

Contact

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Top Skills

Public Policy

Policy Analysis

Environmental Law

Avi Garbow

President of Resources Legacy Fund, Fund for a Better Future & Shared Ascent Fund—working to design and implement just and resilient solutions for people and the planet

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Summary

With decades of experience tackling many of the most critical threats to our air, water, lands, and communities, I lead the Resources Legacy Fund, Fund for a Better Future, and Shared Ascent Fund in efforts to accelerate change on the urgent environmental and social challenges we face. I draw upon a broad range of experience, including serving as Patagonia’s Environmental Advocate, Senior Counselor to the EPA Administrator in the Biden Administration, EPA’s General Counsel in the Obama Administration, a federal environmental crimes prosecutor, helping lead the environmental practice of a major international law firm, advisor to business coalitions and the California Climate Action Corps, as a Trustee/ Board member for environmental NGO’s and the Organic Trade Association, and as a member of the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

Experience

Resources Legacy Fund

President

January 2022 - Present (1 year 10 months)

California and Washington, DC

Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) builds alliances that advance bold solutions to secure a just and resilient world for people and nature. We partner with leaders in philanthropy, communities, government, science, and business to promote smart policies and secure equitable public funding for the environment, climate change resilience, and healthy communities.

As RLF’s President, I direct and partner on the design and implementation of equitable initiatives that are essential to accelerating change on the urgent environmental and social challenges we face.

Fund for a Better Future

President

January 2022 - Present (1 year 10 months)

California and Washington, DC

Fund for a Better Future is a nonprofit, 501(c)(4) social welfare organization dedicated to promoting the common good by upholding democratic values, protecting the environment, improving health, and advancing social equity. We counter efforts to weaken hard-fought policies that make the United States stronger, safer, and healthier.

As President of Fund for a Better Future, I work closely with funding partners to support initiatives that advance voting rights, immigrant rights, reproductive rights, access to healthcare, and environmental protection.

Shared Ascent Fund

President

January 2022 - Present (1 year 10 months)

California and Washington, DC

Shared Ascent Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) designed to provide sustained support for efforts that protect our democracy; advance economic, racial, and gender equity; and secure social and economic justice.

In my role as President, I actively seek out new partnerships and strategies to build collective action for a future that bridges divides, increases health and prosperity in marginalized communities, and strengthens the foundations of our democratic institutions.

Patagonia

Environmental Advocate

March 2019 - January 2022 (2 years 11 months)

Ventura, CA and Washington, DC

Patagonia is in business to save our home planet. As Patagonia's Environmental Advocate, I work to ensure that our environmental vision and voice are effective and strategic, as we look to identify and implement solutions to our most pressing environmental and public health crises.

Serve on the Board of Directors for the Organic Trade Association, as a Trustee for Rare (an international conservation organization), and as an advisor to California's Climate Action Corps and several climate action coalitions.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Senior Counselor to the Administrator

January 2021 - June 2021 (6 months)

Took leave from Patagonia, at the request of the White House, to help ensure that the Administration and EPA were positioned at the outset to successfully pursue an aggressive, protective, durable, and equitable environmental and climate agenda, and return EPA to its mission of protecting public health and the environment for all Americans.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Partner

March 2017 - February 2019 (2 years)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Provided strategic counsel and legal services to clients on a wide range of international, federal, or state and local matters involving environmental protection and related business opportunities, investments, and operations. Significant expertise in litigation, enforcement-related issues, regulatory development, internal investigations, crisis management, and climate change-related issues.

Recognized by the National Law Journal and an Environment and Energy Trailblazer.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

7 years 5 months

General Counsel

August 2013 - January 2017 (3 years 6 months)

Nominated by President Obama and confirmed with the unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate, was the longest-serving General Counsel in the history of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and helped to oversee the activities of more than 200 lawyers in Agency Headquarters and Regional offices. Led the Office to be recognized by Legal500 as the Best U.S. In-House environmental legal team in consecutive years.

Deputy General Counsel

September 2009 - August 2013 (4 years)

Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC

Partner

2005 - 2009 (4 years)

WilmerHale
Junior Partner
2002 - 2005 (3 years)

U.S. Department of Justice
Trial Attorney
1996 - 2002 (6 years)

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Attorney/Advisor
1992 - 1996 (4 years)

Education

University of Virginia School of Law

University of Virginia Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Master of Arts (M.A.), Marine Affairs

University of Michigan