

VANESSA PUIG-WILLIAMS

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EXPERIENCE

Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA)

Executive Director and General Counsel, January 2015 – Present

Experience includes drafting a lawsuit challenging the rule of capture in Texas, contesting groundwater production permit applications before the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, groundwater policy development at the Texas Legislature, fundraising, community organization, and communications.

Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy Law and Business, Austin, TX

Affiliated Fellow, May 2012 – May 2017

Research and writing on water policy, energy, and the environment. Past work has focused on environmental flows, endangered species protection, state water planning and groundwater conservation districts in Texas.

The Law Firm of Burgess Jackson, Austin, TX

Contract work, January 2010 - Present

Assist in matters related to conservation easement transactions. Experience includes drafting and reviewing conservation easements, drafting management agreements and purchase agreements, transactions involving FRPP funds and mitigation banks, assisting land trusts on CRP matters, and reviewing mineral leases and chain of title issues.

Goldsmith, Bogisch, and Chaires, Austin, TX

Contract work, February 2015 – April 2016

Experience includes interpretation of a water rights deed, researching issues involving the *Dubig* Rule, royalty interests, diversity jurisdiction, and General Land Office vacancy proceedings.

Attorney General of Texas, Natural Resources Division, Austin TX

Assistant Attorney General, October 2006 – January 2009

Litigated environmental enforcement suits on behalf of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality involving solid waste, air and water quality issues.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX

JD; May 2006

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL

The University of Texas, Austin, TX

BA in History and BA in Geography, May 2002

Phi Beta Kappa

Most Outstanding Geography Undergraduate

PUBLICATIONS

Groundwater Conflicts in Unregulated Areas, TEXAS WATER JOURNAL, November 2016

Protecting Species or Hindering Development: How the Endangered Species Act Impacts Development on Western Public Lands, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER, November 2016.

The Endangered Springflow Act, Energy Center, January 2015

The Conflict between Endangered Species and the State Water Plan, Energy Center, April 2014

Implementing SB 3, Adopting Environmental Flows in Texas, Energy Center, September 2013

SPEAKING

Groundwater Law Panel, *Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Annual Conference*, August 2016, August 2017

ENGAGEMENTS

Groundwater Law and Ethics, *CLE International Texas Water Law*, June 2017

Groundwater and Conservation Law, *Texas Land Trust Council Annual Conference*, March 2017

Groundwater Conflicts in Unregulated Areas, *Texas State Bar Changing Face of Water Rights CLE*, February 2016

COMMUNITY

Appointee, **2017 Travis County Citizens Bond Advisory Committee**

Board Member, **Wimberley Valley Watershed Association**

Member, **Environmental Section of the Austin Bar Association**

Member, **Hill Country Alliance Water Team**

Member, **Texas Water Conservation Association**