



Ronnie A. Gosselin

Partner

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Related Services

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources ■ Chemical & Product Regulation ■ Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Compliance ■ Environmental Appellate Litigation ■ Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions ■ Environmental Enforcement Defense ■ Environmental Litigation ■ Brownfield Contaminated Sites ■ Environmental Crisis Management ■ Internal Investigations & Environmental Audits

Ronnie Gosselin focuses her practice on finding solutions for her clients in court, at the deal table, on the factory floor, or across from state and federal regulators. Ronnie uses her subject-matter experience in complex environmental programs, including CERCLA, the Clean Air Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), and RCRA, to help clients navigate litigation, enforcement, project development, and environmental cleanups.

Ronnie is on the planning committee for the ABA's Section of Environmental, Energy, and Resources (SEER) Law 32nd Fall Conference. In 2021, she co-chaired SEER's National Environmental Enforcement Conference, and previously co-chaired SEER's conference on Key Environmental Issues in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4. Ronnie was recognized in the 2023 Ones to Watch list by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Environmental Law.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Ronnie clerked for Judge Anne E. Thompson of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Ronnie received her J.D. from Harvard University, where she served on the Board of Student Advisers and as an editor for the Harvard International Law Journal.

Representative Experience

Litigation

- Defending a medical sterilization company in personal injury actions in multiple states.
- Defended a chlorinated solvents manufacturer in litigation over dry-cleaning chemicals that allegedly contaminated multiple city sites in Modesto, CA; served as member of the trial team that secured a favorable jury verdict for one site.
- Resolved a threatened citizen suit against an international manufacturer for alleged Clean Water Act violations on favorable terms to client and outside of litigation.
- Defended emergency response services company in a criminal suit over alleged RCRA violations. Our client secured highly favorable plea terms and minimal penalties.
- Secured settlement for a national food product manufacturer in civil litigation with multiple plaintiffs for alleged property damages and personal injuries in relation to waste disposal.
- Member of the trial team that secured a full defense verdict in a toxic tort action for a major chemical company after a two-week jury trial in Louisiana.
- Member of the trial teams that secured favorable settlements in toxic tort suits against an international automotive parts distributor after a four-week jury trial in Louisiana and a two-week jury trial in Philadelphia.

- Recovered 90% of all past and future cleanup costs, approximately \$10 million, on behalf of a client following its purchase of a site with groundwater contamination caused by a prior owner's operations in the 1970s.
- Negotiated a favorable pre-litigation cashout in response to a CERCLA contribution suit.
- Lead counsel on a national personal jurisdiction strategy on behalf of a Fortune 500 automotive parts supplier. Directed and worked with local counsel in numerous jurisdictions to secure favorable trial court and appellate rulings, culminating in a pivotal state supreme court reversal of its own prior precedent in favor of the client's position.
- Member of the team that obtained full dismissal and affirmance on appeal for an Am Law 100 firm in the defense of fraud and malpractice claims arising from its representation of a real estate investor.
- Regional counsel for a major chemical company in ongoing toxic tort litigation in several states.
- Member of the litigation team for a national service provider to health care and food industries with facilities in more than half a dozen states.

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

- Defended a waste management company against debarment following RCRA-related criminal enforcement.
- Counseled a utilities company in environmental enforcement and compliance matters in Alabama, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- Defended a chemical company against an enforcement action by the EPA for past and future clean-up costs at a Superfund site.
- Advising an international transportation and logistics company on environmental matters throughout the country, including strategy for compliance and enforcement matters across multiple states and EPA regions.
- Represented a multinational energy and technical market service provider in a CERCLA enforcement action for legacy liabilities at a former manufacturing facility; negotiations with the EPA reduced the federal and state past response cost demand in the final consent decree by more than \$1 million.
- Advising a national restaurant chain on environmental compliance programs for new supply warehouses and vehicle fueling and maintenance operations, including Clean Air Act requirements, management and handling of hazardous materials and waste, and vendor guidelines.
- Advising logistics and manufacturing clients on the applicability and scope of the Department of Transportation's hazardous materials regulations, including package marking, labeling and packaging requirements, employee training, and incident notification. Counseling and advising on international standards and norms, including ICAO, IATA, IMDG, and various foreign requirements for transporting all classes of hazardous materials, as well as advising on evolving regulations for the shipment of lithium batteries and reverse pharmaceuticals.
- Counseled scrap metal recycling facilities facing enforcement actions for alleged violations of California's hazardous waste laws and regulations.
- Advised on temporary closures and staff reductions for automotive parts manufacturing facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and regulator expectations for ongoing environmental compliance during closures.
- Represented a multinational automotive parts manufacturer in a RCRA enforcement action; handled day-to-day negotiations with EPA Region 4 and worked with the client to develop a compliance plan and supplemental environmental project that reduced the monetary penalty by more than \$1 million—the maximum reduction available under EPA policy.
- Advised glass recyclers and processors on issues related to the recycling of CRTs and CRT glass under California law.

- Developed compliance solutions for the world's second-largest glass manufacturing company during the negotiation of an enforcement action by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control alleging hazardous waste violations under California law.
- Advising a medical sterilization company on land use-related issues concerning its ethylene oxide facilities

Transactional

- Advising clients on environmental compliance and liability issues in mergers and acquisitions, real estate transfers, and financing transactions. Clients include Fortune 500 lenders and manufacturers across industry sectors, including auto parts, appliance, cement, ink, and paper manufacturers.
- Conducting and advising on due diligence assessments for purchasers and lenders; retaining and working with consultants, engineers, and other environmental professionals to quantify potential liabilities and evaluate risk.
- Advising on enrollment in state brownfield programs and developing creative strategies to mitigate or allocate environmental risks for potential purchasers.
- Drafting and negotiating purchase agreement language to effectively allocate potential environmental risk and liability between parties.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "California Adopts the Sophisticated Intermediary Doctrine but Refuses to Apply It," *Mass Torts Litigation*, ABA Section of Litigation, Vol. 15, No. 1, Fall 2016.
- "Protecting Privileged PR Info During an Enviro Crisis," *Law360*, April 14, 2016.
- "The Seventh Circuit Addresses UAO Enforcement and CERCLA Arranger Liability in Fox River PCB Litigation," *Bloomberg BNA Toxics Law Reporter*, Vol. 29, December 4, 2014.

Presentations

- "RCRA and Air Toxics: Never the Twain Shall Meet?" American Bar Association's Environment, Energy, and Resources Section's 50th Spring Conference on Environmental Law

Professional & Community Engagement

- ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Education Service Group Committee (2021–2022)
- ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, Virtual Learning Committee, co-chair (2020–2021)
- ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Environment Litigation and Toxic Torts Committee, program vice chair
- ABA SEER Leadership Development Program (2017–2018)

Education

- Harvard University (J.D., 2012)
- Wellesley College (B.A., 2007)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia