

Melissa Horne

Counsel

Atlanta

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Melissa helps industrial and utility clients understand and navigate complex environmental requirements. With a focus on the Clean Air Act, climate change, ESG, and environmental justice, her clients appreciate her practical advice and focus on real-world implications for their business.

OVERVIEW

Melissa's attention to detail, thoroughness, and ability to translate complex regulatory schemes into easy-to-understand language make her ideally suited to help companies understand and stay on top of environmental requirements. She counsels clients on an expansive range of issues arising under the Clean Air Act, as well as on environmental and social governance (ESG) matters, including voluntary and mandatory climate and sustainability disclosures and mitigating greenwashing risk. Her practice also encompasses environmental justice, federal and state regulation of PFAS, state extended producer responsibility laws, and reporting under Toxic Release Inventory and TSCA PFAS reporting regulations.

Melissa focuses her Clean Air Act practice on New Source Review and state preconstruction permitting; Title V permitting; NSPS, NESHAP, and MACT requirements; interstate transport, and climate change policy and regulation. She represents a wide variety of companies at the local, state, and federal levels, helping them interpret and comply with regulatory and permit requirements. Melissa assists clients to develop permitting and compliance strategies, respond to agency inquiries and enforcement actions, and participate in the rulemaking process, whether through formal public comments or informally by providing background information and talking points to educate regulators and legislators about the potential impacts of their proposals.

In her ESG practice, Melissa helps companies keep pace with the rapidly evolving landscape of voluntary and mandatory sustainability and climate-specific disclosures and reporting. She assists companies to navigate the complex and sometimes overlapping disclosure schemes, and to understand the implications of disclosures for their business. Melissa's ESG advice includes a significant focus on the minimization of greenwashing risks.

Melissa has also helped clients to navigate the patchwork of state regulations governing PFAS and to comply with the federal TSCA PFAS reporting rule and with TRI reporting and supplier notification requirements. She also advises clients on complying with an ever-expanding suite of state Extended Producer Responsibility laws targeting packaging and numerous hard-to-recycle consumer goods.

Melissa's pro bono work includes serving as a pro bono ambassador for the firm's Atlanta office. She has assisted cancer patients and veterans in preparing estate planning documents and health care directives, and

represents clients seeking gender-affirming legal name changes. Melissa also served on the Election Protection voter hotline through the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law during the 2020 presidential election.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Provide air permitting assistance, regulatory compliance counseling, and enforcement advice under state and federal air quality laws to clients in a range of industry sectors with operations across the U.S.
- Represented a nationwide manufacturer in an EPA enforcement action focused on air permitting requirements and NSPS compliance and supervised air permitting audit of other facilities not involved in the enforcement action.
- Assisted a pulp and paper client and a refinery to anticipate and respond to public comments, including environmental justice concerns, raised during the Title V permitting process.
- Assist a major utility holding company and two of its operating companies with pursuing a comprehensive strategy for complying with Clean Air Act preconstruction review requirements.
- Advised a packaging company on the implementation of the SO₂ NAAQS and the associated implications for a state-level enforcement action related to SO₂.
- Counsel clients on the greenwashing risks associated with corporate ESG commitments, brand names, and marketing campaigns.
- Conduct greenwashing risk analysis of corporate external communications.
- Advise clients on climate and sustainability reporting and disclosure obligations.
- Assisted a national airline in tracking and understanding the impacts of a patchwork of state regulations governing PFAS on their business.
- Represented a Southeastern poultry processor in negotiating with a local government to obtain new conditions for its permit to discharge to a local water treatment plant.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch: Environmental Law* (2021-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America®: Environmental Law* (2026)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Air Quality + Climate Change
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Air Quality + Climate Change
- Energy
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Litigation + Enforcement Defense
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- PFAS + Emerging Contaminants

- Release Reporting

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Pro bono ambassador – Atlanta office, Troutman Pepper Locke
- Steering Committee – Georgia Environmental Conference
- Member, Environmental Law Section, State Bar of Georgia
- Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta
- Sustainer, Junior League of Atlanta
- Young Men's Service League – Philanthropy Committee

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Environmental management analyst, AER*X, 1990-1992

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D., 1995, associate editor, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, Order of the Coif
- Duke University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1990

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Court of Appeals of Georgia
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Legal and Practical Implications from New and Anticipated Air Regulations," Annual Georgia Environmental Conference 2025, August 20, 2025.
- Speaker, "Greenwashing: Risks and Best Practices," Corporate Environmental Enforcement Council, December 2024.
- Speaker, "Clean Air Act Update," Georgia Environmental Conference, August 2024.
- Speaker, "Perspectives on Navigating Climate-Related Disclosures," Georgia Environmental Conference, August 2024.
- Speaker, "Greenwashing in the Utility Sector: Risks and Best Practices," CLE to PSEG, August 2024.
- Speaker, Annual Georgia Environmental Conference, August 21-23, 2024.
- Speaker, "The Rise in Greenwashing Claims," *Energy Law Insights*, March 6, 2024.
- Speaker, "Minor Source Permitting – Now and What's Next," Georgia Environmental Conference, August

2023.

- Speaker, Tennessee Environmental Conference, October 2021.
- Speaker, “Finding Certainty in Uncertain Times,” Troutman Pepper Webinar, February 24, 2021.
- Instructor, Managing Environmental Compliance Course, Georgia Institute of Technology, semiannually.
- “Clean Air Act Update,” Tennessee Environmental Conference, March 2018.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “CARB Workshop on Climate Disclosure Laws: More Questions Than Answers,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 3, 2025.
- Co-author, “Court Order Hobbles Challenge to California’s Climate Disclosure Laws,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, February 7, 2025.
- Co-author, “Recent Executive Action May Impact PFAS Regulation,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 3, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Solicits Public Input on Greenhouse Gas and Climate Risk Disclosure Laws,” *Troutman Pepper*, December 17, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Offers Enforcement Relief on GHG Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, December 12, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Proposes Significant Changes to Product Packaging Regulations,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, October 15, 2024.
- Co-author, “California Law Highlights the Need to Prepare for Climate Disclosures,” *Troutman Pepper*, October 14, 2024.
- Co-author, “SEC Issues Final Climate Disclosure Rules, Paring Down Its 2022 Proposal, With Implications for Greenwashing Claims,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, March 13, 2024.
- Co-author, “EPA Lowers Annual PM2.5 NAAQS, With Immediate Impacts for Air Permitting,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, February 26, 2024.
- Co-author, “And so It Begins...EPA Issues First Disapproval of Regional Haze Round Two,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, January 17, 2024.
- Co-author, “The Clean Energy Transition Is Here — and So Are Greenwashing Claims,” *Utility Dive*, December 15, 2023.
- Co-author, “California Adopts Landmark GHG Emissions and Climate Risk Reporting Laws, Eclipsing Anticipated Federal Requirements,” *Troutman Pepper*, October 16, 2023.
- Co-author, “EPA’s New Carbon Standards for Power Plants Require Quick Decisions,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, May 23, 2023.
- Co-author, “Are We There Yet? The Challenges of Litigating Clean Air Act Rules,” American Bar Association’s *Natural Resources & Environment*, Summer 2021.
- Co-author, “FERC Proposes Significant Changes to Dam Safety Regulations in Wake of Michigan Dam Failures,” *Hydro Leader*, October 2020.
- Co-author, “Air Regulation in 2017: The Trump Administration Begins,” 33 *Natural Gas & Electricity* 7, February 2017.
- Author, “Bad Actor Statutes: An Environmental Trojan Horse?” 48 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 771, April 1995.