

Ronnie A. Gosselin

Senior Associate

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Ronnie Gosselin is a member of Alston & Bird’s Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group. She 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, Clean Water 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 a vice chair for the Environment Litigation and Toxic Torts Committee of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER), regional reporter for the Superfund and Natural Resource Damages Litigation Committee, and co-chair for the Virtual Learning Committee. In 2019, she co-chaired SEER’s conference on Key Environmental Issues in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 and was on the planning committee for the ABA’s Environmental, Energy, and Resources Law 27th Fall Conference. Ronnie was recognized in the inaugural 2021 “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

- 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.
- 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.

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

- 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.
- Representing 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.
- Counseling 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.

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.
- “The Clean Power Plan: Changes Ahead for Coal, Electricity,” *FierceEnergy*, August 19, 2014.

Presentations

- American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources 27th Fall Conference, Planning Committee, Boston, MA, September 11, 2019.
- Key Environmental Issues in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 2019 Conference, co-chair, American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Atlanta, GA, June 11, 2019.

Professional & Community Engagement

- ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, Environment Litigation and Toxic Torts Committee, program vice chair
- ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, Virtual Learning Committee, co-chair
- ABA SEER Leadership Development Program (2017–2018)
- American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Superfund and Natural Resource Damages Litigation Committee, regional reporter

Education

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

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia

Related Services

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources | Chemical & Product Regulation | Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Compliance | Environmental Appellate Litigation | Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions | Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) | Environmental Enforcement Defense