

Mae C Wu

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Employment**Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C***Senior Director, Health and Food Division* 2019 – present*Deputy Director, Health and Food Division* 2018 – 2019

People and Communities Program

I lead the Health and Food Division, consisting of 25 scientists, attorneys, policy professionals, campaigners, and advocates. My division consists of four teams working to protect public health from toxic chemicals in drinking water and in consumer products and to transform our food systems to be healthier and more equitable, sustainable, and resilient. I am responsible for prioritizing the projects and resources that the teams use to advance our mission. I am co-developing our institutional climate strategy for agriculture and food systems, breaking down silos within the organization to bring a holistic approach to our advocacy. I am managing the reorganization of my teams to better implement our strategies and accomplish our goals in the institutional climate strategy.

I currently have 4 direct reports; I have had up to 12 direct reports in the past. I hired two Directors and a program assistant and participated in the hiring of dozens of other staff. I am responsible for directly managing the performance and career growth of three Directors and one scientist. I informally mentor other women of color at the institution. I am also responsible for managing conflicts between members of my team and other parts of the organization.

I currently oversee and manage a budget of \$5.5M. We had a \$7.2M budget last year. I fundraise through proposal development, donor meetings and presentations, and report backs around my teams' issue areas in close collaboration with the Development Team. The revenue generally covers 30% to 50% of our budget.

Because of both my broad portfolio and my advocacy around water shutoff moratoria at the start of the COVID pandemic, I was appointed to the team responsible for reviewing and approving all institutional COVID-related public communications (hundreds of letters, blogposts, petitions) when the pandemic began.

Together with other senior leadership, I am developing our program's equity affirmation vision and overseeing the implementation of these goals in my division.

Senior Attorney, Health and Environment Program 2014 - 2018*Program Attorney, Health and Environment Program* 2006 - 2014**Selected Projects**

For more than 14 years, I have led campaigns, worked in collaboration with partners, and used a diverse set of tactics to advance policies to protect vulnerable populations from regulated and unregulated drinking water

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contaminants, antibiotic resistant bacteria from the overuse of antibiotics in livestock, toxic chemicals in consumer products, and exposure to the most dangerous pesticides. From administrative advocacy and public campaigning, from litigation to lobbying, and by working in partnership with communities and building coalitions, I have successfully passed policies that improve public health.

I led a diverse coalition of healthcare professionals, environmental advocates, organic farmers, and sustainable restaurants to launch a campaign and pass antibiotics legislation in the Maryland General Assembly. The act, signed in 2017 and strengthened in 2019, created the strongest protections in the U.S. from the overuse of antibiotics in livestock to help combat the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Over the past 14 years, I have negotiated and advocated with pesticide manufacturers and farmworker groups to successfully pass three pieces of federal legislation on pesticide registration fees. These fees are paid by industry and used, in part, to support the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide registration review process and to fund grants to support farmworker protection.

I co-led, with a scientist, an eight-year campaign to eliminate the use of triclosan, a toxic chemical used in antibacterial soap. I began with corporate and media outreach, pivoted to administrative advocacy before the Food and Drug Administration, and eventually succeeded through litigation. Now, this toxic chemical is not allowed in hand soaps, protecting millions of consumers across the country.

Institutionally, I was chosen by staff to represent the DC office when the institution embarked on a major assessment and overhaul of our compensation system. For three years, I was responsible for running the summer legal internship program and managing the assignments for our legal interns.

Howard University School of Law, Washington, D.C. 2014 – present
Adjunct Professor

Sher Leff LLP, San Francisco, CA 2003 – 2004
Associate

Litigated on behalf of municipalities against polluters on drinking water contamination.

Cooley LLP, San Francisco, CA 2001 – 2003
Litigation Associate

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Education	University of Cambridge , Cambridge, UK MPhil, Environmental Policy	2006
	Duke University School of Law , Durham, NC Juris Doctorate	2001
	Rice University , Houston, TX B.A. in Chemical Engineering	1997
Selected Service	Member, EPA Total Coliform Rule/Distribution System Federal Advisory Committee	2007 – 2008
	Member, EPA/USDA Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Registration Review workgroup and the PRIA Process Improvement workgroup	
	Member, EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council	2012 - 2014
	Member, EPA/USDA Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee	2013 - 2015
Selected Testimony and Briefings	Testimony Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality at a Hearing Entitled: Quality and Environmental Impacts of Bottled Water. September 10, 2008.	
	Testimony Before the Council of The District of Columbia Committee on Government Operations and The Environment and Committee on Public Works and Transportation at a Joint Public Hearing on Water Quality in The District of Columbia. February 10, 2009	
	Testimony Before the Council of The District of Columbia Committee on Health at a Public Hearing on B18-239 Unused Pharmaceutical Safe Disposal Act of 2009. June 25, 2009.	
	Congressional Briefing on Pharmaceuticals in the Water: Concerns and Responses. September 14, 2010.	
	Congressional Briefing on pesticides and Clean Water Act permits. November 2013.	
	Congressional Briefing on Antibiotic Resistance. January 2016	
	Testimony before the Maryland General Assembly, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee on Antimicrobials in Agriculture, March 2016.	
	Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and The Economy and Subcommittee on Health, Hearing Entitled “Flint Water Crisis: Impacts and Lessons Learned,” April, 2016	
Testimony before the Maryland General Assembly, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and		

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Transportation Committee on Antimicrobials in Agriculture, February 2017.

Testimony before the Maryland General Assembly, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environment and Transportation Committee on Antimicrobials in Agriculture, February 2019.

Testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change Hearing Entitled “EPA'S Lead and Copper Proposal: Falling Short of Protecting Public Health” February 2020.

Testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change Hearing Entitled “There’s Something in the Water: Reforming our Nation’s Drinking Water Standards” July 2020.

Selected Speaker Events

American Bar Association Water Law Conference, Frontiers of Science. San Diego, CA, 2010.

Association of Drinking Water Administrators Annual Conference, Partner’s Perspectives and Priorities. Alexandria, VA. 2010.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies webinar on triclosan regulation. 2014.

American Bar Association Science and Environmental Law Conference, Washington, DC, Sept. 2014

Chesapeake Foodshed Network, Webinar on Impacts of Antibiotic Overuse and What We Can do to Affect Change, Oct. 2015

Duke University Environmental Health Scholar Program Fall Forum: The Food and Drug Administration’s Process for Regulating the Use of Antibiotics and Antimicrobials in Food Animal Production, October 2016

Health and Environment Funders Network, Bridging the Field: How NGOs are Building Power for Clean Water, November 2016.

Rachel Carson Network, Rachel Carson Council 75th Anniversary Celebration, Environmental Justice/Factory Farm, November 2016.

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Legislative Priorities webinar, January 2017.

17th National Conference and Global Forum On Science, Policy, And The Environment: Integrating Environment And Health, Hogs, Health, and Humanity: Civic Engagement Around Public Health, Environmental Justice, and the Food System, January 2017.

National Cancer Prevention Day, February 2017.

National Cancer Prevention Day 2018: Policy not Politics, February 2018.

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2019 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Second National Conference, February 2019.

National Cancer Prevention Workshop: Highlighting Less Cancer's Efforts to Bring Solutions to Cancer Prevention, February 2019.

National Academy of Sciences. Quality Water from Every Tap: A workshop of the Environmental Health Matters Initiative, November 2019.

Selected Publications

Sass JB, Wu M. Budget cuts to the U.S. EPA will reduce government data on pollutants, and increase reliance on industry data. *Int J Occup Environ Health*. 2007 Apr-Jun;13(2):244-6.

Asleep at the switch: How EPA is ignoring atrazine contamination in surface and drinking water in the Central United States. An NRDC Issues Paper by Mae Wu, Mayra Quirindongo, Jennifer Sass, Andrew Wetzler. August, 2009

Atrazine: Poisoning the Well – Atrazine continues to contaminate surface water and drinking water in the United States. An NRDC Issues Paper by Mae Wu, Mayra Quirindongo, Jennifer Sass, Andrew Wetzler. April 2010

US Pesticide Regulation: Weaknesses, Loopholes, and Flaws Undermine Farmworker Health. Article written by Jennifer Sass and Mae Wu for Physicians for Social Responsibility. August 2011.

Superficial Safeguards: Most Pesticides Are Approved by Flawed EPA Process. An NRDC Issue Paper by Jennifer Sass and Mae Wu. March 2013.

A Key Antibacterial Soap Ingredient Must Go. An Article by Mae Wu and Maricel Maffini for Scientific American. March 2014.

Threats On Tap: Widespread Violations Highlight Need For Investment In Water Infrastructure And Protections. Kristi Pullen Fedinick, Mae Wu, Mekela Panditharatne, and Erik Olson. May 2017.