

TEN LEADERS

I N N E W J E R S E Y

2003-2004

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Compiled by  Digital Press International



MICHAEL GORDON

Gordon & Gordon, P.C.
80 Main Street
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
Telephone: 973-736-0094

WEB ADDRESS: www.lawgordon.com EMAIL: gordonlaw7@aol.com

EDUCATION

Columbia University, BA, 1975
Rutgers University, JD, 1979

AFFILIATIONS

Michael Gordon has been recognized for his outstanding work in the area of environmental law and has worked with many local, statewide and national environmental organizations. He has been selected to Best Lawyers in America for his work in environmental law. Gordon received the Association of Trial Lawyer's - New Jersey's prestigious Gold Medal Award for his litigation against E.I. DuPont, resulting in a \$38.5 million settlement. He also served as ATLA-NJ's environmental Committee Chairman from 1987-1989. He is a member of the New Jersey Environmental Federation PAC Committee. Gordon also is a member of the Million Dollars Advocates Forum as well as being listed in Who's Who in American Law. He has represented as Special Environmental Counsel, over twenty municipalities. In 2002, Gordon lectured at the Judicial College on Mass Torts. In 2003, he served as the environmental law consultant to the "West Wing" TV show capturing the Environmental Media Award for best TV Drama Episode promoting environmental awareness.

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Gordon is one of the pioneer practitioners of environmental law in New Jersey. A creative, independent and knowledgeable attorney, he has developed a national reputation as a leader who has worked on groundbreaking environmental legal issues - with strong results. His clients, be they individual victims of pollution, groups of individuals, municipalities or the State of New Jersey, have benefited from his work over the last 20 years.

Gordon authored the first law in the nation to require companies to clean up their property prior to sale or the closing of their operations. His early work in environmental law, while at the Department of Environmental Protection and in private practice, laid the foundation for much of what exists in the field today. Twenty years ago, he began suing polluters, the largest corporations in the world to seek compensation for damage they had done to individuals and the environment. One such case involved representing residents of the Ironbound section of Newark who had been exposed to some of the highest levels of dioxin found anywhere in the world, a legacy from Agent Orange manufacturing decades earlier for the Vietnam War.

The successes that he achieved in the early years of his practice naturally led to his participation in New Jersey's recent successful litigation against the tobacco industry. The result was a \$7.6 billion settlement, the largest legal settlement in New Jersey history. Today, he continues to be active as a litigator, seeking compensation for hundreds of individuals harmed by pollution buried in a park in Long Branch as well as working hard to protect the natural resources of the State of New Jersey. Gordon and his wife, Arlene, have three children, Jeremy, Carmel and Sarah. They reside in Short Hills.

Michael Gordon: Observations & Perspectives

Over the past 25 years, I have been fortunate to help shape the landscape of environmental law here in New Jersey and indeed throughout the United States. My work has resulted in major legal victories leading to a cleaner environment and an end to destructive environmental practices. I have helped to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for the victims of past pollution. I'm proud to be considered one of the best environmental lawyers in America.

The path I have chosen as a plaintiff's environmental lawyer has been both challenging and fulfilling. Whether its achieving one of the largest superfund cleanups in history - \$250 million - in the Towns of Montclair, West Orange and Glen Ridge, securing millions in compensation for a family who has lost a loved one because of chemical exposure in Pompton Lakes or protecting our precious resources from destruction in the Meadowlands.

It is satisfying to look back at the last 25 years and recognize that whether the case was aimed at seeking compensation for one individual, one family, one community or the entire state, I have stood up for what is right and fought hard to achieve justice and compensation.

In my career, I have participated in groundbreaking legal challenges from my recently concluded service as co-lead counsel for the State of New Jersey against the Tobacco Industry which resulted in an historic 7.6 billion dollar settlement to my current representation of twenty six public entities suing

for the removal of lead paint to protect the health of our children. In the near future, I hope to be participating on behalf of the State of New Jersey in support of its program to pursue natural resources damages against those corporations who have polluted our State's resources.

I love the work that I do and look forward to the environmental challenges and cases that lay ahead.

I'm proud to be considered one of the best environmental lawyers in America.



Distributed by and published in the member newspapers of

Digital Press International

A DIVISION OF NEWBRIDGE MEDIA

ONE PARKER PLAZA • FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY 07024 • TEL: 1-800-862-6241