

Lee A. DeHihns, III

Partner

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Lee DeHihns' compliance practice focuses not only on resolving the issues of immediate concern, but also in helping his clients formulate a path forward that focuses on ensuring compliant behavior across the corporation or local government entity. He has negotiated numerous settlement agreements in federal, state and local for clients throughout the country. He assists clients establish corporate Environmental, Health, and Safety systems that allow them to publicize that a policy of sustainability is engrained in the corporate culture. He works with clients who are leaders on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which assesses corporate governance and risk management but rejects companies that do not operate in a sustainable and ethical manner. He has helped clients develop and implement compliance programs when faced with debarment actions by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He has taught sustainable development principles in an executive MBA program.

Mr. DeHihns joined Alston & Bird in 1990 after serving four years as Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) of EPA Region 4, the agency's senior career position in the Southeast. His career began with EPA in 1974 in Washington, DC where he rose to the position of Associate General Counsel. While in Region 4, the Region was the lead EPA Region for enforcement under his direction as DRA. He received a *Senior Executive Service Meritorious Rank Award* from President Bush in 1989.

Mr. DeHihns is counsel for the City of Columbus, Ga. in the ongoing *Tri-States Water Rights* litigation involving the States of Georgia, Alabama, Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where the sustainable future of Georgia is in serious jeopardy. He successfully represented a corporation in defeating class certification in an Alabama federal court case involving allegations of air pollution crossing interstate boundaries. He successfully represented the City (GMA) and County's (ACCG) representative organizations as amicus parties in federal court in Georgia in one of the important Total Maximum Daily Load water quality standards cases in the country.

He was Chair of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) 2007-2008 and is a SEER Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates 2009-2012. Mr. DeHihns was ranked as a leading environmental lawyer in Chambers USA: *America's Leading Lawyers for Business* (2006-2011). He wrote a chapter in the ABA's *Principles of Constitutional Environmental Law* book titled *Constitutional Influences on Climate Litigation* published in September, 2011. His article *Climate and the Courts* appeared in the January/February 2008 issue of the Environmental Law Institute's (ELI) Environmental Forum and he was one of only nine leading environmental lawyers chosen to contribute to the article *In the Year 2049: What Will Environmental Protection Be Like 40 Years From Now?*, which appeared in the November/December 2009 issue of ELI's *Environmental Forum*.

Mr. DeHihns has his JD from Catholic University of America (1974) and earned a BS from the University of Scranton in 1967. He is admitted to practice in Georgia and the District of Columbia.