

ALEXANDRA M. CHEN

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Bar Admissions: DC • Virginia • U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit • U.S. Supreme Court

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE CANDIDATE

REGULATORY LAW • ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT • FEDERAL POLICY

Federal regulatory attorney with 22 years of progressively responsible experience spanning environmental enforcement, administrative law, rulemaking, and executive-level legal counsel at the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency — from first-chair litigation in federal circuit courts to advising the EPA Administrator on agency's most consequential regulatory actions. Consistent record of delivering legally defensible, mission-aligned outcomes that uphold the Constitution, advance the rule of law, and serve American public.

Commitment to Rule of Law:	22-year career grounded in constitutional legal practice: enforced federal environmental statutes, defended agency rulemaking in federal circuit courts, and advised senior officials on compliance with APA, NEPA, CAA, CWA, and RCRA. Secured landmark consent decrees and upheld regulatory authority against over 40 legal challenges.
Achieving Results:	Led enforcement actions resulting in \$2.3B in penalties, cleanup commitments, and injunctive relief. Successfully defended 38 of 41 agency rulemakings challenged in federal court. Reduced enforcement case backlog by 61% through docket reform and streamlined litigation protocols adopted division wide.
Driving Efficiency:	Redesigned the OGC's rulemaking review process, cutting average legal clearance time from 47 to 19 days. Built a cross-divisional litigation coordination framework eliminating redundant DOJ-EPA case handoffs, recovering 1,800+ attorney-hours annually across the enforcement docket.
Leading People:	Directly supervised teams of 8–18 attorneys across three OGC divisions; mentored 14 junior attorneys who advanced to GS-14/15 or DOJ senior trial attorney positions. Established OGC's first structured attorney development program, adopted agency-wide in 2022.
Merit and Competence:	Subject-matter expert in Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA, and APA administrative procedure, recognized by DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division as a national expert. Adjunct professor of Environmental Law at Georgetown University Law Center (2018–Present); published author in the Environmental Law Reporter and Yale Journal on Regulation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Regulatory Counsel & Deputy Division Director

Aug 2017 – Present

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of General Counsel | Washington, DC

Pay Plan/Series/Grade: GS-0905-15 | Salary: \$172,500/yr | Hours/Week: 40 | Supervisor: James R. Payne, Deputy General Counsel, 202-564-XXXX (May Contact)

Serves as the senior legal advisor to the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Water, providing executive-level counsel on rulemaking, enforcement strategy, congressional engagement, and litigation across the agency's highest-priority regulatory programs. Concurrently serves as Deputy Director of OGC's Air and Climate Law Division, directly supervising a team of 14 attorneys and overseeing a docket of 80+ active regulatory and enforcement matters.

- Provided lead legal counsel for **three major Clean Air Act rulemakings** affecting over 300 million Americans, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards update for particulate matter — successfully defending all three in the D.C. Circuit against **12 consolidated industry challenges**.
- Led enforcement legal strategy for a **\$1.4B multistate Clean Water Act consent decree** against a Fortune 100 chemical manufacturer — the largest water enforcement settlement in EPA Region 3 history — negotiating final terms across 14 months of complex litigation.
- Redesigned OGC's rulemaking legal clearance process, reducing average review time from **47 days to 19 days** through standardized legal sufficiency frameworks and parallel review protocols, without increasing staff.
- Advised the EPA Administrator and Deputy Administrator on **regulatory authority and constitutional exposure** in 18 significant rulemaking and enforcement decisions, including two that were reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget.
- Built OGC's first structured **Attorney Professional Development Program**, establishing competency-based assessment, mentorship pairings, and structured litigation experience rotations — adopted agency-wide in 2022 and credited with reducing attorney attrition from 28% to 9%.

Senior Trial Attorney & Section Supervisor

Jun 2009 – Jul 2017

U.S. Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division | Washington, DC (incl. Honors Program, 2003–2005)

Pay Plan/Series/Grade: GS-0905-14 (final) | Salary: \$132,200/yr | Hours/Week: 40 | Supervisor: Hon. M. Waters (Retired — May Contact via email)

Served as first-chair litigator and section supervisor in DOJ ENRD's Environmental Defense Section, representing EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Interior in complex federal environmental litigation across seven circuit courts. Held concurrent supervisory responsibility for a section of eight trial attorneys handling 60+ active matters

- First-chaired **23 federal environmental cases** across the D.C., 4th, and 5th Circuits, achieving favorable outcomes in 20; argued before the D.C. Circuit on three occasions involving questions of first impression under RCRA and the Clean Air Act.
- Led DOJ's legal defense of EPA's **Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS)** rule through district and circuit court challenges, contributing to the rule's ultimate survival — a regulation protecting an estimated **\$37B in annual public health benefits**.
- Supervised section enforcement docket of **60+ active matters**; implemented case management reforms reducing average case-to-resolution time by **34%** and eliminating a 47-case backlog within 18 months.
- Negotiated **\$680M in CERCLA cleanup commitments** across six Superfund consent decrees, coordinating with EPA, state environmental agencies, and private potentially responsible parties across multi-year settlement negotiations.
- Selected as DOJ ENRD's representative to the **EPA-DOJ Joint Enforcement Coordination Working Group**, co-authoring interagency protocols adopted by both agencies for concurrent civil and administrative enforcement actions.

Trial Attorney

Sep 2003 – May 2009

U.S. Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division | Washington, DC (incl. Honors Program, 2003–2005)

Pay Plan/Series/Grade: GS-0905-13 (final) | Salary: \$89,450/yr | Hours/Week: 40 | Supervisors available upon request

Joined DOJ through the Attorney General's Honors Program, the department's most competitive entry-level attorney pathway. Advanced through progressively complex litigation assignments in the Environmental Defense Section, developing deep expertise in administrative law, APA judicial review, and federal environmental enforcement.

- Served as **second chair in 14 federal environmental cases** and sole counsel in 9 administrative proceedings before EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers; achieved favorable dispositions in 21 of 23 matters.
- Drafted the government's brief in **United States v. Hercules Chemical Corp.** (4th Cir. 2008), a landmark RCRA citizen suit preemption case cited in **27 subsequent federal decisions** and leading environmental law treatises.
- Completed a **six-month detail to EPA's Office of General Counsel** (2007), providing litigation support on the Clean Air Interstate Rule — an experience that formed the foundation of a career-long EPA-DOJ partnership.

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS

Juris Doctor (J.D.), magna cum laude — Georgetown University Law Center | 2003 | Order of the Coif | Managing Editor, Georgetown Law Journal

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Economics, summa cum laude — University of Virginia | 2000 | Phi Beta Kappa | Thesis: Chevron Deference and the Limits of Agency Expertise

Bar Admissions: District of Columbia (2003) | Virginia (2003) | U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit (2004) | U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit (2005) | U.S. Supreme Court (2010)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service (2022) highest EPA award, presented by the Administrator for legal leadership on the MATS rulemaking defense and the \$1.4B Clean Water Act consent decree

DOJ Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service (2016) awarded for exceptional litigation leadership in the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards defense and Superfund consent decree portfolio

EPA's Office of General Counsel Director's Award (2020, 2023) two-time recipient for outstanding legal counsel to agency senior leadership on high-priority regulatory and enforcement matters

DOJ Honors Program Alumni Distinguished Service Recognition (2015) awarded by the Attorney General's Honors Program to attorneys demonstrating exceptional public service impact within 12 years of program completion/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Teaching: Adjunct Professor, Environmental Law, Georgetown University Law Center (2018–Present); curriculum covers Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA, and federal administrative law

Publications: Chen, A.M., "Statutory Textualism and the Future of Environmental Rulemaking After Loper Bright," *Yale Journal on Regulation*, Vol. 41 (2024); "Civil Enforcement Coordination in Multi-Agency Environmental Cases," *Environmental Law Reporter*, Vol. 52 (2022)

Professional Affiliations: American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy & Resources (Council Member, 2021–Present) | Federal Bar Association | Women's Bar Association of D.C.

Security Clearance: Secret (Active) | Eligible for TS pending investigation

Availability: Available within 60 days | Willing to relocate: Limited | Geographic preference: National Capital Region