



Environment, Health and Safety

The experienced lawyers of DLA Piper's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) practice design innovative and practical solutions to complex problems that arise from the laws and policies governing environmental protection, energy, natural resources, health and safety at work, and product safety. We are one of the largest teams of EHS lawyers across the globe. DLA Piper lawyers anticipate, track and find solutions to the traditional, ever-changing and emerging environment, health and safety issues that concern local, national and international businesses.

EHS compliance is vital in any business. Non-compliance with regulatory requirements and failure to address potential liabilities both carry increasing financial risks for all companies. Additionally, good safety management is not only important for business image, but is often a condition for obtaining both public and private sector contracts.

DLA Piper offers leading advisory practitioners and litigators throughout the world who work as an integrated team to represent clients' interests in rulemaking proceedings and challenges to regulations; defend in complex and costly EHS litigation and enforcement actions; evaluate and negotiate EHS issues in business transactions; and provide guidance on compliance with EHS regulations.

CAPABILITES

Counseling and Advocacy

DLA Piper lawyers have played, and continue to play, a major role in shaping modern EHS law, participating in rulemakings, enforcement litigation and advocacy. Our lawyers apply our accumulated knowledge to provide timely counseling and representation on existing and proposed regulatory obligations. We also deploy our skills to track emerging EHS issues that are important to our clients.

Our expansive EHS counseling practice offers clients solutions in traditional issues of air, water, toxics, waste management, and employee safety as well as emerging EHS issues that are important to our clients, such as fracking, carbon trading, and climate change.

Our team works with clients to ensure they are aware of developments in health and safety, product safety, environmental law and the regulatory environment including implications of forthcoming legislation and the regulations. We have a proven track record and experience in reviewing and drafting compliance policies and procedures and in developing compliance programs tailored to industry and company needs. These are designed to inform, instruct and embed in all employees the complexities of governing laws, particular compliance vulnerabilities and the value of ethical behavior.

We also assist clients in protecting their commercial interests by influencing new policies and regulations emanating from national and

Gwen Keyes Fleming

Sócia
Washington, DC
T:+1 202 799 4419
gwen.keyesfleming@dlapiper.com

George Gigounas

Sócio
San Francisco
T:+1 415 615 6005
george.gigounas@dlapiper.com

Teresa Hitchcock

Sócia
Sheffield
T:+44 (0)114 283 3302
teresa.hitchcock@dlapiper.com

subnational governments, including advising on the implementation of legislation. We regularly advise clients on applications for operating permits, premises licenses, and other required authorizations, including those required under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and RCRA in the United States, and under the Licensing Act 2003 in the United Kingdom and other licenses pursuant to the Gambling Act 2005.

Enforcement Defence and Litigation

Litigation prevention is a key component of DLA Piper's counselling practice to help our clients anticipate and avoid liability. When disputes arise, our experienced litigators in the EHS practice can vigorously defend clients in high-stakes, complex litigation arising under EHS laws in jurisdictions throughout the world. Our lawyers collaborate with clients and counterparts to identify and execute the most advantageous business-oriented solutions, either by pursuing or defending litigation or arbitration proceedings or through alternative methods, such as mediation.

We have participated in several high-profile court challenges to significant environmental rulemakings and other final agency actions. We also represented the principal defendant in the massive Love Canal litigation in the U.S., the largest and one of the longest Superfund cases on record. We helped secure the reversal of a US\$1.65 billion jury verdict against ExxonMobil in the Maryland Court of Appeals. Our attorneys have substantial experience at Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, RCRA and Superfund cases throughout the U.S.

Transactions

The depth of our transactional and site remediation experience enhances our ability to service clients across industries. Our lawyers represent investors, buyers, sellers, and lenders on EHS issues arising from the transfer and financing of businesses and real estate around the globe. We perform EHS diligence and negotiate the allocation of EHS liabilities for clients seeking to acquire properties and businesses, for clients offering properties or businesses for sale, and for lenders underwriting loans or engaging in workouts with their borrowers.

Our experience includes cross-border transactions for the acquisition of manufacturing businesses in a wide range of industries; the disposition of retail gasoline stations in various markets across the country; and the acquisition, financing, development, and redevelopment of commercial and residential properties, both individually and as portfolios.

Investigations and Audits

As one of the few international law firms with a dedicated global EHS team, DLA Piper lawyers are capable of dealing with both regulatory investigations and enforcement of EHS laws and regulations around the world. Our experience includes handling all types of regulatory investigations, managing internal and external EHS compliance audits, and preparing for compliance management programs ranging from single-issue audits and programs to multi-media audits and programs encompassing all aspects of environment, health, and safety.

Our team comprises experienced investigators, experienced criminal defence lawyers and former regulators. We assist clients with self-notification issues, responses to supervisory and investigations by the enforcement division of regulatory bodies, and appearing before the various regulatory authorities when action is taken.

Climate Change

DLA Piper is a leader in the field of climate change, providing a strong foundation to manage our client's present and future climate change needs in any country. Our multilingual, multidisciplinary group delivers climate change advice in commentary practice areas, including energy, projects and finance, commercial, real estate, environmental, regulatory and government affairs, insurance, investment funds, corporate, mergers and acquisitions and tax law.

Our attorneys have substantial experience addressing our client's climate-related needs across a variety of projects, sectors, and institutions. Our experience includes the following representative matters:

- Advise on climate change legislation and energy efficiency measures such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme, Climate Change Agreements and the EU Emission Trading Scheme.
- Provide advocacy, counseling and transactional support to help clients navigate the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, California's AB32 cap-and-trade program, voluntary carbon markets, and other national and sub-national initiatives.
- Advise clients and negotiate transactions for carbon credits in compliance and voluntary markets.
- Counsel clients in the emergent area of climate legal risk and advise on the assessment and management of corporate climate legal risk through identification of the climate change risks, identification of the relevant regulatory frameworks that impose legal obligations related to climate change risk, and development and implementation of strategies for dealing with those legal obligations.
- Work closely with our clients to develop strategic climate plans, identify carbon burden, risks and opportunities and prepare companies

for integration into a carbon-constrained world.

- Advocate on behalf of clients interests before international climate change and ozone conferences.
- Represent countries at international climate negotiations.

Crisis Management

DLA Piper is well placed to help our clients manage the immediate pressures of a crisis situation. Our 'Rapid Response', global crisis management hotline service, provides our clients with 24-hour, 365-day access to regulatory legal advice and crises assistance. Our extensive experience includes defending raids conducted by different regulators and investigating authorities and controlling major industrial hazards (COMAH legislation). Many of our staff have practical experience of various raid situations, having worked for the various regulators and investigating authorities. Our lawyers understand the appropriate balance between cooperating with the investigators while safeguarding the client's legitimate interests. The DLA Piper team has been involved in responding to raids by regulators including the European Commission, Office of Fair Trading, Serious Fraud Office and HM Revenue and Customs. Our attorneys in the US have also counseled clients to immediately correct alleged environmental law violations and successfully petitioned the EPA under its Audit Policy, thereby avoiding subsequent liability.

EXPERIENCE

- Representation of a major oil company defendant in mass tort actions involving hundreds of plaintiff properties allegedly contaminated by a 26,000-gallon underground piping leak. The Maryland Court of Appeals reversed virtually all damages awards. Cases resulted in landmark rulings on fraud, emotional distress, medical monitoring, and nature of property damages in environmental cases.
- Representation of a major oil company in lawsuits involving multiple retail service stations. Claims were asserted under California Proposition 65, California Fish & Game Code, and California Business & Professions Code Section 17200
- Representation of an oil company in CERCLA and Polanco Act lawsuits involving distribution terminals and retail facilities
- Representation of major power producing companies on permitting, planning, government relations, government initiatives, and potential litigation associated with climate change matters.
- Representation of electric utility companies before public service commissions and regulatory agencies to obtain approval for the construction and siting of natural gas, nuclear, coal, and renewable energy-powered electric-generating facilities.
- Representation of paper manufacturer in the privatization of a municipal solid waste management facility.
- Negotiating a remediation strategy for a large portfolio of filling stations, many of which were contaminated.
- Negotiating with the UK Government on behalf of a major industry sector on the terms and conditions of an energy tax rebate, to be given in return for accepting emissions reductions targets.
- Advising a multinational company on a creative regeneration project for the site of a former large process chemical plant.
- Defending chemical company in an enforcement action concerning discharges to publicly owned treatment works
- Defending a power company in response to alleged Clean Water Act violations at three sites in Maryland, and negotiating a global settlement with regulators and citizen interveners.
- Advising on emission reduction purchase and project development agreements between parties for the development of a range of landfill projects in South Africa.
- Representation of championship golf course owners in the permitting of the course, including wetlands and discharge matters.
- Representation of a large fuel terminal facility in connection with all environmental permitting, including Clean Air Act (Title V) permitting
- Representation of an international chemical company on shale gas development matters.
- Advising on a corporate manslaughter investigation arising from a fatal accident of an employee at a plant decommissioning service.
- Representation of a NASDAQ-listed-South African based technology company that is the subject of a joint investigation regarding allegations of bribery and corruption by the SEC and DOJ into potential violations of the FCPA and securities laws.
- Defence of investigations under Corporate Manslaughter & Health and Safety legislation following the death of a worker crushed by a 70 tonne forging.
- Advising in relation to a major fire at a fuel depot and an explosion at an oil refinery, both major environmental and health and safety incidents.
- Conducting a strategic health and safety review for a major industrial multinational company.

Publicações

EPA's new ultralow PFAS health advisory levels portend regulatory and litigation risks – but do not overextend them

29 June 2022

There is much more to come in PFAS regulation; in the context of liability risk, it is critical to analyze HALs for what they are – and what they are *not*.

The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference outcomes

24 June 2022

DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS

It has been almost five years since the eleventh Ministerial Conference due to delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Expectations were low but the stakes were high.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

21 June 2022

FOOD AND BEVERAGE NEWS AND TRENDS

Bill seeks to tighten FDA regulation of GRAS; court rules California pesticide-spraying program is unlawful; Canada seeks comment on labels for foods sold via ecommerce.

California and New York propose banning textiles containing PFAS; California moves to impose significant reporting obligations

13 June 2022

Prudent manufacturers of consumer products will continue to monitor the changing legislative landscape.

Former BIO CEO Jim Greenwood: 1 million dead, \$16 trillion in losses is our wake-up call on pandemic preparedness

7 June 2022

While biological events may be inevitable, their level of impact on our country is not.

Environmental justice takes a permanent place at the Department of Justice

12 May 2022

Companies with environmental interests should consider several dynamics arising from these policy developments and resource allocations.

California Attorney General subpoena – latest development in legal efforts targeting plastics

11 May 2022

The intensified regulatory focus on plastics is gaining traction across the US.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

6 May 2022

HHS moves against menthol in tobacco, Canada seeks to strengthen food system through digital food hub, plus caramels, Kansas, Closer to Zero.

California considers restricting secret settlements in cases involving allegedly defective products, harmful environmental conditions

13 April 2022

If signed into law, the bill would impact defendants and defense attorneys in matters involving product liability or environmental claims.

SEC proposes mandatory climate-related disclosure and governance rules

21 March 2022

The SEC's latest effort to advance the Biden Administration's climate agenda.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

11 March 2022

[FOOD AND BEVERAGE NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

EPA revokes tolerances for chlorpyrifos; Russia-Ukraine crisis and the global food supply; can hydroponic crops ever be organic?

The beginning of the end: FDA details roadmap to terminating COVID-19 EUAs and enforcement policies for medical devices, PPE

2 March 2022

The webinar sought to prepare stakeholders for the upcoming transition back to normal operations by describing its expectations for the industry over the 180-day transition period.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

25 February 2022

[FOOD AND BEVERAGE NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

H5N1 avian flu appears on US poultry farms; Mexican avocado ban lifted; Senate confirms Califf as new FDA chief.

Looking to verify your energy project to generate carbon credits? Understanding two popular verification registries

18 February 2022

A summary of VERRA and Gold Standard.

The WTO and Green Trade: Global solutions to solve a global problem

11 January 2022

DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS

The WTO have announced three new environmental initiatives. The initiatives provide dedicated forums where businesses can discuss with international stakeholders and decision-makers. Allowing parties to come together to find creative legal, regulatory and public policy solutions to global environmental challenges.

New California law adds significant restrictions for recycling claims on products and packaging: action steps

6 January 2022

The law affects any product or packaging that fails to meet a California regulator's strict recyclability criteria. Compliance is crucial.

California Proposition 65: OEHHA modifies its proposed changes to popular short-form warning – key points

16 December 2021

OEHHA is arguably creating just another long-form warning which will effectively be imposed on thousands of products that had been permitted to use short-form warnings.

California regulations on diverting organic waste go into effect January 1: new rules affect municipalities and food sector, bring opportunities for composting and biofuel businesses

16 December 2021

As more regulations implementing SB 1383 come into effect in the coming years, the demand for permissible ways to dispose of organic waste will only increase.

A summary: the CFTC position limits compliance deadline of January 2022

21 October 2021

Changes to the definition of a "bona fide hedging transaction or position."

Five issues to watch for at COP26 in Glasgow

12 October 2021

Hopes had already been high for COP26 even before the pandemic paused it. The pent-up potential has only heightened those expectations.

New California law threatens to dramatically increase pain-and-suffering damages in survival actions

7 October 2021

Considerations in approaching case valuations and risk assessments in survival actions brought in California.

ASTM E1527 to clarify PFAS risks for commercial real estate purchasers and lenders

5 October 2021

Considered the gold standard for environmental due diligence, ASTM E1527 is relied on by prospective purchasers of real property who are seeking protection from CERCLA liability for pre-existing contamination.

Biden Administration works to expand US offshore wind market

28 September 2021

The federal government moves forward assertively with an expanded leasing program aiming to double offshore wind production by 2030. Meanwhile, some states are acting too.

As California aims to achieve carbon neutrality, CARB is updating the Scoping Plan: stakeholders may take part in the September 30 workshop

27 September 2021

An opportunity to engage with California's strategic approach to addressing climate change.

Commodities News and Trends

20 September 2021

COMMODITIES NEWS AND TRENDS

Brazil and Argentina lead the way in biofuels; CFTC: we will support transition to a low-carbon economy; is the end in sight for the shale-driven pipeline building boom?

By any standard? Meeting sustainability commitments through credible carbon markets

13 September 2021

Operating in today's evolving voluntary carbon trading ecosystem.

Competition and sustainability: the need for further guidance on legitimate cooperation

7 September 2021

ANTITRUST MATTERS

Climate change is one of the most important priorities facing the international community. The increased focus on environmental concerns has incentivized companies to pursue sustainability initiatives. In many instances, cross-industry collaboration is important for such initiatives to succeed.

Understanding California's South Coast AQMD Warehouse Indirect Source Rule – key points for warehouse owners, operators and tenants

30 June 2021

Implementing the rule may prove challenging to owners, operators and tenants of warehouse facilities.

Winter Storm Uri: New Texas legislation aims to improve power grid, restructure the grid's overseeing agency

15 June 2021

The legislation responds to calls for sweeping change to the power infrastructure in Texas.

NHTSA moves to repeal regulatory preemption of state auto emissions regulation, advancing Biden plans to dramatically reduce US greenhouse gas emissions

19 May 2021

The move is a substantial step away from Trump Administration policies on GHG emissions.

California mulls new standards for post-consumer plastic in thermoforms – proposed penalties may be severe

28 April 2021

Producers would be required to show they are including higher thresholds of post-consumer recycled plastic in thermoform plastic containers manufactured to contain fresh foods.

Chicago City Council adopts Industrial Air Quality and Zoning Ordinance

24 March 2021

[CHICAGO LAND USE NEWS SERIES](#)

Its oversight is vested in the City departments of Planning and Development, Transportation, and Public Health.

Biden Administration's ambitious climate agenda starts now

22 January 2021

President Biden has kicked off his whole-of-government approach to address climate change.

SEC 2021 and beyond: What to expect

7 December 2020

Some likely areas of SEC focus, from both the regulatory and enforcement perspectives, in 2021 and beyond.

Creating voluntary carbon markets: IIF recommendations and consultation – suggestions due by December 10

17 November 2020

The Taskforce's recommendations are based on core carbon principles to help establish standardized benchmark contracts for listing on exchanges and using existing infrastructure.

Contracting for the climate: The Climate Contract Playbook is a trove of climate clauses

11 November 2020

Contracts have become an essential vehicle for companies seek to mitigate their environmental risks and limit their carbon footprints.

Rules of Origin - what you need to know

9 October 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

With less than two months before the end of the Brexit Transition Period, importers and exporters of goods between the UK and both the EU, and the rest of the world, are preparing for the impact of significant changes to UK and EU trading arrangements upon their businesses and operations. Recent articles in the DLA Piper Trade Truths series have examined the realities of trading on so-called 'World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms', should there be no deal at the end of the Transition Period, including the impact on customs procedures and tariffs on goods, together with the UK's post-Brexit trading landscape.

New York Department of Financial Services issues circular on climate change and financial risks

1 October 2020

The NYDFS expects insurers to start integrating the consideration of financial risks from climate change into their governance framework, risk management processes and business strategies.

Beyond the EU-UK Negotiations: Planning for trade with the rest of the world after Brexit

30 September 2020

[DLA PIPER TRADE TRUTHS](#)

Whilst clients are rightly focused on the current status of negotiations between the UK and EU, some 12 weeks before the end of the Transition Period, it is easy to lose sight of the impact of Brexit on the UK's trading relationship with the rest of the world and the commercial consequences of this for businesses.

Distributed generation: A rising energy market in Chile

16 September 2020

This growing market has features that make it attractive for investors in uncertain times.

Momentum builds for permanent expansions in federal telehealth policy

21 July 2020

Recent legislative proposals and administrative initiatives suggest that the federal government may be moving to make permanent certain emergency fixes to the telehealth regulatory landscape.

Guidance on Green Loan Principles and Guidance on Sustainability Linked Loan Principles

8 May 2020

These guidelines and standards portend an increase in sustainable finance documents and projects in the near future.

PFAS: in California, regulators put cleanup levels on hold, but announce major data hunt

7 MAR 2019

This data hunt will affect thousands of facilities, drinking water systems and private drinking water well owners.

California's Prop 65 regulator moves to counteract court ruling, exclude Prop 65 cancer warnings for coffee

21 JUN 2018

If the regulation is adopted, coffee will not require a cancer warning label after all.

California court's narrow Prop 65 coffee ruling should not be misinterpreted

9 APR 2018

A careful understanding of the narrow basis of the ruling is important for coffee consumers and for all manner of product-based companies doing business in California.

New glyphosate decision forces Prop 65 to reckon with federally accepted science

7 MAR 2018

This outcome will likely put wind in the sails of industry groups and individual companies challenging the science behind other Prop 65 listings.

Slavery in the supply chain: new corporate reporting obligations for companies

9 DEC 2015

HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS SERIES

The UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015 is in force, imposing on companies new reporting requirements and new enforcement powers, including the creation of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

NOTÍCIAS

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming joins DLA Piper's Environmental Regulatory practice in Washington, DC

20 April 2022

DLA Piper is making a key strategic expansion of its Regulatory & Government Affairs practice and Environmental group with the arrival of Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming as a partner in Washington, DC.
