Melissa Horne

Partner

Atlanta

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Melissa helps a broad range of clients to understand and navigate complex environmental requirements, focusing on the Clean Air Act and ESG-related matters, including greenwashing and climate-related disclosures. Her practice also includes advice on PFAS regulation and reporting requirements and state Extended Producer Responsibility laws. Her clients appreciate her practical advice and focus on real-world implications for their business.

OVERVIEW

Melissa focuses her Clean Air Act practice on New Source Review and state preconstruction permitting; Title V permitting; NSPS, NESHAP, and MACT requirements; interstate ozone transport; regional haze; 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.

In her ESG practice, Melissa helps companies keep pace with the rapidly evolving landscape of voluntary and mandatory sustainability and climate-related disclosures and reporting, including California's climate disclosure laws, SB 253 and SB 261. She assists companies to navigate complex and sometimes overlapping disclosure schemes, and to understand the implications of disclosures for their business. Melissa also advises companies on the greenwashing risks associated with environmental marketing and other communications, as well in the context of transactions involving the transfer of environmental attributes. Melissa has also counseled clients on environmental justice matters and corporate sustainability initiatives.

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 compliance 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 has included assistance to cancer patients and veterans in preparing estate planning documents and health care directives and representation of clients seeking gender-affirming legal name changes. She has served as a pro bono ambassador for the firm's Atlanta office and served on the Election Protection voter hotline through the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law during the 2020 presidential election.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

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Federal and State Air Quality Advice

- 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 an air permitting audit of other facilities not involved in the enforcement action.
- Advise a major utility holding company and two of its operating companies with implementation of comprehensive strategy for complying with Clean Air Act preconstruction review requirements.
- Assist national trade groups to prepare comments on major rulemakings under the Clean Air Act.
- Represent offshore wind farm in challenge to Clean Air Act permit.
- Counseled companies on California-specific air-related regulatory programs including the Advanced Clean Fleets program and SCAQMD WAIRE program.
- 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.

ESG and Sustainability

- Regularly counsels clients on the greenwashing implications of climate and sustainability goals, selection of brand names, and consumer marketing campaigns, including customer-facing offset programs.
- Conducted comprehensive greenwashing risk analysis of corporate external communications for multiple clients, including provide internal training.
- Advise clients on climate and sustainability reporting and disclosure obligations, including advice related to California's climate-related disclosure laws, SB 253 and 261.
- Counsel clients on transactions involving transfer of offsets, RECs, and other types of environmental attributes.
- Advised a major tire distributor in the rollout of a nationwide recycling program, including advice on state-level permitting and compliance obligations.

Additional Representative Experience

- Provide ongoing counsel to a national airline and a global waste, wastewater, and energy services company on multijurisdictional PFAS developments, compliance obligations, and operational impacts.
- Counseled multiple clients on applicability and compliance questions presented by state-level Extended Producer Responsibility programs.
- Advise multiple clients on TSCA PFAS reporting rule requirements.
- Counsel clients on TRI reporting and supplier notification requirements.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*: Environmental Law (2021-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America®:* Environmental Law (2026-2027)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Air Quality + Climate Change
- Artificial Intelligence
- Conventional Power

- Data Centers
- Energy
- Energy Transition
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- Renewable Energy

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Air Quality + Climate Change
- Artificial Intelligence
- Conventional Power
- Data Centers
- Energy
- Energy Transition
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Litigation + Enforcement Defense
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- PFAS + Emerging Contaminants
- Release Reporting
- Renewable Energy

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, "Practical and Legal Implications from New and Anticipated Air Regulations" and "Advancing Women in Industry: Lessons from Consulting, Counsel, and Clients," Annual Georgia Environmental Conference 2026, August 20, 2026.
- Speaker, "Permitting and Regulatory Challenges and Uncertainty," Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar Series: Navigating the Data Center Boom: Rethinking Contracts, Risk, and Regulatory Strategy for 2026 and Beyond, April 21, 2026.
- Speaker, "Clean Air Act Legal Updates," AAPCA 2026 Spring Meeting, April 8, 2026.
- Speaker, "Navigating California's Climate Disclosure Laws: What's Next in 2026 for SB 253 and SB 261," Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar, January 22, 2026.
- Moderator, "Legal and Practical Implications from New and Anticipated Air Regulations," Annual Georgia Environmental Conference 2025, August 20, 2025.
- Speaker, "Clean Air Act Update," Georgia Environmental Conference, August 2024.
- Speaker, "Perspectives on Navigating Climate-Related Disclosures," Georgia Environmental Conference, 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 Provides Insights on 2027 GHG Emissions Reporting Requirements Including Plan to Capture Insurance Companies," *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, July 27, 2026.
- Co-author, "Multistate Coalition Challenge to California's Packaging EPR Law Raises Stakes for Producers," *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 24, 2026.
- Co-author, "California's Responsible Textile Recovery Act Registration Deadline Looms As CalRecycle Moves Forward With Industry Engagement," *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, June 16, 2026.
- Co-author, "California Advances Climate Disclosure Regulations," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 9, 2026.
- Co-author, "Court Enjoins Oregon's Extended Producer Responsibility Law for Some Companies, but Others Face Continued Compliance Obligations," *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor* and *Regulatory Oversight*, February 11, 2026.
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Co-author, “EPA May Redefine ‘Begin Actual Construction’ in Permit Reform Intended to Expedite Construction of Emissions-Generating Developments,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, January 6, 2026.

- Co-author, “CARB Kicks Off Holiday Season with Release of Proposed Initial Rule Implementing California Climate Disclosure Laws,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, December 17, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Delays Rulemaking on California Climate Laws,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, October 27, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Releases List of Entities Potentially Subject to Climate Disclosure Requirements,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, September 26, 2025.
- Co-author, “Clarity on California’s Climate Disclosure Rules Could Be on the Horizon,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, August 13, 2025.
- Co-author, “CARB Releases FAQs Addressing Upcoming California Climate Disclosures,” *Environmental Law and Policy Monitor*, July 17, 2025.
- 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.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Interviewed, “Troutman Atty Talks Potential Enviro Rule Change,” *Law360*, February 24, 2026.
- Quoted, “California Delays Rulemaking Timeline for Climate Disclosure Laws to 2026,” *Utility Dive*, October 16, 2025.
- Quoted, “Utilities on ‘Preliminary’ List of Entities Subject to California Climate Disclosure Rules,” *Utility Dive*, September 29, 2025.