Georgetown Law Charles Fahy Distinguished Adjunct Professor Award (2020)

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2007

Academics: Dean’s List (2004 – 2007)

Activities: Research Assistant, Professor Richard Lazarus (2005–07); Journal, *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*; Clinic, Institute for Public Representation (Environmental Law)

Brown University, Providence, RI

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

Academics: Phi Beta Kappa; Brown University William Gaston Premium Scholarship for Outstanding Honors Thesis and Overall Academic Excellence; Brown University UTRA Fellowship for Teaching & Research

Activities: Division I Water Polo

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Environmental Law (including Environmental Justice and Clinical), Administrative Law, Torts, Property

Secondary: Climate Change, Natural Resources, Legislation and Regulation, Evidence, Civil Procedure

PUBLICATIONS

Bridging Silos: Environmental and Reproductive Justice in the Climate Crisis, 112 CALIF. L. REV. _ (forthcoming 2024).

Environmental Justice in U.S. Courts, with Abigail André, in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW BEFORE THE COURTS: A US-EU NARRATIVE (Giovanni Antonelli, Sara A. Colangelo, Michael Gerrard, et al. eds., Springer forthcoming 2023).

Forging Complete Justice: Equitable Relief in Environmental Enforcement, 46 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 315 (2022).

Science Under Assault – Reflections on The War on the EPA: America’s Endangered Environmental Protections 44 PUB. LAND & RES. REV. 185 (2021) (book review).

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

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

Supreme Court and Other Appellate Briefs

Lead author, Counsel of Record, Brief of Amici Curiae Major Medical Organizations and Leaders of Public Health Schools in Support of Respondents, *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* (U.S. Jan. 25, 2022) (with Jack H.L. Whiteley).

Co-author, 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) (with William Buzbee and Jack H.L. Whiteley).

Co-author, Counsel of Record, Brief of Amici Curiae American Thoracic Society, American Medical Association, et al. in Support of Respondents, *State of Texas et al., v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, et al.*, (D.C. Cir. Mar. 3, 2023) (with Lindsay Bailey and Jack H.L. Whiteley).

Co-author, Counsel of Record, Brief of Amici Curiae American Thoracic Society, American Medical Association, et al. in Support of Respondents, *State of Ohio et al., v. United States Environmental Protection Agency, et al.*, (D.C. Cir. Jan. 20, 2023) (with Lindsay Bailey and Jack H.L. Whiteley).

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) (with Nicholas Bagley, William Buzbee, David Uhlmann, and Susannah Weaver).

Other Selected Scholarly Contributions

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

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).

TESTIMONY, SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

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).

Invited Presentations and Panels

Guest Lecture, “Leveraging Interdisciplinary Lenses to Advance Environmental Justice,” at the University of Michigan Law School (Apr. 2023).

Guest Lecture, “Women & Gender Dynamics in the Climate Crisis,” Amazon Sustainability Team (Mar. 2023).

- Panelist, “Climate Change and the Environmental and Reproductive Justice Nexus,” at the Hastings Center Annual Meeting *A Social Justice Bioethics*, New York, NY (Mar. 2023).
- Panelist, “The Environmental Justice Lens: Implications of Recent Supreme Court Cases from *West Virginia* to *Dobbs*,” at the University of Virginia, Virginia Environmental Law Journal Symposium, Charlottesville, VA (Nov. 2022).
- Panelist, “Climate Action after *West Virginia v. EPA*” OPEC 4th Annual Legal Seminar, Vienna, Austria/Virtual (Oct. 2022).
- Panelist, “Protecting Public Health through U.S. Climate Action” at the George Washington University Climate & Health Institute, Washington, DC (Oct. 2022).
- Panelist, “Lightning Takes on *Sackett v. EPA* Oral Argument” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (Oct. 2022).
- Panelist, “Issues of Community Control over Environmental Reforms: EPA Planning & Enforcement” at the Georgetown Environmental Law Review Symposium, Washington, DC (Apr. 2022).
- Panelist, “Climate Change at the Interface of Social Movements & International Law” at the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (Apr. 2022).
- Panelist, “New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law as a Potential National Model” for the National Association of Environmental Professionals, New Jersey (Sept. 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 (Apr. 2021).
- Guest lecture, “The Case for Mitigation as Non-Statutory Equitable Relief” at the Environment & Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section, Washington, DC (Apr. 2021).
- Panelist, “From Trump to Biden: Environmental Law and the Path Forward” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (Mar. 2021).
- Panelist, “Basics of the Clean Water Act” at the Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC (June 2020).
- Panelist, “Federal and State Environmental Law Interaction” at the Conference of Chief Justices, Honolulu, Hawaii (Feb. 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 (Jan. 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 (Oct. 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).

Opening remarks, “Diversity in Environmental Law” at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (Apr. 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 (Mar. 2019).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

- Managed complex civil environmental enforcement cases and led interdisciplinary teams for pollution control and cleanup
- Wrote briefs, complaints, mediation statements, and settlements
- Presented opening statements, oral arguments, and fact and expert witness direct and cross examinations in federal district courts
- Sample matters include: Lead attorney for 23 facility Clean Air Act case against Fortune 100 company; lead attorney for \$150 million Superfund remedial action; co-counsel on \$4.7 billion Clean Water Act agreement for major municipality’s sewer system upgrades

Shearman & Sterling LLP, Washington, DC
Litigation Summer Associate, Summer 2006

U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Washington, DC
Law Clerk for Environmental Crimes Section, Spring 2006

Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, Washington, DC
Legal Intern, Fall 2005

Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Hague, Netherlands
Legal Intern, Summer 2005

Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, MD
Biology and Earth Science Teacher, 2002 - 2004

Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford, CT
Marine Biology and Public Policy Teacher, Summer 2001; Summer 2002

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- American Thoracic Society Presidential Commendation for public health advocacy (2022)
- U.S. DOJ Environment and Natural Resources Division Special Achievement Award for Meritorious Acts or Service (2014, 2011, and 2009)
- U.S. DOJ Environment and Natural Resources Division Outstanding Performance Award (2012)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medal for Commendable Service (2012 and 2009)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Trial Commendation (2011)

- Significant nominations: U.S. DOJ Attorney General's John Marshall Award (2013); U.S. DOJ Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions from a New Employee (2011)

SELECTED RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES

Climate Change and Environmental Justice Commentary

Environment & Energy News, Supreme Court ruling entangles Biden's environmental justice efforts (June 2023)

Scientific American, This part of the U.S. will suffer most from climate change (Apr. 2023)

Climatewire, Supreme Court climate ruling leaves EJ communities at risk (Aug. 2022)

Environment & Energy News, The jury's out on Jackson's climate views (Feb. 2022)

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

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

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

Bloomberg Law, Supreme Court Superfund ruling sparks feud in climate cases (May 2020)

U.S. News & World Report, Exxon wins climate change case over New York (Dec. 2019)

Inside EPA, High Court CERCLA ruling could open door for climate nuisance cases (Dec. 2019)

Climatewire, Climate cases may see ripple effect from Superfund battle (Nov. 2019)

Newsweek, New climate change lawsuits plague oil industry during rough week (Oct. 2019)

U.S. News & World Report, Climate change lawsuits will test oil companies in court (Oct. 2019)

Washington Lawyer, Climate change: Turning to law in race against time (May 2019)

Al Jazeera U.S. Televised Appearance, Justice Scalia's Passing and the Clean Power Plan (Feb. 2016)

Environmental Litigation & Government Enforcement Commentary

Missoulia, Trump environmental legacy stumbles in court (Mar. 2021)

Bloomberg Law, DOJ's rapid rollback of Trump policies marks environmental reset (Feb. 2021)

Bloomberg Law, Divisive top Trump environment lawyer reviews 'Challenging Job' (Jan. 2021)

Law360, Biggest environmental law rulings so far in 2020 (July 2020)

Bloomberg Law, SCOTUS Superfund ruling could spawn new state law claims (Apr. 2020)

Environment & Energy News, Experts see risk in resuscitating *Juliana* case (Mar. 2020)

Greenwire, Environmental cleanup case tests state, federal control (Dec. 2019)

Bloomberg Law, Superfund, Montanans' cleanup demands clash at Supreme Court (Dec. 2019)

Law360, EPA surpassing Trump's 2-For-1 deregulatory goals (Aug. 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 (Sept. 2018)

Environment & Energy News Daily, Panel explores lawyer fees in green cases (Sept. 2018)

Montana Public Radio, Gianforte says environmentalists take advantage of EAJA (Sept. 2018)

The Smokey Wire: National Forest News, Hearing on EAJA “abuse” (Sept. 2018)

POLITICO Pro Energy, Failed legal argument against CA car rules gets second wind under Trump (May 2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Board Membership & Affiliations

- Board Member of The Georgetown Environmental Law Review
- Advisor to People Over Plastic environmental justice media collective
- Advisor to Environmental Law Institute Pro Bono Clearinghouse on academic engagement
- Member of the International Advisory Group for the Environmental Law Masters at UDD in Chile
- Honorary Member of the Scientific Committee for the Global Pandemic Network
- Advisory Committee Member for the Maryland Sea Grant Legal Policy Fellow Program

Bar Memberships and Court Admissions

- Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, U.S. Court of Appeals D.C. Circuit, U.S. District Court of D.C.
- Member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bar