



## VALERIE BLACK

### *Assistant General Counsel and Legal Policy Researcher*

Valerie Black, Esq., Assistant General Counsel and Legal Policy Researcher has experience in the private and public sector along with a background in Marine Sciences. Born and raised in Southern California, Valerie received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles where she studied agricultural run-off in Moorea, French Polynesia. Valerie also conducted field research in Bamfield, British Columbia, Catalina Island, and along the coast of California and Oregon. Valerie received her juris doctorate at the Southern University Law Center. As a student she was awarded a fellowship at the Ocean Conservancy, was a Mickey Leland Fellowship at the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and interned with the Department of Natural Resources. Valerie went on to be the Director of Child Care Background Checks at the Louisiana Department of Education, eventually taking on the role of Chief of Staff for the Office of Early Childhood. She is also experienced in private practice law, with over six years of experience handling complex matters of law including property law, drainage issues, and environmental law.

#### COMPANY ROLE

Assistant General Counsel and Legal Policy Researcher

#### PROJECT ROLE / FOCUS AREAS

Water and environmental law

Transactional law

Policy Research & Development

#### EDUCATION

JD Juris Doctorate, Southern University Law Center, 2015

BSc Marine Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, 2005

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Louisiana Bar Association

Baton Rouge Bar Association

Association of Corporate Counsel

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-Present: Assistant General Counsel and Legal Policy Researcher, The Water Institute

2016-2021: Early Childhood Chief of Staff, Director of Child Care Criminal Background, Education Louisiana Department of Education

2017-2020: Managing Partner, Black & Dupree Law Firm

2015-2016: Attorney, Law Clerk, Clary Suba Neal Law Firm

2015: Office of General Counsel Mickey Leland Fellow, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

2015: Summer Associate, Hammonds, Sills, Adkins & Guice LLP

2013-2015: Teacher's Assistant, Southern University Law Center

2014: Legal Fellow, Ocean Conservancy

2014: Summer Legal Intern, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

2009-2014: Adjunct Professor, Baton Rouge Community College

2008-2013: Production Executive, Upload Films

## SELECTED PROJECTS

**Policy Research to Improve the Evaluation of Nature Based Solutions in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programs.** (2022-Present). Investigator. Led a policy research effort to review existing evaluation methods for feasibility studies and recommend an approach to better consider the economic, environmental, and social benefits of nature-based solutions.

**Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District Long-term Strategic Water Sustainability Plan (2018-current). Member of the technical team providing legal & policy research support.** (2022-Present) The Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are working with CAGWCC and other stakeholders to identify and evaluate feasible and cost-effective, science-based alternatives to meet long-term water needs through evaluation of the current science available on groundwater use and aquifer conservation and to identify management alternatives. The ultimate goal is to develop a strategic plan for the long-term water supply for users in the district. The Institute and the USGS are using a phased approach to meet project objectives following the ProACT cycle. ProACT is a useful framework for structuring decisions. This includes: Defining the Problem, Determining the Objectives, Identifying Alternatives, Evaluating Alternatives and Forecasting the Consequences, Evaluating the Trade-offs, Making the Decision and Taking Action.

**Louisiana Watershed Initiative.** (2019-current). Member of the technical team providing legal & policy research support. The Institute is providing programmatic and technical support across a range of Louisiana Watershed Initiative activities including leading the LWI project to develop the modeling

methodology and guidance for compound flood areas/flood transition zones as the state moves forward with watershed-based flood planning. The Institute is supporting Louisiana's Office of Community Development in aligning the modeling program with the larger LWI by (1) managing the Data and Modeling Technical Advisory Group, (2) engaging with local government stakeholders on modeling and other decision support tool use for watershed management projects, (3) ensuring that the models meet the highest standards by serving on the Technical Delivery and Quality (TDQ) team, and (4) developing state and regional policy recommendations and supporting legislation.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRECEEDINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Almonte, E.J., Black, V.A., Burke, M.C., Herrera, K. 2022. Environmental Justice & ESG: Key Legal Issues, Future Impacts. National Young Energy Professionals Conference.
2. Black, V.A. 2006. Salinity, thermal tolerance, and range limits of congeneric sacoglossans *Alderia modesta* and *A. willowi*. American Malacological Society and Western Society of Malacologists.
3. Black, V.A. 2006. Range limits in sibling species of the estuarine gastropod *Alderia*: Salinity tolerance of larvae adults. Larval Biology Conference.
4. Black, V.A. 2004. Preference for nutrient-enriched coral reef algae (*Acanthophora spicifera* and *Gracilaria sp.*). University of California Irvine, Science Symposium.