

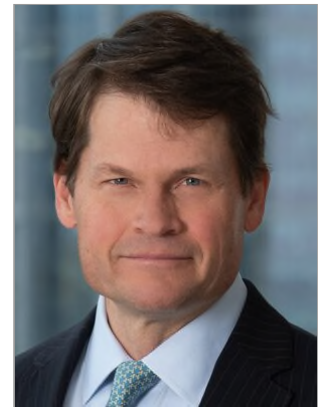
# Eversheds Brings On Dentons' Atlanta Head As Enviro Leader

By **Emily Johnson**

Law360 (June 21, 2023, 4:03 PM EDT) -- Eversheds Sutherland has added the former managing partner of Dentons' Atlanta office to head its U.S. environmental practice, the firm announced Wednesday.

R. Todd Silliman has joined Eversheds as an Atlanta-based partner in its global energy group. He **became head of Dentons' Atlanta office** earlier this year and was co-head of that firm's U.S. environment and natural resources practice, Dentons previously announced.

Silliman's practice includes guiding clients on environmental litigation and federal, state and local regulatory issues, according to Eversheds. His work encompasses advising developers, manufacturers, financial institutions and other businesses on environmental liability, managing risk and tax abatements and other state and federal incentives.



R. Todd Silliman

Silliman told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that the firm's reputation, its deep bench of attorneys and its international platform drew him to the firm.

"The combined strengths of Eversheds Sutherland made this a unique opportunity. My practice will complement a number of Eversheds Sutherland's market-leading practices, including energy, corporate and real estate. I'm particularly excited about the greater opportunities in the energy practice, which encompasses [mergers and acquisitions], development work, financing of energy projects and regulatory."

Silliman leads a group that includes 60 attorneys in its U.S. environmental practice as well as attorneys in different practice areas who have expertise in environmental law matters, according to a firm spokesperson. Silliman said his goal in leading the firm's environmental practice is to channel the various attorneys who have environmental law experience.

"My goal is to broaden and deepen that expertise and really help coordinate it so we're really leveraging all the great talent and experience that we have in the environmental space, which is a broad discipline," Silliman said.

Silliman said he had practiced environmental law for 29 years and advised clients on litigation, transactional and regulatory matters related to air, water, chemicals, contaminated properties, endangered species and more.

"I'm really comfortable with that broad practice and enjoy not being pigeonholed into one particular area within environmental law," Silliman said. "I think I'll be a valuable resource to meeting the needs of the firm and as I said help coordinate and engage the others who've been involved in environmental matters as well. Having that breadth across the spectrum really helps me be someone who can lead the practice, because I'm familiar with and speak the language of the many different sorts of environmental laws and issues that clients are facing."

Silliman said he had noticed the growing attention on environmental, social, and corporate governance matters.

"What that means is that many clients are placing greater emphasis on not only environmental compliance, but environmental stewardship, so [they are] making that an important part of their decision-making," Silliman said. "With that added emphasis comes greater demand to really understand environmental and regulatory requirements and standards and beyond that standards for good stewardship. Legal counsel can be helpful to clients in evaluating risks, benefits and incentives [as well as] economic and other considerations that flow from decisions about environmental issues."

Silliman said he had also seen a growing trend of clients redeveloping brownfield properties. Such properties, as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are potentially "complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

"The changing approach that states are taking to regulate brownfields has created a great opportunity for redevelopment and effective utilization of these properties, many of which are in the middle of urban areas and can be major amenities to urban redevelopment," Silliman said.

Austin, Texas-based partner Lino Mendiola III, co-head of the firm's global energy practice, said in a statement that Silliman will advise clients "with strong support concerning the wide scope of existing and anticipated laws and regulations."

"As a highly regarded environmental attorney, Todd's arrival coincides with widespread innovation and commercial developments involving energy enterprises around the world, giving rise to a fast-moving global regulatory environment," Mendiola said. "We know that environmental legal guidance is a key component of energy and other natural resources projects and is an increasing point of emphasis in other kinds of development projects and transactions."

Silliman's experience includes high-profile cases involving water, wetlands, endangered species, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, which deals with federal Superfund sites.

Silliman spent 15 years representing the state of Georgia in the "Tri-State Water Wars" involving it, Alabama, Florida and the federal government, all of which have spent decades battling over water allocation in two major river basins that cross those states' borders.

Atlanta and Washington, D.C.-based Mark D. Wasserman, the firm's co-chief executive officer, said he was "thrilled" by Silliman's move to the firm.

"Todd's extensive environmental experience will benefit our clients by assisting them in keeping pace with environmental regulation and taking advantage of business and development opportunities across industries," Wasserman said in a statement.

Silliman has been licensed to practice law in Georgia for nearly 29 years, according to the State Bar of Georgia's website. Silliman practiced at Dentons for more than 21 years, according to his LinkedIn profile. Before that Silliman was an associate at King & Spalding LLP. He was also a judicial law clerk for now-Senior Judge Robert G. Doumar in the U.S. District Court for Eastern District of Virginia.

Silliman has previously been a board member for the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership, the Georgia Conservancy, the Atlanta Shakespeare Company and All Saints' Episcopal Church, according to the firm. Silliman earned his bachelor's degree from University of North Carolina and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

A Dentons spokesperson told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that we "thank Todd for his many contributions and wish him well."

Eversheds Sutherland has more than 3,000 lawyers across 70 offices in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It was **the 110th largest U.S. law firm** in 2021, according to the Law360 400.

—Additional reporting by Jack Karp and Jacqueline Bell. Editing by Peter Rozovsky.

*Update: This story has been updated with comment from a Dentons spokesperson and comments from Silliman.*

*Correction: An earlier version misstated Silliman's board affiliations. The error has been corrected.*