

Teri L. Donaldson

Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St. Boston MA 02108
(713) 502-5762 // teri.donaldson@suffolk.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Boston, MA

Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law & Director of the Environmental Law & Policy Clinic, 2026-2027

Courses: Environmental Law Seminar; Environmental Law and Policy Clinic

VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL, Nashville, TN

Senior Adviser, Energy, Environment and Land Use Program, 2026-present

Adjunct Professor, 2026-2027

Program Director, Energy, Environment and Land Use Program, 2025-2026

Course: Law, Ideology and Science in Energy Project Finance, March 2026; Spring 2027 (scheduled)

Appointment: Represented Vanderbilt in the *Initiative on Climate Risk and Resilience*—a joint initiative of Columbia Law School, NYU School of Law, Vanderbilt Law School & the Environmental Defense Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

- “Restoring Inspector General Oversight,” 58 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. __ (forthcoming 2026)
- “Administrative Power after *Chevron*: Executive Encroachment on Congress’s Power of the Purse” (work in progress)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE C. ROGER VINSON, N. D. FLA., Pensacola, FL

Law Clerk, Aug. 1988-Aug. 1990

EDUCATION

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Washington, D.C.

LL.M. candidate in *Law and Technology*, 2025-present; not currently taking classes

GPA: 4.0

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW, Gainesville, FL

J.D., 1988

- Order of the Coif
- Senior Articles Editor, *Florida Law Review*
- Frank E. Maloney Award for Outstanding Contribution to the *Florida Law Review*
- Book Awards: Civil Procedure, Environmental Law, Professional Responsibility, Children’s Rights
- Honors: Legal Research and Writing; Appellate Advocacy
- Dean’s List – all semesters
- Council of Ten (tutoring Civil Procedure)
- Research Assistant to Professor Toni Massaro
- Instructor, Appellate Advocacy (2 years)
- Instructor of Business Law, University of Florida, Warrington College of Business (2 years)

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA, Sarasota, FL

B.A., Economics & Political Science, 1985

EXPERIENCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, Washington, D.C.

Inspector General, Jan. 2019–Jan. 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, Washington, D.C. (continued)

Presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed; served as the federal auditor and the law-enforcement

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agency head for a large federal agency (\$132B budget in 2025). Oversaw 200+ federal investigations annually. Was responsible for the financial oversight of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Led an office of over 300 employees and contractors stationed at military and strategic sites across the U.S.

- Repeatedly testified before Congress; secured a 65% increase in base appropriations.
- Received 13 Awards & Commendations from the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG) and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

U.S. SENATE, ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (EPW), Washington, D.C.

General Counsel, Sept. 2017–Jan. 2019

Served as chief legal counsel for the committee. EPW's jurisdiction includes air pollution, water pollution, water resources, bridges and dams, and nuclear energy. Directed the legislative review and compliance analysis of high-profile environmental and energy laws and regulations. Developed strategic frameworks to address regulatory and legislative complexities.

DLA PIPER, LLC, Houston, TX

Partner, Oct. 2013–Aug. 2017

Member of the energy & utilities, environmental, litigation, compliance, and white-collar practice groups; clients included global energy companies, water utilities, power utilities, and a broad range of industry. Acted as project-development counsel for a global energy company. Advised international, national, and private-equity firms during the merger, acquisition and sale of large assets, and on reducing or eliminating risks associated with certain investments. Conducted internal investigations. Designed industry-specific corporate-compliance programs. Counseled corporations on compliance under the FCPA, anti-kickback statutes, environmental statutes, and corporate-disclosure programs.

SUTHERLAND, ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP, Houston, TX

Partner, Oct. 2010–Oct. 2013

Member of the energy practice group, specializing in project development, M&A, and corporate compliance. Acted as outside general counsel for a large terminal facility. Integral member of project-development team for a global energy company. Advised international, national and private equity companies during the merger, acquisition and sale of large assets. On the team representing Transocean Ltd. and related entities in the Deepwater Horizon oil-spill litigation, which included parallel criminal investigations, multi-district litigation for 20 proceedings, and putative class actions.

SQUIRE, SANDERS AND DEMPSEY, LLP, Tallahassee, FL

Partner, Dec. 2006–Aug. 2010

Director of the firm's Florida environmental, health and safety practice group. Acted as outside general counsel for a terminal facility; responsible for award of a \$140 million project in a competitive procurement process and for the resolution of contractual disputes during construction. Advised financial institutions during the Chinese drywall crisis. Conducted internal investigations for international companies, including both a top 3 global chemical company and a major airline. Litigated multimillion-dollar procurement matters, contract claims, construction disputes, and toxic torts.

TEW CARDENAS, LLP, Tallahassee, FL

Partner, Sept. 2004–Nov. 2006

Managed the Environment, Energy & Resources practice group, representing commercial and residential real estate developers and other business entities, and advising colleagues within the firm's

TEW CARDENAS, LLP, Tallahassee, FL (continued)

lobbying group. Developed legislation that was enacted. Maintained a white-collar defense practice.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, Tallahassee, FL

General Counsel, Nov. 1999–Sept. 2004

Chief legal officer for the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, an agency with more than 5,000 employees. Supervised 85 in-house lawyers; retained and supervised all outside counsel; mentored young lawyers. Counseled a legislative project resulting in the largest reductions in air pollution in Florida's history. Regularly appeared in federal and state court, and before administrative agencies. Earned the Secretary's Special Commendation for role in multistate water rights litigation.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, , MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, Tampa, FL

Assistant United States Attorney, Sept. 1990–Nov. 1999

Successfully prosecuted hundreds of felony cases, including a broad range of economic crimes such as bank fraud, wire fraud, racketeering, health care fraud, tax fraud and environmental crimes; tried over 60 cases to verdict as lead counsel. Established and led the Environmental Crimes Unit. Led the federal government response team investigating the Tampa Bay oil spill case, which was the largest oil spill in Florida's history.

- Received a Special Commendation from the U.S. Attorney General for prosecution of the landmark environmental crime case of *United States v. Gary Benkovitz and Bay Drum and Steel, Inc.*
- Prosecuted a large-scale conspiracy to murder federal officials case, *United States v. Henry Francis et al.*, earning a Special Commendation from the FBI Director.
- Received over 20 commendations from various federal and state law enforcement agencies.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- **EarthX**, Moderator, AI and the Environment, Apr. 22, 2026
- **Vanderbilt Law School, "State of the Environment" conference**, Moderator, State of Scholarship and Innovation, Jan. 21, 2026
- **U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources**, Full Committee Hearing to Examine the Department of Energy's Decision-Making Process for Awarding Competitive Loans and Grants through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Oct. 19, 2023, <https://perma.cc/Q2R6-E8ZG>
- **U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**, Full Committee Hearing – Protecting American Taxpayers: Highlighting Efforts to Protect Against Federal Waste, Fraud and Mismanagement, Apr. 19, 2023, <https://perma.cc/QH5Z-9QNM>
- **U.S. Department of Energy, Contractors Association**, Fall Conference – Trends and Perspectives from the DOE OIG, Oct. 17, 2024.
- **U.S. Department of Energy, National Laboratory CFO Counsel**, Annual Meeting – Mandatory Reporting and Other Legal Matters, Nov. 14, 2022.
- **U.S. Department of Energy, Contractors Association**, Fall Conference – Trends and Perspectives from the DOE OIG, Oct. 6, 2022.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas (active); D.C (inactive); Florida (inactive)

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SELECTED MEDIA

- Quoted in Politico, Takeaways from tense hearing on DOE climate spending (Oct. 10, 2023), <https://perma.cc/R4L2-LYXM>
- Interviewed by Michael Binder of Graduate USA on The Search for Accountability podcast (May 12, 2022), <https://perma.cc/RXT9-9JTK>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, EarthX Law Advisory Council, 2025-2026
- Member, Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG), 2019-2025
- Member, Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), 2019-2025
- Member, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), 2020-2025
- Co-Chair, Committee of Inspectors General with Responsibilities Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021-2025

SECURITY CLEARANCE

Top-secret security clearance (investigation current)