

Bernice I. (Bicky) Corman - Partner, Venable LLP

A partner in Venable's Environmental Law Practice Group, Bicky Corman has nearly three decades of experience in all aspects of environmental law, litigation, and policy. Throughout her career, a wide range of stakeholders have sought her assistance in crafting thoughtful resolutions to emerging and complex issues, such as optimal strategies for encouraging use of privately developed standards, driving innovation, and facilitating stakeholders' achievement of their own sustainability objectives.

Most recently, Ms. Corman served as the Presidentially-appointed Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In that position, she supervised the provision of legal counsel by EPA's Washington, DC headquarters and 10 regional law offices on matters pertaining to hazardous wastes, chemical safety, and site remediation and on cross-cutting issues, including international, tribal, civil rights, and NEPA. In particular, she provided crucial legal advice on matters such as EPA's recent determination to treat the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming as a state for purposes of administering certain Clean Air Act authorities; issues arising in free trade negotiations; EPA's litigation and resolution of civil rights complaints; and EPA's authorities to respond to chemical spills and releases. At the same time, Ms. Corman also served as Senior Sustainability Advisor to the Administrator. In that capacity, her leadership paved the way for EPA's recent actions to embed sustainability in its core policies and programs, including its establishing sustainability as a cross-agency objective in EPA's 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan. During her tenure at EPA, Ms. Corman represented the U.S. as head of delegation at a conference hosted by China's Ministry of the Environment, and as a representative of U.S. EPA at Rio + 20, where she discussed stakeholder and environmental opportunities in green chemistry, and in public procurement.

Ms. Corman has strong ties to the Washington, DC community from her time as General Counsel and Acting Interim Director to the District of Columbia Department of the Environment. Ms. Corman created the District's first environmental law office, supervising development of, or herself authoring, regulations implementing the District's \$.05 bag tax, an opinion concerning federal agency liability for stormwater fees, provisions of laws establishing the District's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance mechanism, and regulations implementing the District's green building requirements. Ms. Corman obtained the District's first 8-figure settlement in a case involving discharges into the Anacostia River, as well as a settlement yielding commitments to provide contaminant mitigation systems in Ward 4 homes and schools. Ms. Corman filed the District's first environmental case against a federal agency in federal district court, and first three environmental actions in DC Superior Court; and created the District's hazardous waste cleanup program. Ms. Corman and her office also provided legal counsel to the Director on general law matters, including contracts, real estate transactions, personnel, and budget matters.

Ms. Corman also spent over a decade as a trial attorney in the Justice Department's Environment & Natural Resources Division managing complex civil litigation in U.S. District Courts concerning hazardous waste, water quality, air quality, toxic substances, and natural resource damages. She litigated matters involving EPA's authority to favorably settle the liability of small quantity generators of municipal solid waste, the reach of RCRA's Bevill exclusion, and states' ability to modify Clean Water Act discharge permits. She played a significant role in the United

States' litigation against the District's water and sewer authority, which ultimately led to a \$2 billion commitment to control untreated sewage discharges.

Ms. Corman began her career at the EPA as an Assistant Regional Counsel in the agency's New York office, enforcing environmental laws administratively, and developing cases for litigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. Her efforts led to favorable results of first impression, including the first judicial construction of CERCLA's "on-site" permitting exemption, the development of a successful argument regarding the indivisibility of investigative costs under CERCLA, and several settlements at multi-party sites, yielding cleanups valued in the tens of millions, and commitments to restore damaged natural resources. Ms. Corman later served as a Staff Attorney for the EPA's Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, representing the agency before other federal agencies, Hill staff, and stakeholders in discussions concerning legislative and administrative reform of CERCLA, and RCRA's Remediation Waste scheme.

Ms. Corman has also spent time on Capitol Hill working for former Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), staffing his work as ranking member of the Environment & Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Hazardous Wastes.