

**SEEMA KAKADE (she/her/hers)**

Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Law Clinic  
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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****University of Maryland Francis King Carey School Of Law, Baltimore, Maryland**

Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Law Clinic (2017-present)

**Environmental Law Clinic**

The Environmental Law Clinic provides pro bono legal services to community and non-profit organizations on environmental law matters, with second and third year law students as the primary “staff.” The Clinic as a result, has two goals: (1) serve legal needs of underrepresented groups that otherwise do not have access to lawyers, (2) teach students how to practice public interest focused environmental law. I focus the clinic’s work on serving the needs of communities located in environmental justice areas of Maryland and the greater Mid-Atlantic. The clinic takes on a wide range of legal and policy matters important to environmental justice, including zoning, water and air permitting, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The matters require frequent engagement with the work of all three branches of government at local, state, and federal levels. I also lecture weekly to in the Clinic class seminar, on topics related to environmental justice and community based lawyering.

**Associate Professor**

My areas of research and writing include implementation, compliance, and enforcement of environmental law. I also serve on several committees as part of the faculty, including the admissions and appointments committee.

**United States Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC**

Attorney-Advisor, US EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (2008-2017)

**Representative List of USEPA Matters:**

- Worked as EPA staff team lead for two parts of settlement in the Clean Air Act case, *In Re: Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*: the \$2.7 billion mitigation requirement and the \$2.0 billion zero emission vehicle investment.
- Managed Clean Air Act enforcement cases for the coal-fired power plant sector.
- Co-lead for vessel marine enforcement program under the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships.
- Acted as lead counsel for dispute resolution matter in cement plant consent decree.
- Provided expertise on electricity reliability and energy efficiency in rulemakings such as the Clean Power Plan and utility mercury and air toxic standards.
- Participated in legal aspects of large-scale office records management, including electronic discovery, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits, complying with Confidential Business Information (CBI) regulations, and civil discovery protective orders.

**United States Department of Energy, Washington D.C.**

Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel-Environmental Law (2005 – 2008)

**Representative List of USDOE Matters:**

- Worked as environmental counsel for issuance of Presidential permits required for international cross-border electric transmission lines. Representative example includes compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a transmission line across the Montana/Alberta border for proposed use by wind farms.
- Acted as lead environmental attorney on issue of first impression regarding Department’s use of emergency authority to restart a coal-fired power plant critical for electricity reliability that closed due to Clean Air Act non-compliance, *See Mirant Potomac River: DOE Case OE-05-01*.

- Counseled program office on Section 1221 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, Siting of Electric Transmission Facilities, including first National Electric Transmission Congestion Study.
- Negotiated and drafted Memorandum of Understanding with other federal agencies regarding coordination in permitting and siting of electric transmission lines on federal lands.
- Advised senior leadership on potential carbon dioxide regulation.

**The Environmental Law Institute**, Washington, D.C.

Staff Attorney and Co-Director of India Program (2003-2005)

- Secured funding for program to develop and deliver two-part course on environmental law and compliance for small- and medium-sized business in India.
- Participated in multiple large scale research white papers.

**Arnstein & Lehr** (now Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP), Chicago, IL

Litigation Associate, 2002-2003

- Engaged in extensive civil discovery for a hazardous waste case in defense of lead shot pellet recreational gun club.
- Represented condominium association members on landscape contract case.

**EDUCATION**

Undergraduate

1995-1998

B.S. Economics and International Relations, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Juris Doctorate

1999 – 2002

J.D. George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC

Admitted to Maryland Bar, Retired Status with Illinois Bar

**PUBLICATIONS**

Author, *Environmental Enforceability*, forthcoming, New York University Environmental Law Journal, forthcoming, January, 2022

Co-Author, *Revitalizing Greenhouse Gas Permitting inside a Biden EPA*, forthcoming Environmental Law Reporter, May 2021

Co-Author, *Detecting Corporate Environmental Cheating*, 47 Ecology L.Q. 771 (2020)

Author, *Remedial Payments in Agency Enforcement*, 44 Harv. Envtl. L. Rev. 117 (2020)

Chapter Contributor, *An Overview of climate change mitigation in the industrial sector of the United States*, Research Handbook on Climate Change Mitigation Law (2015)

Co-Author, *Climate Change Law: An Introduction*, Energy L.J.1 (2008)

**PRESENTATIONS**

Speaker, Environmental Justice in a Biden Administration, Northern Illinois University Race and the Law Series, Webinar (March 2021)

Panelist, The First 100 Days of the Biden Administration and the Legal Landscape, The Daily Record News, Webinar (February 2021)

Speaker, Introduction to Environmental Justice, 3M Corporation, Webinar (February 2021)

Panelist, EPA's Next Four Years, American College of Environmental Lawyers, Webinar (November 2020)

Panelist, Reimagining Environmental Governance, The Environmental Law Institute Policy Forum, Washington DC (October 2020)

Speaker, Introduction to Environmental Justice, Exelon Corp., Webinar (September 2020)

Panelist, Navigating NEPA 50 Years Later, Dentons law firm NEPA anniversary event, Washington, DC (December, 2019)

Panelist, NYU Law School, Health and Environmental Settlements Project Workshop, New York, NY (March 2019)

Panelist, Emory University the Future of Environmental Law Symposium, “Environmental Law Clinics: The Secret to Saving Our Environment,” Atlanta, GA (January 2019)

Speaker, National Diversity Pre-Law Conference, American University, Washington DC (April 2018)

Speaker, Legal Tools for Advancing Environmental Justice and Public Health, World Justice Forum, The Hague, Netherlands (April 2018)

Speaker, University of Richmond Colloquy Speaker Series, “What is the Harm? Remedies in Clean Air Act Enforcement Cases,” Richmond, VA (September 2018)

Panelist, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, “Using Technology in Enforcement and Compliance of Emission Standards in Shipping,” Glasgow, Scotland (July 2018)

Speaker, Emissions Control Area Enforcement, West Coast Collaborative Private-Public Partnership, Linthicum, Maryland (March 2015)

Panelist, “EPA Information Collection Requests,” Dorsey & Whitney First Annual Federal Enforcement Forum, Washington, DC (February 2014)

## **RECOGNITION**

- 2021 Lawdragon 500 Leading U.S. Environmental and Energy Lawyers
- The Environmental Law Institute “2019 Futures Awardee”
- American Bar Association Best Student Program of the Year (2018)
- EPA Administrator’s Award for Excellence, Volkswagen Team (2017)
- EPA Administrator’s Award for Excellence, Clean Power Plan Team (2016)
- EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Silver Medal for Exceptional Service for Clean Air Act Coal-Fired Utility Team (2013 and 2015)
- EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Silver Medal for Exceptional Service for Marine Emission Control Area Implementation Team (2013)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- American College of Environmental Law Fellow (elected 2019)
- Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Board Member
- Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability, Board Member
- The Environmental Law Institute- Environmental Justice Committee Member
- South Asian Bar Association of Washington DC, Member
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Member