



Shannon Vreeland

Senior Associate

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Related Services

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources ■ Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ■ Environmental Litigation ■ Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions ■ Oil & Gas Litigation ■ Mass Torts & Toxic Torts ■ Brownfield Contaminated Sites ■ Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Compliance

Shannon draws on her experience as a former legal clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals to develop comprehensive solutions to overcome clients' most challenging legal obstacles.

Shannon Vreeland represents clients in complex litigation across the environmental spectrum and counsels clients on a range of regulatory matters. Shannon has extensive experience advising clients on issues involving contamination concerns, toxic tort, PFAS, federal and state hazardous waste regulations, the Clean Air Act, RCRA, CERCLA, medical waste regulations, and local issues involving zoning and land use. Shannon also advises clients on the acquisition and redevelopment of environmentally impacted properties.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Shannon served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Duane Benton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She is actively involved in the community as a member of the Access to Justice Committee for the State Bar of Georgia.

Shannon is also an accomplished competitive swimmer. She was a collegiate All-American and a member of the U.S. national team, earning 19 international medals, including a gold medal for Team USA at the 2012 Olympic Games.

Representative Experience

Toxic Tort/Environmental Litigation

- Representing a real estate development company in litigation against a federal contractor and the United States regarding the falsified investigation and remediation of radiological contamination at a Superfund site.
- Representing a carpet manufacturer and other industrial discharger in lawsuits filed by municipalities and individual plaintiff alleging that multiple defendants' operations contaminated local drinking water sources with perfluorinated compounds, such as PFOA and PFOS.
- Representing a medical equipment supplier in mass litigation for property devaluation and personal injury stemming from alleged exposure to ethylene oxide emissions.
- Representing an electric utility company in lawsuit alleging personal injuries and property damages arising from alleged groundwater and surface water discharges and air emissions. Constituents of concern include hexavalent chromium, arsenic, boron, and radionuclides.
- Representing a national pet food product manufacturer in civil litigation for alleged property damages and personal injuries in relation to waste disposal. Obtained dismissal of the plaintiffs' claims for strict liability, negligence per se, and trespass.

- Defending a corporation in defense of a federal court breach of contract and unjust enrichment lawsuit brought by a Georgia county over a former option agreement for the county's purchase land for a commercial spaceport. Obtained full dismissal with prejudice of the county's claims on a motion to dismiss.
- Defending against EPA enforcement actions seeking recovery of significant past and future cleanup costs at Superfund sites in several states.
- Representing an oil and gas company in property damage claims asserted by property owners in Texas.

Land Use and Development

- Representing an interstate natural gas pipeline company in federal condemnation actions under the Natural Gas Act for the construction of a natural gas pipeline.
- Advising and representing a telecommunications company in land use administrative proceedings, ownership matters, and resolution of local permitting issues concerning multiple facilities and operations across the state of Georgia.
- Representing a major construction aggregates company in an action challenging a county government's denial of permits to expand a major granite quarry, resulting in the client obtaining the full approval necessary for the quarry expansion. Obtained a full and favorable resolution of the matter allowing the client to proceed with expansion.

Environmental Compliance

- Advising a medical waste disposal company that specializes in collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of regulated wastes, including medical waste and pharmaceutical waste, on applicable regulations, and rule changes.
- 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.
- Overseeing and coordinating an underground storage tank (UST) system compliance audit for a distribution center for a national restaurant chain.
- Advising and representing a recycler and manufacturer of electric battery materials in the construction and operation of lithium-ion recycling facilities.
- Advising a materials and technology company on its ongoing remedial action and investigation of numerous sites in and around its property under the oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Health.
- Advising a national transportation company on environmental compliance, regulated medical waste management, and notices of violation and enforcement actions.

Transactional

- Advising clients on environmental compliance and liability issues in mergers and acquisitions, real estate transfers, and financing transactions.
- 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 and participation in state brownfield programs.

Pro Bono

- Representing clients in name-change proceedings in the state of Georgia.

- Represented pro bono litigants in partnership with the ACLU of Louisiana.
- Represented several clients disputing work authorization denials in the Northern District of Georgia as pro bono counsel.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “EPA's New PFAS Listings Raise Enforcement, Litigation Risks,” *Law360*, June 28, 2022.

Presentations

- “Ethics Plenary: An Ethics Conundrum: The Lawyer-Witness,” 2024 Environmental & Energy, Mass Torts, and Products Liability Litigation Committees' Joint Regional CLE Program, Avon, CO, January 31–February 2, 2024.
- “PFAS Litigation and Regulation – Past, Present, and Future,” American Bar Association, webinar, December 20, 2022.

Education

- Vanderbilt University (J.D., 2019)
- University of Georgia (B.A., 2014)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia