

The Changing Environment for Environmental Law

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Teckla S. Henderson

*Duke Energy Corporation
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

Teckla Henderson is Senior Counsel for Duke Energy's South Carolina regulatory legal team. Her practice includes serving as in-house counsel and representing the utility before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Teckla's previous role included serving as the Director of Executive Affairs and prosecutor for the SC Department of Public Safety. Teckla also prosecuted on behalf of the City of Columbia. She is also a two-time judicial law clerk, first to The Honorable Clifton Newman of the SC Circuit Court and then later for The Honorable Shirley Robinson of the SC Administrative Law Court. Teckla enjoys traveling the world, volunteering her time with the South Carolina Bar, and spending time with her husband, three young children, and brand new Cavapoo puppy, Sonny.

Kelly D.H. Lowry

*Law Firm of Lowry & Assoc., LLC
Spartanburg, SC
(Course Planner)*

Ms. Lowry was fortunate enough to attend Vermont Law School 1993-1996, graduating with a Juris Doctor and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law. After graduation, I worked as an associate at Woodward, Cothran & Herndon in Columbia, S.C. and in November 1996, I accepted a position as in-house counsel at SC DHEC, where my practice focused on USTs, water law, and hazardous waste. After a delightful three years of litigation and counseling, I moved back to Vermont and took a position as Water Program Director and General Counsel for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. While at VNRC, I was responsible for litigation for all VNRC program areas, including the Water Program, Forests and Wildlands, and Sustainable Communities, and I routinely appeared in the Vermont and federal judicial system and in multiple administrative for a, lobbied at the state and federal level, and served as legal counsel to VNRC Board of Directors and to Executive Director. In 2004, I moved back to South Carolina and focused my practice on environmental law and commercial transactions at Johnson Smith law firm in Spartanburg, becoming a partner in 2008.

In 2013, I opened the Law Firm of Lowry and Associates, LLC and continued my focus on environmental law and commercial transactions, including voluntary cleanup contracts, cost recovery, and CERCLA enforcement at the state and federal level. At Lowry and Associates, I currently serve as the court-appointed receiver for the Brewer Gold Company, managing the Brewer gold mine in Jefferson, SC, and as the court-appointed receiver at Cone Mills in Greenville, SC, managing the former industrial facility's path towards redevelopment as a major mixed-use community. I also serve as a director with the Pinewood Trustee, Inc. overseeing post-closure care at the former Pinewood hazardous waste landfill.

Michael S. Traynham

Nexsen Pruet, LLC

Columbia, SC

(Course Planner)

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 is an active member of the Environment and Natural Resource Section and the Administrative and Regulatory Law Committee of the South Carolina Bar.

Bradley Churdar

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Charleston, SC

I received a B.S., Accounting, Bob Jones University, (1986); J.D., University of South Carolina Law School, (1989); and a Diploma from the Army Command and General Staff College, (2008). During Law School I was commissioned as a JAG Officer and served for 21 years both on active duty and in the Army Reserves. During Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom I was mobilized at Fort Carson and Fort Stewart. My primary responsibility was representing Soldiers in courts-martial and administrative separation boards. As Chief Counsel for SCDHEC-OCRM since 2010, I represent the Department in the adjudication of regulatory and permitting decisions arising from the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act. Jurisdictions include Circuit Court, Administrative Law Court, Board of Health and Environmental Control, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court of South Carolina (including numerous published/unpublished opinions from both appellate courts).

The Honorable Ralph K. “Tripp” Anderson, III

SC Administrative Law Court

Columbia, SC

Ralph King Anderson, III (Tripp) was born and raised in Florence, South Carolina. He attended Francis Marion University and graduated cum laude in August 1980 with a Bachelor of Science. He attended the University of South Carolina Law School and was the recipient of the Julius B. Ness Scholarship. He graduated from USC Law School in 1984.

Tripp began his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of South Carolina from 1984 to 1995 where he prosecuted numerous criminal cases of all types and handled a wide variety of civil litigation.

On May 25, 1994, Tripp was elected to Administrative Law Judge Seat No. 6 and re-elected in 1996, 2001 and 2006. On May 13, 2009, he was elected Chief Administrative Law Judge and was re-elected to that position in 2014 and 2019.

Tripp has spoken numerous times at SCAARLA Seminars, CLE's, and USC School of Law on administrative law issues.

Tripp is married to Linda Corley Anderson and lives in Columbia, South Carolina.

Leslie Lenhardt

SC Environmental Law Project

Pawley's Island, SC

Leslie started working at SCELPA in 2019. She graduated from the University of the South and earned her J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. She has over 20 years of legal experience and previously worked in private practice with a focus on environmental and administrative litigation. Leslie lives in Charleston with her husband Cody and three children, Bratton, Cody and Mac.

She is a Board member for the SC Administrative and Regulatory Law Association (SCAARLA)

Mary Shahid

Maynard Nexsen

Charleston, SC

Mary Shahid has represented landowners, utilities, real estate developers, local government, industry, manufacturers, and technology firms in all permitting and compliance issues arising from the regulations implemented by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Her experience in environmental programs began with ten years of service to the coastal division of SCDHEC, where she was Chief Counsel and advised several regulatory programs. Her knowledge and experience in environmental permitting projects include NPDES permitting, coastal permitting, water quality certifications, coastal zone consistency certifications, mining, solid waste, groundwater, surface water, stormwater, and wetland impacts. In addition to environmental permitting, she has had success in multiple land-use matters before governing boards of private communities and public commissions. For three decades, her focus has been environmental and land use permitting. She guides client from conceptual phases through permitting and, if necessary, through administrative or civil challenges to development approvals and permits.

Mary is a member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. She enjoys reading, boating, sitting on her back porch with her dogs, and time spent with her three adult children, their significant others, and her granddaughter.

Community & Professional
SC Bar Environmental Regulatory Committee and Governing Counsel
SC Women's Law Association
SC Administrative and Regulatory Law Association
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach, Board Member

Amy Armstrong
SC Environmental Law Project
Pawley's Island, SC

Amy Armstrong, Executive Director and General Counsel, started working for SCELPA in September, 2002, after receiving a competitive two year fellowship from Equal Justice Works, formerly the National Association of Public Interest Law. Once her fellowship ended, she became a staff attorney at SCELPA, a position she held for over eight years until the untimely death of SCELPA's founder, Jimmy Chandler. Amy graduated from University of South Carolina in May, 2002, with a Juris Doctor and Master's in Earth and Environmental Resource Management. She currently serves on the Coastal Community Foundation and Bunnelle Foundation boards. She is also a Liberty Fellow and now serves as a municipal court judge for the City of Georgetown.

Amy received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan in 1992. Before attending law school, she worked with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, managing a population of federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. She grew up in Columbia and now lives in Pawleys Island with her dog, Rufus. She enjoys kayaking, painting, birding, playing the piano, cooking, and reading on the beach.