

MICHELLE A. MATTHEWS

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Education University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

Juris Doctor 2008

Minnesota Journal of International Law, Editor

Environmental Law Society, Co-Chair

Minnesota Justice Foundation, Member, Clerkship recipient Student Hurricane Network, Advisory Board Member

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude Environmental Studies, Justice & Peace Studies 2003

Student Coalition for Social Justice, Environmental Point Person

Green Team (Environmental Group), Vice President

Bar Admission Minnesota

Memberships Minnesota State Bar Association

RREAL (Rural Renewable Energy Alliance), Board of Directors

Greenway Solar Project, Advisory Committee

Experience Renewable Energy Systems, Minneapolis, MN

Development Manager II, February 2017-present

Manage the development of utility-scale wind and solar projects across the country. Oversee site and route identification, land acquisition, permitting, system engineering, commercial contracting, and regulatory compliance.

United States Solar Corporation, Minneapolis, MN

VP of Business Development & Regulatory Affairs, August 2015-February 2017

Develop and direct residential community solar subscriber acquisition program, and manage ongoing subscriptions with commercial and municipal clients in Minnesota. Develop relationships with utilities, local governments, and development community and participate in regulatory development (particularly community solar program development) across the country. Coordinate permitting efforts nationally, and perform all permitting efforts locally. Pursue site leads and negotiate acquisition opportunities.

MN Community Solar, Minneapolis, MN

CEO, 2014-2015

Coordinated large-scale community solar subscriber acquisition, responses to requests for proposals, and site acquisition. Managed office staff and workflows. Negotiated with landowners and prepared legal contracts for landowners, community partners, and subscribers. Managed relationship with utility, as well as development community, and actively participated in settlement agreement adopted by Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Root Legal, LLC, Minneapolis, MN

Founder, solo-practitioner, 2011-2015

Represent and assist small, green business initiatives and entrepreneurial startups; representation includes innovative nonprofit providing solar energy assistance. Broader focus includes legal writing, contract formation and negotiation, and land-use disputes.

EntrePartner Law Firm, PLLC, Minneapolis, MN

Attorney, 2012-November 2014

Represented clients with a broad range of environmental, real estate, small business and litigation matters, including land-use disputes, entity formation, franchise development, business growth and contracts.

3M Office of General Counsel, Maplewood, MN **Contract Attorney**, 2011–2013

Investigated compliance with internal policies and protocols and legal rules and regulations regarding product use, formulations, warning and product liability. Advised lead counsel and litigation team to provide direction and guidance on complex discovery strategy.

Robert Half Legal, Minneapolis, MN

Contract Attorney, 2009–2010

Reviewed and analyzed opposing party discovery in large-scale civil litigation; prepared attorney trial team for depositions and narrowing of relevant issues.

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, St. Paul, MN

Law Clerk, 2007-2008

Conducted factual and legal research and drafted corresponding memoranda regarding environmental law, legislative policy and novel avenues for amelioration of environmental issues and directed agency inadequacies. Drafted trial preparation notes, case summaries and closing arguments and participated in strategy-based meetings.

Smith Partners, PLLP, Minneapolis, MN

Law Clerk, firm specializing in water law and strategic community partnerships, 2006 – 2007 Researched factual and legal issues and composed related legal memoranda. Researched foundations for building a watershed-level carbon sequestration trading framework to offset local carbon emissions. Developed a framework for analyzing existing public-private partnerships in which to model new community development partnerships.

Renewing the Countryside – Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Minneapolis, MN Editor, Curriculum Developer, 2004 – 2005

Co-Editor of the books, *The Value of Agrarian Landscapes across Europe and North America*, published by Reed Elsevier, and *Renewing the Countryside: Washington*. Developed interactive curriculum concerning rural innovations in local communities and the relevance and understanding of food. Assisted in content development of website, including revision of stories, anecdotes, and recipes surrounding sustainable agriculture initiatives.

GoNorth! 2005 (formerly Arctic Transect 2004)—University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN **Education Basecamp Assistant**, 2003 – 2005

Collaborated with Will Steger in the development of curriculum to follow arctic expedition, including research, writing and editing; assisted educators with implementation of curriculum into classroom. Researched themes related to adventure learning for documentation and publication; Facilitation of professional development for educators and outreach to teachers in the Midwest related to polarhusky.com.