**KAITLYN POIRIER**

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**Professional Summary**

I am currently an Associate Professor of Law at Southern Illinois University Simmons School of Law, teaching legal writing, administrative law, environmental law, and animal law. Prior to that, I was employed as a Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division for over eight years. I represented the United States in complex environmental and administrative law cases in federal courts across the country.

**Law License**

Member in good standing of the Tennessee Bar.

**Recent Professional Experience**

**Associate Professor of Law**

Southern Illinois University Simmons School of Law, Carbondale, IL August 2024 – present

* Currently teaching Legal Writing I and Mastering Legal Education I (fall 2024).
* Intend to teach Legal Writing II, Administrative Law, Environmental Law, and Animal Law in future semesters.

**Trial Attorney**

United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. September 2015 – present

* Lead counsel defending the United States in civil cases arising primarily under the Endangered Species Act and Administrative Procedure Act, but also the First Amendment of the Constitution, the National Trails System Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Horse Protection Act, the Animal Welfare Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, etc.
* Responsible for all aspects of a case in district court and cases of original jurisdiction in circuit courts of appeals. Experienced in significant motions practice, including defending against motions for temporary restraining orders and/or preliminary injunctions, drafting motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment, and briefing both liability and remedy.
* Participated in oral arguments before federal courts.
* Conducted settlement negotiations throughout litigation process.
* Advised client federal agencies during litigation and development of new regulations. Provide counsel to senior agency officials, including political appointees.
* Several cases involved matters of national importance, such as the operation and maintenance of the Willamette Valley Project (a system of 13 dams and reservoirs) in Oregon and continued operations of both Pacific and Atlantic marine fisheries.
* Chosen by Department of Justice management to participate in the hiring process for Honor Graduate Attorneys and lateral attorneys. Mentored new attorneys hired through the Department of Justice’s Honor Graduate Attorney Program.

**Education**

**University of Tennessee College of Law** May 2015

* Graduated in the top 5% - *summa cum laude*
* Executive Editor of the Tennessee Law Review
* Recipient of both the Tennessee Law Review Silver Pen Award and Judge Harry W. Laughlin, Jr. Award for an exemplary case note
* Member of the Environmental Law National Moot Court team representing the University of Tennessee

**University of the Southwest** May 2011

* B.A.S. in English and History
* Graduated *magna cum laude*

**Publications**

*Constitutional Law – The First Amendment Retaliation Doctrine – A Public Employee’s Rights Regarding Perceived Political Association Retaliation:* Dye v. Office of the Racing Comm’n, 81.2 Tenn. L. Rev. (2014). Cited in the petition for a writ of certiorari in *Heffernan v. City of Patterson*, 136 S. Ct. 1412 (2016).