

Andrea W. Wortzel

Partner

Richmond

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**OVERVIEW**

Andrea is the practice group leader for Troutman Pepper Locke's Environmental + Natural Resources Group. She is a natural resource attorney with extensive experience addressing water quality, water quantity, and endangered species issues. Andrea provides strategic advice to clients on navigating federal reviews and approvals under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act (including Clean Water Act Section 401 certifications), and the National Environmental Policy Act, particularly in the context of large infrastructure projects such as hydropower projects, pipelines, and wind projects. She currently serves as general counsel to the Northwest Hydroelectric Association.

Andrea's practice also includes landfill permitting and compliance, as well as broader waste and chemical management issues under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act. She defends clients in environmental enforcement actions, and has also litigated permitting and rulemaking actions. Andrea regularly counsels clients on legislative and regulatory strategies at the state and federal level to promote her clients' objectives. More recently, Andrea advises clients on greenwashing risks and best practices when making environmental claims.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Counseled clients on permitting strategy and timeline for large infrastructure projects.
- Facilitated project reviews under the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act, including defending agency approvals.
- Represented clients in negotiations with federal agencies to obtain approvals necessary for large infrastructure projects.
- Represented dischargers in Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act permit proceedings and appeals involving complex factual and legal issues.
- Obtained critical path environmental permits for projects involving power plants, manufacturing facilities, and water and wastewater plants.
- Created and advised stakeholder group focused on Virginia water supply issues.
- Represented clients in water withdrawal permit proceedings.
- Represented intervenors in litigation regarding water allocation and the Endangered Species Act.
- Defended projects against citizen suits brought under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

- Developed strategies for affected stakeholders in federal and state rulemaking proceedings and on legislative matters.
- Negotiated resolution of enforcement cases.
- Defended clients in enforcement proceedings brought by regulatory agencies.
- Advised clients on addressing environmental justice considerations in the air permitting context.
- Strategized with clients on developing strategies for addressing environmental justice.
- Provided solid waste permitting advice to new and expanding landfill operations.
- Advised clients on greenwashing risks and counseled on environmental marketing claims.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Environmental Law (2022-2026), Litigation – Environmental (2024-2026), Natural Resources Law (2022-2026), Water Law (2022-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: “Lawyer of the Year” in Environmental Law (2025); Litigation – Environmental (2026)
- *Chambers USA*: Environmental Law, Virginia (2015-2025)
- *Legal 500 United States*: Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2025), Environment: Litigation (2023-2025), Environment: Regulatory (2021-2025), and Environment: Transactional (2023-2025)
- *Virginia Business*: “Legal Elite” in Environmental Law (2016, 2019-2023, 2025)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Natural Resources
- Water Quality + Water Resources

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Contaminated Sites + Waste Management
- Ecosystem Markets
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Litigation + Enforcement Defense
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- Hydropower
- Natural Resources
- PFAS + Emerging Contaminants
- Water Quality + Water Resources

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, *Law360* Environmental Editorial Advisory Board (2025)
- Board member, VCU Rice Rivers Center
- General board member, VIRGINIAforever, 2018-present
- Board member, Green Infrastructure Center, 2015-2017

- Member, American Water Works Association, Virginia Chapter, 2003-present
- Chair, Environmental Law Section, Virginia State Bar, 2010-2011
- Past chair, Environmental Law Section, Richmond Bar Association, 2003-2004
- ABA, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Richmond School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1996
- College of William & Mary, B.A., 1991

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Virginia

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Virginia

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "[Post-Apocalyptic Permitting: The Path Forward for Solar and Wind After the DOI Memo](#)," Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar, August 22, 2025.
- Speaker, "[Species Developments](#)," Associated General Contractors, July 30, 2025.
- Speaker, "[Energy Infrastructure and the Endangered Species Act](#)," American Bar Association, November 5, 2024.
- Moderator, "[State Water Rights in the Northwest](#)," NHA's 2024 Clean Currents, October 7-10, 2024.
- Speaker, "[Powering Through the Environmental Challenges of EV Development](#)," *Energy Law Insights*, April 17, 2024.
- Speaker, "[The Rise in Greenwashing Claims](#)," *Energy Law Insights*, March 6, 2024.
- Speaker, "[Hot Regulatory and Legal Topics](#)," Waterpower Week, May 9, 2023.
- Speaker, "[Regulatory Hot Topics](#)," 2023 Northwest Hydroelectric Association's Annual Conference, February 24, 2023.
- Speaker, "[ESG in Hydropower: Emerging Ideas, Opportunities and Notes of Caution](#)," 2023 Northwest Hydroelectric Association's Annual Conference, February 24, 2023.
- Speaker, "[Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Siting in Virginia](#)," Troutman Pepper, April 21, 2021.
- Speaker, "Finding Certainty in Uncertain Times," Troutman Pepper Webinar, February 24, 2021.
- Speaker, "Environmental Justice: 2021 and Beyond," Virginia Farm Bureau Conference, February 4, 2021.
- Speaker, "Environmental Justice 2020," Virginia Manufacturers Association Environmental Health and Safety

Conference, September 23, 2020.

- Presenter, “Rates and Affordability,” Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association, WaterJam Utility Manager’s Meeting, September 16, 2020.
- Speaker, “Environmental Justice 2020,” August 6, 2020.
- Speaker, “Legal Developments: New Endangered Species Act,” National Hydropower Association Southeast Regional Meeting, Charlotte, NC, February 25, 2020.
- Moderator, “The Future of Water Supply in North Carolina,” NC Chamber Environmental Compliance Conference, Raleigh, NC, February 5, 2020.
- Speaker, “Environmental Plenary: Species Alert: New Developments in Species and Migratory Bird Rules,” AGC 2019 Construction Safety, Health & Environmental Conference, Seattle, WA, July 24, 2019.
- Speaker, “Endangered Species Act: Recent Developments,” National Hydropower Association Southeast Regional Meeting, Charleston, SC, February 12, 2019.
- Speaker, AWWA Water Resources Committee, Richmond, VA, November 15, 2017.
- Speaker, Virginia Military Institute’s 28th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington, VA, April 5, 2017.
- Speaker, Virginia Military Institute’s 27th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington, VA, April 6-7, 2016.
- Speaker, “Water Update – Federal and State,” North Carolina Chamber Environmental Compliance Conference, January 28, 2016.
- Moderator, “Look But Don’t Touch: How Water Quality Regulation Affects Water Availability,” American Bar Association, Online, January 26, 2016.
- Speaker, “Regional Approaches to Water Supply Management in Virginia,” The Virginia Military Institute 26th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington, VA, March 31-April 2, 2015.
- Panelist, “Water Reuse and Adaptations for Water Supply Scarcity,” The Virginia Military Institute 25th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington, VA, April 8-10, 2014.
- Moderator, “Virginia’s Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Program: What’s Next?,” The Virginia Military Institute 25th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington, VA, April 8-10, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Spin Doctor: Court Strikes Down Wind Permitting Freeze As Illegal,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, December 10, 2025.
- Co-author, “Groundhog Day: Proposed Revisions to ESA Regulations (Mostly) Reinstate the 2019 Rules,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, November 24, 2025.
- Co-author, “Navigating a New WOTUS Definition: Agencies Redefine the Line,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, November 21, 2025.
- Co-author, “Groundhog Day: Proposed Revisions to ESA Regulations (Mostly) Reinstate the 2019 Rules,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, November 21, 2025.
- Co-author, “One Stop Shop: Court Confirms Exclusive Jurisdiction of U.S. Courts of Appeals Over Review of Licensed Hydropower Projects,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, August 12, 2025.
- Co-author, “Illegal Eagles: DOI Sinks Its Talons Even Deeper Into Wind Energy,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, August 6, 2025.
- Co-author, “Renewables in the Crosshairs: DOI and DOT Announce Numerous New Anti-Wind and Solar Orders and Policies,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, August 4, 2025.
- Co-author, “FERC Revises Regulations Implementing NEPA: Adopts Two Hydropower-Related Categorical Exclusions,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 9, 2025.
- Co-author, “Extreme Makeover – NEPA Edition: Permitting Agencies Strip Their Environmental Review Regulations Down To The Studs,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, July 9, 2025.

- Co-author, “Déjà vu? FWS Solicits Feedback to Update Section 10(a) of the ESA,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, June 11, 2025.
- Co-author, “One-Track Mind: Unanimous SCOTUS Decision on Rail Line Approval Further Narrows Scope of NEPA,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 30, 2025.
- Co-author, “California’s AB 550: A Blueprint for Balancing Development and Species Conservation,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, May 8, 2025.
- Co-author, “Twin Killings: Executive Orders Put Existing Energy Regulations in the Crosshairs,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, April 10, 2025
- Co-author, “President Trump Moves to Repeal NEPA Regulations,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 20, 2025.
- Co-author, “Keeping Track of the Trump Executive Actions,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 13, 2025.
- Co-author, “A Hard Look at CEQ’s Hard Luck: North Dakota Court Decision Accelerates NEPA Regulations’ Rapid Fall,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 6, 2025.
- Co-author, “Secretary of the Interior Burgum Fuels A Surge of Day One Energy Orders,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 5, 2025.
- Co-author, “First Day Presidential Directives May Have Broad Implications for Wind Industry,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, January 22, 2025.
- Co-author, “California Law Highlights the Need to Prepare for Climate Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, October 14, 2024.
- Co-author, “US EPA Warns of Fraudulent NOV’s,” *Troutman Pepper*, July 31, 2024.
- Co-author, “FERC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Conform to EPA’s Recent CWA 401 Rule,” *Troutman Pepper*, June 4, 2024.
- Author, “The Road to Increasing Electric Vehicle Adoption in the US,” *Innovation News Network*, May 14, 2024.
- Co-author, “Driving Change: Scaling Up EVs in the U.S.,” *Troutman Pepper*, April 8, 2024.
- Co-author, “Final ESA Regulations Issued by the Services,” *Troutman Pepper*, April 3, 2024.
- Co-author, “The Clean Energy Transition Is Here — and So Are Greenwashing Claims,” *Utility Dive*, December 15, 2023.
- Co-author, “Western Pond Turtle Listing Will Impact Land and Water Managers Throughout the Western U.S.” *Troutman Pepper*, November 29, 2023.
- Co-author, “California Adopts Landmark GHG Emissions and Climate Risk Reporting Laws, Eclipsing Anticipated Federal Requirements,” *Troutman Pepper*, October 13, 2023.
- Co-author, “EPA’s Clean Water Act Certification Proposal to Significantly Impact Hydropower Licensing,” *Pratt’s Energy Law Report* (Vol. 22-10), November-December 2022.
- Co-author, “SEC Proposes New Rules to Enhance and Standardize Climate-Related Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, March 24, 2022.
- Co-author, “State Laws Provide New Pathways for Environmental Justice Claims,” *American Bar Association’s Natural Resources & Environment*, Summer 2021.
- Co-author, “The Fourth Circuit Weighs in on the Interpretation of CWA Section 401,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, July 7, 2021.
- Co-author, “What a New Administration Means in the World of Water Quality,” *The Water Report*, February 15, 2021.
- Co-author, “Private Civil Rights Suits Not Enough for Enviro Justice,” *Law360*, January 4, 2021.
- Co-author, “New Rules May Affect Scope of the ESA,” *Daily Journal*, August 22, 2019.
- Co-author, “High Court Unlikely to Solve ESA Issues in Frog Habitat Case,” *Law360*, October 9, 2018.
- Co-author, “Part III, Chapter 9: Major Federal Environmental Laws Affecting Water Rights: Endangered Species Act,” *Water Rights and Environmental Regulation: A Lawyer’s Guide*, American Bar Association, August 29, 2018.

- Author, “Energy Versus Water: The Growing Role of Water in Controlling Energy Decisions,” *University of Richmond Law Review*, March 2014.
- Co-author, “The Chesapeake Bay TMDL: Managing Our Water Resources – Where Water Quality and Water Quantity Collide,” *The Journal of Local Government Law*, Virginia State Bar Association, Fall 2011.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, “Trump’s Expansion of Federal Control Hits Solar Developers,” *Reuters*, September 29, 2025.
- Quoted, “Dentons Tops List Of Firms With Biggest Water Law Teams,” *Law360*, August 11, 2025.
- Quoted, “EV and AV Manufacturers Want More Regulatory Clarity, Report Say,” *Automotive News*, April 15, 2024.
- Quoted, “Biggest Environmental Policy Actions of 2021,” *Law360*, December 21, 2021.
- Quoted, “Federal Court Decision Threatens Pipeline Work Around Wetlands,” *Pipeline & Gas Journal*, June 2020.