

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Kelly J. O'Neill**

Associate

Burnside Environmental Group

E-mail: [koneill@BurnsideGroup.com](mailto:koneill@BurnsideGroup.com)

[www.BurnsideGroup.com](http://www.BurnsideGroup.com)

---

### **Expertise**

- Litigation support on environmental matters
- Supervise, conduct, or evaluate complex white collar investigations
- Design, supervise and conduct corporate internal investigations
- Respond to, document, and provide expert guidance regarding environmental incidents
- Assisting counsel in reconstructing and evaluating inspections, search warrants and criminal or civil investigations
- Locating and interviewing witnesses and documenting their statements
- Evidence review, evaluation, and organization
- Providing criteria used by the government to evaluate enforcement matters
- Insight regarding the government's next steps and associated timeframe for environmental prosecutions and investigations
- Technical and regulatory assistance to clients and counsel when interacting with the U.S. EPA and State environmental agencies
- Assisting clients and counsel with the development of trial defensive strategies
- Testifying in legal proceedings

### **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

Kelly O'Neill, a retired enforcement official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Criminal Enforcement, is currently an Associate with the Burnside Environmental Group. This Group of retired U. S. EPA and U. S. Fish and Wildlife regulatory and technical experts has extensive experience working with enforcement issues related to state and federal environmental laws and internal investigations. Mr. O'Neill works with a team that strives to minimize costs and the potential impacts of adverse findings by working closely with corporate and defense counsel to define and evaluate the scope and nature of regulatory inspections and government investigations. He has extensive criminal trial experience and has benefitted from working closely with environmental and white collar crime prosecutors and regulators in assessing fact patterns to determine case strengths and weaknesses. This experience provides invaluable insight into how the government investigates and prosecutes environmental crimes and enforces civil matters. This "insider" information can assist clients in reducing their criminal or civil exposure.

Mr. O'Neill provides support to corporate and legal counsel and their clients with timely and efficient assistance. His experience in supervising and conducting environmental investigations

and evaluating fact patterns related to environmental matters has prepared Mr. O'Neill with the ability to provide clients with insight into the criteria used by the government to determine if and how enforcement actions will likely proceed. He has substantial experience in documenting environmental incidents, identifying witnesses and reviewing evidence, and assisting counsel in developing defense strategies.

He is an experienced law enforcement manager and environmental investigator who retired from the federal government following more than 31 years of public service, 22 years of which were with the U.S. EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement. Additionally, Mr. O'Neill worked in federal law enforcement with the Internal Affairs Division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, the Office of Investigations, U.S. Customs Service, the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service, and the U.S. Border Patrol.

During his 22-year career with the U.S. EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement, Mr. O'Neill served as a Special Agent in the field, Resident Agent in Charge, Assistant Special Agent in Charge and Acting Special Agent in Charge. He investigated, and supervised the investigation of complex environmental violations with subjects ranging from individuals to corporate entities in the Top 50 of the Fortune 500 list. Mr. O'Neill was selected to open two Resident Offices for the U.S. EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement in Portland, Oregon and Boise, Idaho. As a result, he independently established statewide criminal environmental investigations programs. As an Assistant Special Agent in Charge in Seattle, Washington, and Denver, Colorado, he supervised, managed and directed the day-to-day operations of a high-profile federal criminal investigator program encompassing multi-state areas of responsibility. Mr. O'Neill was temporarily promoted to the position of Acting Special Agent in Charge during his tenure in Seattle. Because of his federal law enforcement experience, Mr. O'Neill enjoys long-term relationships with United States Attorney's Offices throughout the Pacific Northwest, the Intermountain West and with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Crimes Section in Washington, D.C. He was the national technical lead for digitally recorded target interviews and electronic evidence preservation. His expertise in this area led to the development and implementation of U. S. EPA Agency-wide policies and procedures concerning this best evidence gathering technique.

Mr. O'Neill has a diverse federal law enforcement background that includes more than eight years of domestic and international case work focusing on complex drug trafficking and money laundering organizations with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service and the U.S. Customs Service, Office of Investigations. His tenure with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management as an investigator and Acting Chief of the Internal Affairs Division provided him with considerable exposure to the universe of internal investigations stemming from fraud, waste and abuse cases and officer involved shooting incidents.

## **EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Arts** – 1982 (Summa Cum Laude)

Major: Sociology

Minor: Spanish

State University of New York at Plattsburgh

Plattsburgh, New York

**CERTIFICATIONS**

OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER Certification