

Wyatt Gregory Sassman

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Research Interests

Environmental justice, water law, federal courts.

Experience

2018 – present	University of Denver, Sturm College of Law Assistant Professor of Law Course: Environmental Law Clinic & Seminar
2016 – 2018	Georgetown University Law Center Clinical Teaching Fellow
2014 – 2016	Southern Environmental Law Center Associate Attorney
2013 – 2014	U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit Law clerk to Judge Gilbert S. Merritt, Jr.

Education

2018	LL.M.	Georgetown University Law Center (expected <i>with distinction</i>)
2013	J.D.	Vanderbilt University Law School <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bennett Douglas Bell Memorial Award (awarded by faculty for commitment to public-interest law)• Executive Editor, Environmental Law & Policy Annual Review• Research assistant to J.B. Ruhl
2010	B.A.	Vanderbilt University (<i>magna cum laude</i> , Political Science)

Publications

Journal Articles

Cases as Fictions: Clinical Methods in Teaching and Scholarship

4 SAVANNAH L. REV. 95 (2017) (symposium on American Legal Fictions).

A Survey of Constitutional Standing in State Courts

8 KY. J. EQUINE, AGRIC. & NAT. RESOURCES L. 349 (2016), featured on [Legal Theory Blog](#), June 6, 2017.

Applying Originalism

63 UCLA L. REV. DISC. 154 (2015), featured on [The Originalism Blog](#), Feb. 4, 2016.

Environmental Justice as Civil Rights

18 RICH. J. L. & PUB. INT. 441 (2015).

The Grass is Always Greener: Keystone XL, Transboundary Harms, and Guidelines for Cooperative Environmental Assessment,

45 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 1489 (2012) (note).

Book Chapter

Energy and Climate Change (with James Blanding Holman, VI) in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN SOUTH CAROLINA (Wyche & Finklea eds., 3d ed. 2016).

Reviews and Shorter Work

Excavating Congress's Relationship to the Administrative State, JOTWELL (July 25, 2018) (reviewing Maggie McKinley, *Petitioning and the Making of the Administrative State*, 127 YALE L.J. 1538 (2018)).

On Being Mostly Right, JOTWELL (March 3, 2016) (reviewing Samuel Bray, *The Supreme Court and the New Equity*, 68 VAND. L. REV. 997 (2015)), featured on [PrawfsBlawg](#), March 3, 2016.

Administrative Compliance Orders and Due Process After Sackett, TENN. B. ASS'N ENVTL. L. SEC. NEWSL. (July 2013) (Winner of 2013 Jon E. Hastings Memorial Award for writing in environmental law) ([link](#)).

Presentations

1. 7th Annual Southern Clinical Conference, LSU Law Center, "How Circuits Can Fix Their Splits," Baton Rouge, 2017
2. Northwestern School of Law, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Public Interest Practicum, 2016
3. Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment, Ocean Policy Work Group, "Coastal Conversations," Charleston, 2016
4. Charleston School of Law, Eighth Law & Society Symposium, "The Law of Energy," Charleston, 2016
5. UCL Laws Postgraduate and Early Careers Conference, "The Relationship Between Law and Environmental Science," London, 2014

Admissions

Colorado, District of Columbia, South Carolina (inactive), Texas

United States Supreme Court

United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, and District of Columbia Circuits

United States District Courts for the Districts of Colorado and Columbia

Representative Litigation

With Georgetown Law Appellate Courts Immersion Clinic (2016 - 2018)

Cirocco v. McMabon, No. 18-1096 (10th Cir.)

Federal-sector Title VII case, asking whether exhaustion of administrative remedies is a jurisdictional requirement, among other things.

United States v. Mitchell, Nos. 17-5904/17-5905/17-5906 (6th Cir.)

CJA appointment defending grant of habeas relief from government appeal and cross-appealing district court's decision to impose supervised release after the defendant overserved his statutory maximum sentence by over 7 years.

Jones v. Medtronic, No. 15-15653 (9th Cir.)

Pro bono appointment to federal-preemption case, asking whether federal regulation preempts state-law claims based on a medical device manufacturer's promotion of unapproved, or "off-label," uses of its products.

Alvarez v. City of Brownsville, No. 16-40772 (5th Cir.) (en banc)

Section 1983 case, asking whether due process under *Brady v. Maryland* requires the government to disclose exculpatory evidence when negotiating a plea agreement.

Lockwood, Andrews & Newman v. Mason, No. 16-1092, cert. denied 137 S.Ct. 2242 (2017)

Supervised clinic students who assisted small plaintiffs' firm in drafting brief opposing certiorari in a Class Action Fairness Act case arising out of the Flint water crisis.

General Motors v. Elliott, No. 16-764, cert. denied 137 S.Ct. 1813 (2017)

Supervised clinic students who assisted Georgetown Law professor Gary Peller in drafting brief opposing certiorari on complex due process issues stemming from GM's "Great Recession" bankruptcy.

Advocate Health Care Network v. Stapleton, 137 S.Ct. 1652 (2017)

Merits-stage amicus brief on behalf of National Employment Lawyers Association in case about whether ERISA plans maintained, but not established, by certain church affiliates are exempt from ERISA's protections for retirees.

Lyons v. Johns Hopkins Hospital, 712 Fed. Appx. 287 (4th Cir. 2017) (argued)

Americans with Disabilities Act case, asking whether a disabled social worker is excluded from the protection of the ADA under the statutory exception for "current drug users," among other things.

Andrew F. v. Douglas County School District, 137 S.Ct. 988 (2017)

Merits briefing in an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act case, deciding what the statutory guarantee of a "free and appropriate education" requires.

With Southern Environmental Law Center (2014 - 2016)

Congaree Riverkeeper v. Carolina Water Services, 248 F. Supp. 3d 733 (D.S.C. 2017)

Clean Water Act citizen suit against a privately-owned wastewater treatment facility resulting in a permanent injunction prohibiting any discharge into the river and over \$1.5 million in civil penalties.

Preservation Soc'y v. S.C. Dept. of Health & Envtl. Control, 2017 WL 4838490 (S.C. Ct. App. 2017)

State wetlands permitting case, appealing state administrative law court decision on standing.

S.C. Coastal Conservation League v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 789 F.3d 475 (4th Cir. 2015)

Federal wetlands permitting case, appealing district court's decision on standing and mootness.