A Discussion With EPA's General Counsel Avi Garbow: Environmental Justice, Agency Priorities, and Employment

Avi S. Garbow, General Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency

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On August 7, 2013, Avi S. Garbow was sworn in as General Counsel for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). During his tenure as EPA General Counsel, Avi has worked closely on President Obama’s landmark environmental accomplishments, including the Clean Power Plan, Clean Water Rule, and myriad other initiatives to protect public health, improve public access to environmental information, and advance environmental justice. In his role as General Counsel, Avi also leads the EPA’s Office of General Counsel (OGC), an organization of expert lawyers and other professionals responsible for providing advice and support for every EPA program and activity.

Prior to his confirmation as General Counsel, Avi served as EPA’s Deputy General Counsel with a primary focus on the Agency’s air and water programs. Avi also began his legal career at EPA serving in EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance from 1992 to 1996. Avi then served with distinction as a federal prosecutor in the Department of Justice’s Environmental Crimes Section. In private practice, Avi was a litigation partner and junior partner at two major international firms. Avi has served on the boards of directors for various environmental and international human rights organizations, and has held leadership positions in the American Bar Association’s International Human Rights Committee. He is the recipient of the University of Virginia School of Law’s Robert F. Kennedy Award for Public Service, holds a Master’s Degree in Marine Affairs, and is a former volunteer firefighter.

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