

Meaghan Goodwin Boyd

Partner

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Meaghan Boyd defends companies in complex environmental and toxic tort litigation in federal and state courts. She also routinely counsels clients on compliance and enforcement matters involving many federal environmental statutes, including CERCLA, the Clean Water Act, and RCRA, and their state counterparts, as well as hazardous materials transportation regulations. In 2017, Meaghan was named a “Rising Star” by Law360 in Environmental Law. *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business* has named Meaghan an “Up and Coming” lawyer in the area of Environmental Law. She has been named to the *Georgia Super Lawyers* “Rising Stars” list in environmental litigation for six consecutive years (2012–2017). Meaghan was also honored as Alston & Bird’s “Mentor of the Year” for 2014 and named to the University of Georgia Alumni Association’s “40 Under 40” Class of 2015.

Meaghan currently co-chairs the Expert Witness Committee of the ABA’s Section of Litigation, and from 2012 to 2015 co-chaired its Environmental Litigation Committee. In 2010, she was named “Outstanding Subcommittee Chair” by her ABA colleagues.

Meaghan co-founded Piper’s Friends, a nonprofit organization that supports the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

Meaghan received her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Georgia in 2005. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia in 2001 and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Representative Experience

Environmental Litigation

- Defending a pipe manufacturing company for personal injury and property damage claims asserted by thousands of individuals arising from heavy metals in air emissions. Constituents of concern include lead, arsenic, benzene, and VOCs, among others.
- Defending an aerosol manufacturing company and its corporate parent in lawsuits alleging property damage and personal injury arising out of a chemical spill that entered a creek near the client’s facility. Advising the same clients in connection with environmental agency investigations related to the spill. Constituents of concern include naphthalene.
- Representing a carpet manufacturer in a lawsuit by a municipality alleging that multiple defendants’ operations contaminated a local drinking water source with PFOA and PFOS.
- Defended a textile manufacturer in more than 100 toxic tort suits and a related Clean Water Act citizen suit arising out of a fish kill and the company’s ongoing wastewater discharge. The chemicals of concern include ammonia and formaldehyde.
- Represented the world’s largest vehicle remarketing company in nuisance and trespass claims against a neighboring property owner.

- Defended petroleum storage companies against personal injury and property damage claims asserted by a child who contracted leukemia allegedly from his exposure to benzene and other chemicals in drinking water, which the plaintiff claims originated at the petroleum storage facility.
- Defending multiple clients in cost recovery and contribution litigation at a CERCLA site involving PCB contamination. Also represents the clients in connection with an EPA UAO action at the same site.
- Member of a defense team for a Fortune 500 company in a putative class action seeking damages for more than 13,000 claimants from alleged releases of lead and other pollutants from former foundry operations in Anniston, Alabama. The litigation was resolved by a classwide settlement for less than pretrial defense costs.
- Member of the defense team that received summary judgment on Atlantic Research grounds in a CERCLA cost recovery suit involving past and future cleanup costs exceeding \$300 million.
- Represented a national building products company in mass tort litigation involving 19 lawsuits and more than 1,300 plaintiffs alleging personal injuries caused by air and surface water emissions from former wood treatment operations. The chemicals of concern included dioxin, arsenic, creosote, and chromium, which allegedly resulted in cancers, birth defects, and other diseases. All claims were settled in a two-day mediation following close of fact discovery in the first four lawsuits.

Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

- Representing the country's largest pipeline company in environmental matters arising from spills in the southeastern U.S.
- Counseling scrap metal recycling companies facing enforcement actions for alleged violations of California's hazardous waste laws and regulations.
- Advised glass recyclers and processors for issues related to the recycling of CRTs and CRT glass under California law.
- Represented the world's second-largest glass manufacturing company in an enforcement action by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) concerning alleged hazardous waste violations under California law.
- Advising an international transportation and logistics company on environmental matters arising throughout the country, including compliance and enforcement matters in more than 20 states to date.
- Counsel to a former fabric and fiber manufacturing company in the remediation of a landfill pursuant to Georgia's Hazardous Sites Response Act.
- Represented a leading producer of residential, industrial, commercial, and utility wire and cable in the mediation of an environmental remediation contract dispute.

Hazardous Materials Transportation

- Representing a small package delivery company in an FAA administrative enforcement action in which the FAA alleges the client should have reported certain packages to the agency.
- Regularly advising several clients on the applicability and scope of the USDOT's and FAA's Hazardous Materials Regulations, including package marking, labeling and packaging requirements, employee training, and incident notification. Experience also includes counsel and advice regarding international standards and norms, including ICAO, IATA, IMDG, and various foreign requirements for transporting hazardous materials.

- Counseled a client through an FAA Notice of Violation (NOV) that the company received after a package that had been shipped from its facility was found leaking at an air freight facility. The FAA agreed to drop the NOV altogether following meetings with civil investigators and legal staff that showed that the client had no involvement or awareness of the unauthorized shipment.
- Assisted a client in negotiations with the FAA related to a package containing hazardous materials that was accepted for transportation at a retail store location and was found damaged and leaking at an air freight facility. Negotiated the proposed penalty down by approximately 40 percent. Also assisted the client with revisions to its in-store package acceptance guidelines.
- Advised a client on potential liability for packages that did not comply with hazardous materials regulations, including packaging and marking requirements. Analysis included review of past penalty and enforcement cases involving similar allegations to advise the client of potential risk.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “INSIGHT: Agency Regulation of PFAS Must Balance Costs, Benefits,” *Bloomberg Environment*, April 24, 2019.
- “Leveling the Toxic Tort Playing Field—Removal to Federal Court,” *Bloomberg Law*, October 11, 2018.
- “Five Tips for Retention of Expert Witnesses,” *Today’s General Counsel*, Vol. 13, No. 4, August/September 2016.
- “Protecting Privileged PR Info During an Enviro Crisis,” *Law360*, April 14, 2016.
- “Parko Provides Guidance on Contamination Class Actions,” *ABA’s Environmental Litigation*, June 5, 2014.
- “Atlantic Research 5 Years Later: The Gap Has Closed,” *Law360*, March 29, 2012.
- “For Young Lawyers: ‘Preservations’ in the Constant Litigation Environment,” *The Environmental Litigator*, Vol.23, No. 1, Fall 2011.
- “Challenging CERCLA Claims At The Pleading Stage,” *Law360*, August 15, 2011.
- “The Attorney-Client Privilege and Communications Between Counsel and Public-Relations Consultants,” *The Environmental Litigator*, Vol. 22, No. 1, Fall 2010.
- “Settling with Thousands? Ethical Issues Involving Minors, Potential Incompetents, and Wrongful-Death Estates,” *The Environmental Litigator*, Vol. 21, No. 2, Winter 2010.

Education

- University of Georgia (J.D., 2005)
- University of Georgia (B.A., 2001)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia

Related Services

Litigation | Toxic Torts | Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions | Land Use | Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources | Chemical & Product Regulation | Environmental Enforcement Defense | Pesticide Law and Regulation, Enforcement and Registration | Shale Oil & Gas Extraction / Hydraulic Fracturing | Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Compliance | Environmental Litigation | Environmental Crisis Management | Internal Investigations & Environmental Audits | Air Quality | Brownfield Contaminated Sites | Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) | Industrials & Manufacturing | Oil & Natural Gas