



Charlie Denton represents an array of clients in environmental and toxic tort litigation, enforcement defense, regulatory compliance solutions and pollution insurance coverage disputes. He also serves as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) neutral mediator and arbitrator. Persistent and highly collaborative, Charlie can take complicated issues and challenges and then identify a strategic path to achieve the client's objectives.

Charlie's representation of industrial, municipal, institutional, educational and individual clients includes judicial and administrative environmental proceedings at the federal, state and local levels. He also represents policyholders involved in environmental coverage claim disputes and litigation with millions of dollars in the balance.

In addition, Charlie assists clients with managing environmental risks in commercial transactions, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, as well as ISO 14000 environmental management systems. He advises on lender liability issues and environmental audits to assess potential facility contamination and regulatory compliance for the acquisition and financing of real estate, as well as waste management and remedial actions, environmental permits enforcement, and defense of citizens' suits.

Charlie serves as a zealous advocate for his clients, focusing on their specific strategic goals and finding solutions that solve their immediate and long-term challenges. Charlie makes a point of understanding his clients' core objectives from the onset of representation to keep their environmental matter in perspective.

Charlie serves as a federal court arbitrator/mediator/neutral evaluator, a state court facilitative mediator, and an arbitrator and mediator for private ADR proceedings. When serving as a neutral, Charlie remains personally dedicated to finding a balanced approach to dispute resolution that meets the needs and interests of the parties involved. Charlie is valued for his thoughtful understanding of the underlying business and legal issues that permeate every dispute, as well as for his calming approach to resolving the people challenges and emotional aspects that underlie most acrimony.

Charles M. Denton

Partner

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2694

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School,
(J.D.), 1981

Ohio University, (B.A.), 1978

BAR ADMISSIONS

Georgia

Indiana

Michigan

Wisconsin

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of
Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth
Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Georgia

U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Indiana

U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Michigan

An active listener, Charlie serves as a catalyst to working constructively with even the most disparate parties to achieve a reasonable outcome.

Charlie is actively involved with key industry, legal and environmental associations, often in leadership roles. He is the author and co-author of several publications highlighting environmental law topics, and gives frequent presentations for the American Bar Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, and State Bar Associations for Georgia, Michigan and Wisconsin

Professional and Community Involvement

Vice chair, Georgia Bar Association Environmental Law Section

Co-Chair, American Bar Association, Environmental & Energy Litigation Committee

Board member, Michigan Chemistry Council (MCC)

Board member, State Bar of Wisconsin Environmental Law Section

Board Chair, Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA), Georgia Chapter

Board member, Broadway Grand Rapids

Vice-chair, International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), Environmental & Energy Law Committee

Member, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Professional Development Committee

Secretary, State Bar of Georgia Environmental Law Section

Member, Georgia Brownfield Association

Member, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Member, Lawyers Club of Atlanta

Member, NSF-International Strategic Registrations Advisory Council

Member, Michigan Pulp & Paper Environmental Council

Former governing council member, American Bar Association Section of Litigation

Former co-chair, American Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

Former chair, State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section

Former chair, Air & Waste Management Association national Legal/Liability Committee

A&WMA Annual Conference & Exhibition, Chicago (2013) and Detroit (2009) planning committees

U.S. Supreme Court

LANGUAGES

English

PRACTICES

Air Quality

Arbitration/Alternative Dispute Resolution

Brownfields and Environmental Transactional Diligence

Climate Change

Commercial Litigation

Compliance and Monitorships

Consumer Class Action Defense

Environmental

Environmental Crimes and Investigations

Environmental Litigation

Environmental, Social and Governance

Insurance Recovery and Counseling

Litigation

Logistics and Transportation

Multifamily Real Estate

Nanotechnology

PFAS and Emerging Contaminants

Pipelines

Pollution Liability Insurance

Product Liability and Mass Torts

Real Estate

Remediation, Corrective Action and Voluntary Cleanups

Toxic and Hazardous Materials - Domestic and International Requirements

Toxic Substances and Other Torts

Waste Management

Water

INDUSTRIES

Agriculture and Food

Colleges and Universities

Education

Energy and Utilities

Government and Public Finance

Government Services

Former president, East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education
Past Vice-Chair, Arrington Place Townhome Association

Licenses and Permits
Renewable Energy

Honors

Grand Rapids Magazine Top Lawyers, 2022-2023

The Best Lawyers in America, 1995-2024; Lawyer of the Year 2013, 2014 and 2018

Michigan Super Lawyers, 2006-2018

Who’s Who in American Law, 1992-2016

Detroit Bar Association “Chairperson of the Year” (1995-1996)