

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Certifications

Admitted
Admitted
Admitted
Admitted
Admitted

Honors-Awards

Top Women of Law Award
Public Service Award, as Member
of WilmerHale Boumediene v. Bush
Pro Bono Legal Team
New England Super Lawyers Rising
Star
Presidents Award
Massachusetts Super Lawyers
Rising Star

Melissa Hoffer

Principal Deputy General Counsel, Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Experience

Environmental Protection Agency
Principal Deputy General Counsel
January 2021 - Present (2 years 10 months)
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
8 years 3 months

Chief, Energy & Environment Bureau
July 2015 - January 2021 (5 years 7 months)

- * Supervise Environmental Protection, Energy and Telecommunications, and Environmental Crimes Strike Force Divisions
- * Review work of Bureau attorneys and litigation and advocacy strategy
- * Develop policy recommendations
- * Advise agency clients
- * Direct and oversee investigations
- * Lead affirmative and defensive litigation on range of matters
- * Led team, with independent expert, to develop Regional Electric Reliability Options Study, analyzing economics of ratepayer-backed gas pipeline construction in Massachusetts
- * Testify on proposed legislation

Chief, Environmental Protection Division
November 2012 - July 2015 (2 years 9 months)
Boston, MA

- * Oversee AGO civil enforcement of state environmental law
- * Represent MA in federal litigation, including advocacy to advance regulation of greenhouse gases and air toxics
- * Supervise division attorneys and staff
- * Co-organize AGO 2013 Energy Summit

Hampshire College

Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Law and Human Rights
August 2013 - June 2014 (11 months)
Amherst, MA

- * Developed curriculum for and taught two courses, U.S. Climate Law and Policy and Litigating Guantanamo
- * Evaluated student performance and served on divisional committees

Conservation Law Foundation

5 years 8 months

Vice President and Director, Healthy Communities and Environmental Justice Program

April 2007 - September 2012 (5 years 6 months)

New England (Boston-based)

- * Directed program work in five states; responsible for strategic planning, budget, attorney supervision
- * Successfully secured multiple new streams of funding
- * Launched CLF Sustainable Farm & Food System Initiative
- * Played lead role in organizing and launching Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA), a diverse coalition of over twenty organizations working to promote transportation alternatives
- * Contributed legal and policy research, data analysis, and reporting on food policy (Growing Green: Measuring Benefits, Overcoming Barriers, and Nurturing Opportunities for Urban Agriculture in Boston (2012) and transportation (Maxed Out: Massachusetts Transportation at a Financing Crossroad (2011))
- * Participated in federal court litigation challenging power plant Clean Air Act violations
- * Led team developing comments on complex federal water permit for power plant

Vice President and Director, New Hampshire Advocacy Center

February 2007 - March 2010 (3 years 2 months)

Concord, NH

- * Directed NH Advocacy Center, including budget oversight and fundraising; coordinated with CLF NH Advisory Board, updated Board governance structures
- * Supervised NH Advocacy Center attorneys and staff
- * Identified advocacy goals and devised legal, public relations, and legislative strategies to implement
- * Represented CLF as intervenor in federal litigation defending Vermont's and Rhode Island's Clean Air Act authority to adopt California's clean cars regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions; partnered with several MA NGOs to collaboratively develop and implement advocacy to improve water

quality in the Mystic River watershed; represented CLF in adjudicatory proceeding challenging air permits issued to power plant

WilmerHale

7 years 4 months

Junior Partner, Environmental Department

June 2003 - January 2007 (3 years 8 months)

Boston, MA

* Represented clients in litigation and enforcement matters relating to cost recovery under Massachusetts and federal Superfund laws, corporate successor liability, NEPA, insurance cost recovery, zoning, Clean Water Act, Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act, and hazardous waste laws

* Provided permitting and compliance advice under the Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, state clean water, wetlands, and hazardous and solid waste disposal laws, and pro bono advice related to mechanisms for establishing a carbon sequestration project in South America

* Supervised all levels of associates, paralegals, and staff

* Represented, pro bono, six detainees interned at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base seeking writs of habeas corpus (*Boumediene v. Bush*)

Associate

October 1999 - May 2003 (3 years 8 months)

* Member, Environmental Department (2001-2003), Litigation Department (1999-2001)

Boston Federal District Court

Law Clerk, Honorable Magistrate Judge Joyce London Alexander

August 1998 - August 1999 (1 year 1 month)

Boston, MA

WilmerHale

Summer Associate

May 1997 - August 1997 (4 months)

Education

Northeastern University School of Law

J.D. · (1995 - 1998)

Tufts University

Environmental Management Certificate · (2004)

University of Massachusetts Amherst

M.Ed. · (1991)

Hampshire College

B.A. · (1987)