

Scott Summy

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

Scott Summy, a shareholder and leader of the Environmental Litigation Group at Baron & Budd has become known as “The Water Lawyer” after recovering billions on behalf of public water providers facing water contamination.

Throughout his storied career, Summy has fought numerous water wars with the largest chemical companies in the world, and his recent settlement with chemical giant Monsanto is another historic victory to add to the list. This was the first case in United States history to hold a chemical maker responsible for the contamination of stormwater.

Summy explains, “This result cannot be overstated. In a world with limited water resources, the importance of stormwater cannot be overemphasized. Stormwater is now being used as drinking water in some states and it also serves as freshwater replenishment to many lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries across the country. This is just the beginning given the growing importance of stormwater, many new cases will be filed in the future to deal with chemicals that impair America’s waterbodies.”

Seven years ago, Summy and his team at Baron & Budd launched the fight against Monsanto, the sole manufacturer of PCBs in the United States. They filed numerous cases across a number of states and after many years of tedious discovery and legal motions, a \$635.5 million settlement was reached with Monsanto on the eve of the first trial. The class settlement provides a range of monetary benefits to 2,447 public entities to manage PCBs in stormwater and waterbodies.

Additionally, Summy and his team recovered \$170.6 million on behalf of three attorney general clients in Washington, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia.

When Baron & Budd filed these cases, there was no precedent for imposing liability on a product manufacturer for contamination of stormwater. This case establishes precedent that extends environmental tort law to benefit communities and natural resources harmed by contaminants carried through stormwater.

The fight for clean water never stops and there is always work to be done to protect the nation’s water sources. Summy is currently leading the charge against the manufacturers of PFAS in the *In re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2873*, in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, Charleston Division. He has been appointed by the court as co-lead counsel and individually represents numerous public water providers, public entities, and states. “This is the hottest environmental issue in the United States right now,” Summy says. “There have never been more public water systems hit by contamination of a family of chemicals at one time.”

Summy and his team at Baron & Budd continue to take the lead in environmental tort litigation and impose liability on corporate manufacturers who choose to sell products that harm the environment.

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