

SARAH A. MATSUMOTO

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, CO

Getches-Green Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Clinic

Associate Clinical Professor (July 2023-present)

- Teach semester-long, twice weekly classroom seminar with focus on substantive environmental law, lawyering skills, development of professional identity, and social, racial, and environmental justice issues
- Supervise teams of students representing clients in environmental matters
- Collaborate with university and community partners and other legal scholars to produce formal comment letters, amicus briefs, and other publications

Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR

Community and Environmental Justice Clinic

Assistant Professor of Clinical Education (August 2021-June 2023)

- Designed and launched new clinic; matters included federal litigation concerning postponed oil and gas lease sales in Wyoming and other western states, comments on proposed modifications to water permits for permittees in Alaska and Oregon, administrative challenge to approval of vegetation management program in southern Oregon, comments on Oregon's heat illness prevention rules, and policy work relating to fines and fees in the criminal justice system
- Taught biweekly clinic seminar and exercised sole supervisory responsibility for teams of 2L and 3L law students as they represented clients
- Co-managed clinical law program with two clinical colleagues, including internal and external promotion and administration
- Committee Service: Appointments (2022-2023); Inclusion and Equity (2022-2023); Academic Affairs (2021-2023)

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO

Environmental Law Clinic

Clinical Teaching Fellow (July 2018-July 2021)

- Supervised all aspects of student representation of client organizations; matters include Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Freedom of Information Act litigation in federal court, oil and gas permit challenges in state court, policy-oriented advocacy around protecting wildlife habitat, preparing and submitting written comments and oral presentations before administrative bodies, and community lawyering projects focused on water and air quality
- Taught seminars for clinic students on lawyering skills; topics include client interviewing and conducting depositions, legal writing and analysis, and substantive environmental law topics; design new seminar courses on litigating environmental citizen suits and working with experts
- Completed coursework in clinical pedagogy

EDUCATION

University of Denver, Sturm College of Law
LL.M., anticipated 2023

Seattle University School of Law
J.D., 2010

- Business Editor and founding member of Seattle Journal of Environmental Law (now Seattle Journal of Technology, Environmental, and Innovation Law)

University of Washington
B.A., 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Articles

Protecting Water, Sustaining Communities: Transforming Groundwater Management Entities into Sources of Power During and After Environmental Crisis, __ UMKC L. Rev. __ (forthcoming 2024) (work-in-progress)

Environmental Justice for Food System Workers: Heat-Illness Prevention Standards as One Step Toward Just Transition, 40 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 88 (2023)

Heat Waves and a Public-Private Partnership in Alaska (with Karen Sandrik), 39 ALASKA LAW REVIEW 202 (2023)

Other Writings

Citizens of Washington State Work to Fill Gaps in Regulation of Surface and Groundwater Pollution from CAFOs, 33-SPR NAT. RESOURCES & ENV'T 26 (2019).

ABA Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2015, 2015 ABA/SEER YIR 95-96 (2016).

PRESENTATIONS

“Groundwater Management Areas,” work-in-progress presentation, 14th Annual Vermont Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship, South Royalton, VT, Sept. 23, 2023.

“Groundwater Quality: legal responses to contaminated drinking water,” Colorado Law Mini Law School, University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, CO, Sept. 20, 2023.

“Embedding Racial Justice in the Work of Environmental NGOs,” 8th Annual SRP Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators, Beus Center for Law and Society, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, May 12, 2023.

“Legal clinics and resistance of oil and gas development,” 11th Global Alliance for Justice Education Worldwide Conference, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, December 14, 2022 (virtual).

“Hazardous Heat: heat standards as part of a just transition for food system workers,” ClassCrits XIII, Thurgood Marshall College of Law at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, October 21, 2022.

“Heat Waves and a Public-Private Partnership in Alaska,” 2022 Alaska Law Review Symposium: Alaska and the Environment, Anchorage, AK, October 14, 2022.

“Protecting Vulnerable Communities Through Law and Social Change: Food Justice” Climate and Environmental Justice Symposium, University of Michigan School of Law, Ann Arbor, MI, September 30, 2022.

“Labor and the Environment – Envisioning a Green New Deal,” Pace Environmental Law Review annual symposium (virtual), April 1, 2022.

“Environmental Justice and the Clean Water Act,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO, April 20, 2021.

“The Future of Environmental Justice Legislation, Litigation, and Transformation,” 17th Annual Wiley A. Branton Symposium, Howard University Law Journal (virtual), October 8, 2020.

“Food Justice and the Green New Deal,” University of Detroit Mercy Law Review Symposium, Detroit, MI, March 2020.

“Appellate Environmental Advocacy,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO, October 2019.

“Recent Lawsuits that Relate to Establishing a Right to a Stable Climate System,” University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO, November 2018.

“Vetting and Building Successful Cases,” Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR, March 2018.

“Citizen Participation in Enforcement of Environmental Laws,” guest speaker, University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, NM, February 2018.

“Paying the Farmer to Not Pollute: Nonpoint Sources of Agricultural Pollution in Washington Waters,” Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, OR, March 2016.

AMICUS CURIAE SERVICE

Garfield County, Utah, et al. v. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., et al., Nos. 23-4106 & 23-4107 (consol.) (10th Cir. 2023) (counsel for *amici curiae* law professors in support of defendants-appellees' argument for approach to limited judicial review and application of Antiquities Act)

County of Maui v. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, et al., No. 18-260 (U.S., July 19, 2019) (*amicus curiae* on brief of law professors in support of respondents arguing for plain language interpretation of the scope of the Clean Water Act)

Hill v. Warsewa, No. 19-1025 (10th Cir., Apr. 25, 2019) (counsel for and *amicus curiae* on brief of law professors in fishing access case, discussing application of public trust and equal footing concepts to Colorado's rivers)

State of Colorado v. Roger Hill, 2022SC119 (Colo. 2023) (*amicus curiae* on brief of law professors discussing application of public trust and equal footing concepts to Colorado's rivers and other western states)

REPRESENTATIVE LITIGATION

With University of Colorado Law School Getches-Green Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Clinic

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, No. 23-cv-01163 (D. Oregon 2023) (challenging BLM's approval of programmatic environmental assessment for vegetation management program in forests in southwest Oregon)

With Willamette University Community and Environmental Justice Clinic

Western Energy Alliance, et al. v. Biden, et al., No. 21-cv-00013-SWS (D. Wyoming 2021) (on behalf of intervenor-respondent business coalition, arguing certain oil and gas lease sale postponements by BLM offices complied with Administrative Procedure Act, Mineral Leasing Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and National Environmental Policy Act)

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance, IBLA No. 2022-144 (IBLA 2022) (administrative appeal BLM's approval of programmatic environmental assessment for vegetation management program in forests in southern Oregon)

With University of Denver Environmental Law Clinic

American Lung Assoc., et al. v. U.S. EPA, 985 F.3d 914 (D.C. Cir. 2021) (on behalf of environmental and historic-preservation groups, authored amicus brief discussing how the Affordable Clean Energy rule will harm culturally-significant, historic communities)

Juliana, et al. v. United States, 947 F.3d 1159 (9th Cir. 2020) (on behalf of children's rights scholars, authored amicus brief in support of plaintiffs' petition for rehearing *en banc*)

Animal Legal Defense Fund v. USDA-APHIS, No. 20-cv-03461-CMA-MEH (D. Colo. 2020) (challenging agency decision to withhold certain documents responsive to Freedom of Information Act request about city program for slaughtering Canada geese)

Save the Colorado, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, No. 17-cv-02563 (D. Colo. 2017) (challenging agency decisions to permit large water diversion project without considering present demand for water and climate change impacts)

Weld Air and Water, et al. v. Colorado Oil & Gas Conserv. Comm'n, 2018CA1147, cert denied 2019SC505 (Colo. 2020) (challenging agency decision to permit large fracking project near playgrounds of a middle school serving a low-income community)

Neighbors Affected by Triple Creek v. Colorado Oil & Gas Conserv. Comm'n, 2018CA116 (Colo. Ct. App.) (challenging agency decision to permit large fracking project in residential community)

Grand Valley Citizens Alliance v. Colorado Oil & Gas Conserv. Comm'n, 2019CV30618 (Denv. Dist. Ct.) (challenging agency decision to permit one of the state's largest fracking projects in residential community)

With Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, PC

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, et al. v. Dept. of Ecology, PCHB No. 17-016c, rev'd in part by *Washington State Dairy Fed. v. Dept. of Ecology*, 490 P.3d 290 (June 29, 2021) (administrative challenge to state-only and NPDES CAFO discharge permits; on appeal, court held that permits were inadequate due to failure to require monitoring beyond soil tests and visual inspections, failure to make site-specific information available for public comment, and failure to consider effects of climate change)

Kupale O'okala and Center for Food Safety v. Big Island Dairy, LLC, No. 17-cv-00305-SOM-KSC (D. Hawaii 2017) (Clean Water Act citizen enforcement suit concerning unpermitted discharges at industrial dairy resulting in consent decree)

Friends of Maha'ulepu, Inc. v. Hawai'i Dairy Farms, et al., No. 15-cv-00205-LEK-BMK (D. Hawaii 2015) (Clean Water Act citizen enforcement suit concerning unpermitted discharges at construction site resulting in consent decree)

Sierra Club, et al. v. BNSF Railway Co., No. 13-cv-00967-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2013) (Clean Water Act citizen enforcement suit concerning coal and petcoke discharges from rolling stock; consent decree reached during trial)

Cnty. Ass'n for Restoration of the Env't, Inc., v. Cow Palace, LLC, 80 F.Supp.3d 1180 (E.D. Wash. Jan. 14, 2015) (finding on summary judgment that commercial dairy's management of animal waste may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; consent decree followed court's opinion)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, PC, Eugene, OR

Attorney (May 2013-June 2018)

Legal Project Specialist (May 2012-May 2013)

Western Environmental Law Center, Eugene, OR

Volunteer law clerk (June 2011-May 2012)

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Kent, WA

Legal intern (July 2009-May 2010)

Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic, Seattle, WA

International Human Rights Clinic Intern (August 2009-December 2009)

Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA

Academic Resource Center (ARC) Program

Teaching Assistant, Civil Procedure (August 2008-May 2009)

Starbucks Coffee Company, Seattle, WA

Project Specialist (August 2006-August 2007)

Laboratory Assistant (August 2005-August 2006)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Oregon (2011)

Colorado (2018)

District of Colorado (2018)

District of Oregon (2022)

United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (2019)

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Rose Foundation Columbia River Fund

Member, American Bar Association

Member, ClassCrits

Member, Global Alliance for Justice Education

Member, National Lawyers Guild

Member, Society of American Law Teachers