
Speaker Biographies



Michael Vitris | Austin Office Managing Principal, Beveridge & Diamond

Mike is a nationally recognized environmental litigator who represents energy, chemical, manufacturing, and waste management companies in high-stakes environmental mass torts, class actions, contaminated property disputes, and major Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act enforcement matters. He is known for quickly mastering complex technical issues and turning them into clear, persuasive narratives, drawing on deep experience with industrial processes, environmental regulation, and toxicology. Mike has served in key trial and hearing roles, including examining expert and fact witnesses in significant environmental cases. He is also active in professional leadership, serving on the Executive Council of the State Bar of Texas Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section, and previously chaired the Austin Bar Environmental Section.

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Lisa Dyar | Principal, Beveridge & Diamond

Lisa Dyar is a leading environmental attorney with extensive experience in Texas air permitting, regulatory strategy, and contested case litigation. She previously served in senior leadership roles at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), where she advised executive leadership on complex air quality and multimedia enforcement matters and drafted key enforcement legislation. Lisa draws on her experience inside TCEQ to help clients navigate complex air permitting processes and position projects for successful outcomes. She advises clients on air permitting, contested case hearings, and compliance and enforcement issues.

For more than two decades in private practice, Lisa has experience in legal and technical-facing roles, working closely with permit consultants, technical experts, and client leadership on permitting, auditing, enforcement, and transactional matters. Lisa's experience and proven track record assisting sophisticated clients cultivated her insight into how permitting decisions are evaluated at all levels of the agency. Lisa is an active member of the Texas legal community and currently serves as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section.

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Andrew Tarrant | Lead Counsel - HSES, LyondellBasell

Andy provides counsel on environmental, health, and safety matters across global operations, sharing strategic guidance on regulatory compliance, enforcement, incident response, and risk management in complex industrial settings.

He works closely with business and operational teams to address air, water, and waste compliance challenges, support internal investigations and audits, and manage regulatory interactions. He also helps develop and implement policies and systems that promote safe, compliant, and efficient operations, while aligning legal strategy with broader business objectives.



Steven Cook | Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

PDAA Cook leads national programs addressing waste management, contaminated site cleanup, and emergency response, providing strategic and operational leadership across major initiatives under statutes such as RCRA and CERCLA.

He works to advance policies that promote sustainable materials management, protect communities from environmental risks, and strengthen emergency response efforts. His work focuses on improving regulatory frameworks, supporting cleanup and redevelopment, and addressing emerging contamination challenges.



Laura Thoms | Director of Enforcement, Earthjustice

Laura leads strategic enforcement initiatives to advance environmental protection and hold polluters accountable under federal environmental laws. She works to pursue high-impact enforcement actions under statutes such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and RCRA, with a focus on protecting public health and advancing social justice. Prior to Earthjustice, Laura spent 19 years at the Department of Justice (DOJ), bringing enforcement cases across the United States under every major pollution control statute. Her experience includes guiding complex matters involving air and water pollution, hazardous waste, and emerging environmental challenges.



Madeleine Boyer | Principal, Beveridge & Diamond

Maddie brings 30 years of experience providing strategic and solutions-oriented counseling and representation on a broad range of U.S. and Latin American environmental, health and safety standards.

Maddie began as an Associate in the firm’s Washington, DC office in 1999. In 2005, after returning to Texas, she co-founded the Austin office and served as its first Managing Principal. She is the immediate past Chair of the firm’s International Environmental Practice Group and the immediate past Co-Chair of the Air and Climate Change Practice Group.

Her domestic caseload includes multiple matters before DOJ, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and TCEQ, with a focus on high-stakes clean air act and emergency response matters for the petrochemical sector. Her Latin American work involves compliance support and legal project management on a range of regional sustainability issues, including emerging chemicals, circular economy initiatives, and climate change.

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Joshua Van Eaton | Washington, DC Office Managing Principal, Beveridge & Diamond

Josh focuses on environmental enforcement defense, litigation, and strategic counseling, advising clients on government enforcement actions, internal investigations, and air, water, and waste compliance—particularly mobile source emissions. His clients span the automotive, engine, energy, chemical, and manufacturing sectors, as well as utilities, municipalities, and trade associations.

Before joining the firm, Josh served as a Senior Trial Attorney in DOJ’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, where he litigated cases under major environmental statutes and led the landmark *Volkswagen “Dieselgate”* Clean Air Act case, securing a nearly \$17.5 billion settlement. He now helps clients navigate complex enforcement matters before DOJ, EPA, and state agencies, and co-leads the firm’s Mobile Source Team, advising on emissions and greenhouse gas compliance.

Josh is also an experienced trial attorney who has led complex, multi-party environmental litigation and negotiated favorable settlements. He brings additional perspective from over 20 years of service in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps, where he served as a prosecutor, environmental attorney, and senior legal advisor.

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**Amber Ahmed | Of Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond**

Amber Ahmed is Of Counsel at Beveridge & Diamond PC, where she represents energy and industrial clients in environmental, water, regulatory, and toxic tort litigation involving emerging contaminants. She has extensive experience handling Clean Water Act citizen suits in Texas and California, defending against federal and state preliminary injunctions at the trial and appellate levels, and representing clients in contested matters before TCEQ and the Texas Railroad Commission. She also regularly defends air and water permits and handles enforcement actions in contested case hearings and district court.

Prior to joining Beveridge & Diamond, Amber served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Texas Office of the Attorney General, where she represented TCEQ and RRC in complex environmental litigation and appeals involving permitting, enforcement authority, and regulatory jurisdiction. She also previously served as a staff attorney at TCEQ, advising on air, water, and waste enforcement matters affecting energy and industrial operations.

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**Laura LaValle | Principal, Beveridge & Diamond**

Laura's practice has focused on Clean Air Act matters for over 30 years.

Her experience includes advising and representing entities on a broad range of complex air permitting, compliance, and policy issues. She advises clients about conducting compliance audits pursuant to EPA and state audit programs, including the Texas Environmental, Health & Safety Audit Privilege Act. She also provides counsel and representation regarding state and federal administrative and civil enforcement cases.

Laura co-founded B&D's Austin office, and previously served as the office's Managing Principal and as co-chair of the Firm's Air and Climate Change Practice Group. After starting her law career serving in the U.S. Air Force as an assistant judge advocate, she was an air attorney at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now TCEQ), then an Assistant Attorney General in the Natural Resources Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, before going into private practice in 2005.

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Andrew Silton | Principal, Beveridge & Diamond

As Co-Chair of the firm’s Water practice, Drew represents clients in high-stakes litigation, enforcement, and regulatory matters involving water quality and pollution control. He helps clients navigate complex Clean Water Act challenges and develop practical, cost-effective compliance and permitting strategies.

Drew led the team that secured a landmark U.S. Supreme Court victory in *City & County of San Francisco v. EPA* (2025), holding that EPA and states cannot impose permit terms making permittees responsible for overall receiving water conditions. He also regularly handles appellate challenges to agency and local government actions.

His practice includes defending major Clean Water Act enforcement actions brought by DOJ, EPA, and state regulators, often on behalf of large cities and utilities facing significant infrastructure and operational requirements. He represents clients in citizen suits, negotiates complex settlements, and has achieved favorable outcomes in first-impression cases.

Drew also advises clients across industries on NPDES permitting, compliance programs, water quality standards, and TMDL processes, helping them manage risk and address complex regulatory obligations.

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Lynne Davies | Of Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond

Lynne has more than 15 years of experience in environmental enforcement and compliance, representing clients in complex investigations and advising on hazardous and solid waste regulatory issues.

She most recently served as Chief of the Waste Enforcement Branch in EPA’s Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, where she led nationally significant enforcement matters involving hazardous waste, coal ash, and emerging contaminants such as PFAS. Her work included securing over \$500 million in financial assurance and negotiating major settlements under RCRA, the Clean Air Act, and other statutes.

Earlier at EPA, Lynne served as Assistant Regional Counsel and Attorney-Advisor, handling enforcement and compliance matters under RCRA, TSCA, and other federal laws, and contributing to significant litigation and settlements. She also advised key policy initiatives, including TSCA reform, e-waste, climate change, and the Basel Convention.

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Timothy J. Sullivan | Of Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond

Drawing on two decades of experience, including significant government service, Tim counsels clients on complex compliance, enforcement, and regulatory matters at the federal, state, and local levels.

As a former EPA attorney, he handled enforcement litigation, compliance investigations, and settlement negotiations under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and RCRA, with a focus on the oil and gas and animal agriculture sectors. He also helped develop national enforcement initiatives and policies advancing EPA priorities.

Tim now provides compliance counseling, enforcement defense, and regulatory advocacy for clients in the chemical manufacturing, waste management, data center, mining, and telecommunications sectors, among others. He also has experience with hydrofluorocarbon regulations under the AIM Act, PFAS-related issues, building energy performance standards, as well as a deep knowledge of air and oil and gas enforcement programs.

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Logan Harrell | General Counsel & Director of Regulatory Affairs, Texas Chemistry Council

Logan provides strategic guidance on environmental, health, and safety requirements, including air, water, and waste regulations, and works closely with chemical industry members to navigate complex and evolving regulatory frameworks. He represents members before state agencies and the Texas Legislature on issues affecting chemical manufacturing, environmental compliance, and operations.

Prior to TCC, Logan served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Protection Division of the Texas Attorney General. As Assistant Attorney General, he managed environmental enforcement cases and represented TCEQ in environmental enforcement actions and in legal challenges to EPA rules.