

Michael Traynham

SPECIAL COUNSEL

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Practices

Real Estate Law

Environmental Law

Industries

Agribusiness

Education

- University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 2007, *Cum Laude*
 - Carolina Legal Scholar - Order of the Wig and Robe - Fall 2006
 - South Carolina Law Review 2005-2006; Research Editor 2006-2007
 - Research Assistant, Academic Year 2006-2007
 - Recipient, Cali Award (American Jurisprudence) Contracts - Fall, 2004
- University of South Carolina, Honors College, B.S., 2004, *Magna Cum Laude*

Michael Traynham is an experienced environmental law attorney based in the firm's Columbia, South Carolina office. As a member of the Real Estate & Environmental practice group, he brings his trial experience and comprehensive knowledge on a wide variety of South Carolina environmental issues when advising his clients.

Prior to joining Nexsen Pruet, Michael worked for Fort Jackson as an in-house Environmental Law Attorney. There he advised the installation's Department of Public Works on numerous environmental issues, including groundwater, dam safety, hazardous waste management, and NEPA compliance. Michael also previously served as Chief Counsel for Environmental Quality Control at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. His responsibilities included overseeing legal services for the Bureau of Water, Bureau of Air Quality, and Bureau of Land and Waste Management, as well as advising agency staff on environmental permitting and enforcement issues affecting the State of South Carolina.

Michael received his B.S. from the University of South Carolina Honors College and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. While in Law School, Michael served as a research editor for the South Carolina Law Review, as Vice President of the Christian Legal Society, and worked as both a Guardian ad Litem for Richland County and as a Faculty Research Assistant.

- Palmetto Fellows 2000-2004
- Carolina Scholars Finalist 2000-2004

Admissions

- South Carolina
- North Carolina

Michael previously served as a Law Clerk to Nexsen Pruet in the summer of 2005.

Recognitions

- ABA Seer Leadership Development Program: 2019-2020
- DHEC Leap Program: 2016-2017
- Board Member of the Year, Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands-2016

Community & Professional

- SC Bar Environmental & Natural Resource Section, Council Member: 2018-present
- Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands (STSM), Board Member: 2014-2020
 - Committee Chair, Board Development Committee; Member, Finance Committee; Board Secretary; At-large Member, Executive Committee
- SC Bar Environmental & Natural Resource Section, Council Member: 2018-present
- SC Bar Administrative and Regulatory Law Committee: 2018-2019
- SC Bar Judicial Qualification Committee: 2017-2018

Publications:

- Author- The Shape of the Water (Law): The Evolving Regulation of Surface Water in South Carolina, American Bar Association, Water Resource Committee Newsletter, October 2, 2018.
- Author - What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about Investment Fraud, S. C. Young Lawyers, August 2011.
- Acknowledgement/Research Assistant- Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts (Update, Incorporating Release No. 12), Jonathan G. Blattmachr, F. Ladson Boyle, Arthur M. Michaelson, Practising Law Institute, New York City December 2006).

Presentations:

- *Sales and Use Tax in South Carolina*, CLE, November 7, 2013, Columbia, SC.

- *Natural Resources and Environmental Law Seminar (SCAG)* August 22, 2014, Columbia SC.
- *2016 Governmental Law Section Mid-Year Update - Hot Topics with DHEC* (Panel - presented DHEC Case Update), June 17, 2016 Columbia, SC.
- *Quarterly OSWW Training - Legal Process*, June 29, 2016 Blythewood, SC.
- *STSM Cultivation Presentation*
 - August 10, 2016 - Forest Acres Rotary Club.
 - September 4, 2018 - Saint Andrews Rotary Club.
- *DHEC CLE: What is Effective Regulation?; Overview of the Regulatory Promulgation Process*, October 28, 2016 Columbia, SC.
- *Dams in Post Flood South Carolina*; Environmental & Natural Resources Section CLE, SC Bar Convention 2017 - January 19, 2017 Greenville SC.
- *OGC Overview - Common Legal Issues Within DHEC*, Compliance and Enforcement Meeting (DHEC Internal) - April 26, 2017 Columbia, SC.
- *Competing for SC's Water Resources* (panel discussion); Env. & Natural Resources Section CLE, SC Bar convention 2018 - January 18, 2018, Kiawah Island, SC.
- *Hot Topics in Agriculture*; Farm Bureau Annual Conference, November 30, 2018, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- *Standing: Not as Easy as it Looks*; (co-presented with Dawn Miller) Env. & Natrual Resources Section CLE, SC Bar Convention 2019 - January 17, 2019, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- *DHEC Tonight!*; SCAARLA 2019, February 1, 2019 Columbia, SC
- *Environmental Update* (co-presented with Elizabeth Dieck); Government Law Section, May 3, 2019, Columbia SC.
- *Environmental Law for ECOS*, (training offered monthly to new environmental compliance officers at Fort Jackson).

News

12.02.2020 | Media Mention

Michael Traynham Discusses Environmental Law in The South Carolina Bar

02.18.2020 | News from Nexsen Pruet

Nexsen Pruet Welcomes Michael Traynham

Speaking Engagements

11.05.2021 | WebEx

Nexsen Pruet's 20th Annual In-House Counsel Ethics Seminar

Insights

05.27.2022 | Article

Court of Appeals Upends Agricultural Permitting in South Carolina

10.19.2021 | Article

EPA's New PFAS Strategic Roadmap Could Present Potholes for the Unprepared

09.30.2021 | Article

WOTUS Whack-a-Mole: What Definition Applies This Week?

06.01.2021 | Article

Is the Answer to Emerging Housing Crisis an Environmental FastPass?

04.23.2021 | Article

New Bill Would Require National PFAS Standards Within Two Years

02.22.2021 | Article

EPA Turns 50: Looking Back to Look Forward

01.25.2021 | Article

The First 100 Hours: The Biden White House Begins Environmental Push

01.22.2021 | Article

Florida Environmentalist Bruised in Supreme Court SLAPP Fight

01.04.2021 | Article

New Year, New Penalties from EPA

12.17.2020

EPA to Implement Consistent Economic Analysis for New Clean Air Act Rules

12.11.2020

EPA Drafts Guidance on County of Maui's "Functional Equivalent" Test

11.09.2020

The Environment 2024: Prognostications on Environmental Regulation in the Biden Era

10.15.2020

EPA Relaxes Policy on Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Emissions Standards

09.22.2020

City of Charleston, State of Connecticut Among Latest to File Climate Suits

09.16.2020

Environmental Compliance in the Time of COVID

08.12.2020

In the Midst of Suit to Void NWP-12, Army Corps of Engineers Proposes Reissuance of Nationwide Permits

08.05.2020

In the Absence of Federal Standards, States Step in to Regulate PFAS

07.17.2020

Updated NEPA Regulations Issued, Likely to be Challenged

07.07.2020

Already? Conflicting Rulings on 2020 WOTUS Rule

07.02.2020

EPA to Terminate Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy

06.08.2020

EPA Limits State Authority in New 401 Certification Final Rule

05.15.2020

Nationwide Permit Injunction Limited in Scope. For Now.

05.08.2020

The Coming Wave of NWP-12 Litigation

05.04.2020

2020 WOTUS Rule Misses the Goldilocks Zone. But is it Too Hot or Too Cold?

04.23.2020

Supreme Court Rules Clean Water Act Protections Can Extend to Groundwater; Creates Conflict with New 2020 WOTUS Rule

03.27.2020

State Regulators Address COVID-19 Related Environmental Compliance Challenges; Create Mailbox for Requests for Regulatory Relief

03.27.2020

Temporary Federal Enforcement Discretion Policy to Respond to COVID-19