

HARRY H. KELSO, ESQ., PLLC

ATTORNEY LICENSED IN:
VIRGINIA, TEXAS AND
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OVERVIEW

HARRY H. KELSO is an attorney with affirmative and defensive litigation and enforcement experience (private and public sectors) concentrating on military and related, commercial industrial matters. In government service, he served as a senior, presidential and gubernatorially appointed legal counsel regarding military, environmental, and business issues, as well as a career litigator. Supporting such practice, he is also a military and governmental industrial history expert witness.

Primary experience includes government enforcement and compliance; drafting and advocacy of legislation and regulation with OMB; defense installations' environmental, energy, boundary encroachment and occupational health issues; and military accident investigations. In different federal department positions, he maintained TS-SCI and Secret security clearances. Finally, he taught a State Bar of Texas *Legal Ethics in Washington* seminar headlined by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

His most recent government service was as *Deputy DoD General Counsel (Environment, Energy & Installations)* where he led a section of 7 specialty lawyers integrated with 9 other, subject-specific sections within the 150-lawyer Office of General Counsel. His section's expertise also included investigations: military accidents, Inspectors General, Government Accounting Office (GAO) and Congressional investigations.

As background, he earned a double-LL.M. after clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit and the Texas Court of Appeals, 14th District. Educational credentials include Emory University, Georgetown Law School and the Academy of International Law in The Hague, the Netherlands.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE

Private Practice: *Law Offices of Harry H. Kelso, PLLC* (2021-present). Provides enforcement, litigation, and government relations counsel and expert witness testimony on industrial regulatory matters, including Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) contractual issues; sustainability, environmental compliance and cleanup; and 20th Century generators of climate change. Clients include domestic and foreign law firms, companies, and universities, addressing the range of reuse issues confronting contaminated airports, closed BRAC/civilian governmental industrial installations, and Defense contractors, all intertwined with varying government agencies and the private sector, dating to World War I.

Federal Government: *Deputy General Counsel (Environment, Energy & Installations, "EE&I"), U.S. Department of Defense* (2017-2021). As the Department's top EE&I, occupational safety and health, and military *accident* investigations attorney, provided the Secretary and senior DoD leadership with counsel on prominent enforcement, litigation, investigations, legislation, policy, and related fiscal/budgetary issues. Negotiated dispute resolutions with federal, state and European Union agencies regarding such issues as PFAS and safe drinking water; Superfund environmental cleanup and RCRA hazardous waste treatment, storage & disposal; respective environmental media statutes (Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act; and chemical regulation (Toxic Substances Control Act and its EU equivalent regulation (REACH 2007). Partnered with FFRDCs CNA and Lincoln Labs on sensitive imported manufactured equipment. Recipient of the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service.

Private Practice: *Harry H. Kelso, PLLC* (1998-2017). Legal, litigation and intergovernmental relations expertise regarding corporate, regulatory matters and sustainability, to clients ranging from Fortune 50 oil/chemical companies, environmental regulatory and remediation companies, and military base communities and their economic development.

State Government: *Virginia Director of Environmental Enforcement, Department of Environmental Quality* (1994-1998). Statewide enforcement director, targeting cleanup/regulatory compliance at industrial facilities and military installations. Successfully sued DoD and the Air Force regarding cleanup

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of the state's largest Superfund site; later, negotiated, on behalf of the Governor, an agreement with the Active Duty Army by which the Virginia National Guard (VNG) assumed operational control of a 'BRAC-closing,' military installation, but excluded liability dating to World War II. Such agreement generated revenue for training installation upkeep, expanded military training to other states' NG units and was the catalyst for increased, private, and public sector economic development. Later, successfully represented VNG in litigation brought by a DoD Technician's Union to organize NGs of multiple states.

Federal Government: *Counsel to the Assistant U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division* (1990-1993). Advised the head of DOJ's Environment Division on Congressional oversight and investigations on criminal and regulatory environmental litigation and enforcement, base closures, and intra-Executive Branch conflicts. *Trial Attorney* (1985-1994), conducting affirmative and defensive litigation primarily representing EPA, DoD, DOI, GSA, and USDA. Successful Superfund litigation against a petroleum services company (U.S.D.C., W.D. Texas).

Law Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit.

Law Clerk, Texas Court of Appeals, 14th District.

Legislative Committee Staff, Texas House of Representatives (part of law school coursework)

Intern, U.S. Sen. William E. Brock III of Tennessee (part of college major coursework)

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, AND ASSOCIATIONS

Addressed environmental law conferences, including the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, the U.S. Air Force Legal Operations Agency, and the Charleston Law School. Quoted or cited on cleanup and economic reuse challenges facing installation communities in publications such as the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, and USA Today. Author of "Preparing to Win in the Pentagon's Environmental Cleanup System and Recognizing Warning Signs on the Horizon," National Environmental Enforcement Journal. Also, member of the National Defense Industrial Association, the Association of Defense Communities, and the Society of American Military Engineers, as well as multiple sections of different bar associations.

EDUCATION

B.A., Emory University
(Major: Psychology)
(Major: Political Science)

U.S. Senate
Intern, U.S. Sen. William E. Brock III

J.D., South Texas College of Law

Texas House of Representatives
Legislative Committee Staff

Universite Libre de Bruxelles
Brussels, Belgium
Law of the EEC

Academy of International Law
The Hague, The Netherlands
Public International Law

M.A., The Texas Woman's University
(Counseling Psychology)

Thesis: *Common Psychological & Familial Backgrounds of Modern Presidential Candidates*

LL.M., Georgetown University
(Labor Law)

LL.M., Georgetown University
(International & Comparative Law)

Combined Thesis: *Union Power & Industrial Democracy in the EEC*