

RISHI P. REDDI, J.D.

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PROFILE

Senior environmental attorney and policy-maker with over 25 years of experience specializing in climate, energy, and environmental regulation, environmental justice, transportation issues, and cumulative impacts approach to permitting and siting. Highly effective in both collaborative environments and independent work. Strategic thinker with the ability to advance policy objectives in both supportive and challenging circumstances.

POLICY EXPERIENCE

Northeastern University School of Law

Adjunct Professor

May 2026 -- Present

Professor of Environmental Law, covering a broad range of environmental statutes, administrative law, and policy issues.

Conservation Law Foundation

Vice President for Massachusetts

June 2026 – Present

Direct Massachusetts strategy for environmental regulation and enforcement, climate resilience, and clean energy transition for New England's leading non-profit advocacy organization that safeguards the region's environment and natural resources

Ceres, Inc.

Senior Advisor

April 2024 – June 2026

Oversee climate policy advocacy for Northeast states, especially Massachusetts and New Hampshire and regional initiatives such as off-shore wind and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, promoting the business case for sustainability, environmental protection, clean energy, environmental justice and public health.

- Develop strategies to engage with executive and legislative branches of state government to promote clean energy, decarbonization, clean transportation, climate financing, and more.
- Submit oral and written testimony at legislative hearings and during administrative rule-making processes. Educate law-makers in climate issues.
- Develop alliances with large-scale corporations to advocate for climate issues, organize businesses to advocate for sustainability issues at statehouses, offices of the governor, cabinet-level secretariats and executive agencies.
- Participate in data-driven, multi-sector, policy-making efforts of the MA Office of Energy Transition and Boston Green Ribbon Commission.
- Develop op-eds and articles showcasing Ceres thought-leadership on sustainability.
- Participate with coalitions of large and small NGO partners to effectively advocate for issues of common interest.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Office of the Secretary

Director of Environmental Justice

December 2019 – October 2023

Chair of the Environmental Justice Council

appointed by the governor, July 2022 – July 2023

Identified, developed, and oversaw efforts to advance equity considerations across Climate, Energy, Environment and Agriculture programs under EEA's jurisdiction. Chair of the state's Environmental Justice Council, whose members are appointed by the governor to advise Secretary of EEA on policy initiatives. Liaison for environmental justice (EJ) work with other cabinet-level Secretariats.

- In collaboration with senior policy officials, led the on-going integration of EJ principles with all climate initiatives, including 2050 Net Zero Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP), and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).
- Managed budget of \$1.3M for EJ initiatives in FY23. Successfully advocated for increase of specific EJ program budget from \$0 to \$8.8M over 4 years.
- Led the EJ Council in review of EEA-wide EJ Strategy, and adoption of "EJ Principles."
- Led secretariat's on-going relationships with equity advocates, stakeholders, and activists.
- Led the development and update of EEA's EJ Maps Viewer tool and webpage.
- Created and regularly convened EEA's EJ Task Force, charged with crafting EEA's formal EJ strategy across EEA's six agencies and four major offices. Led development of 150-page Draft EJ Strategy, released in Nov 2022 for public comment.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Boston, MA

Senior Counsel, Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Feb 2008 – November 2019

Advised staff regarding air quality, greenhouse gas, low emission vehicles, solid waste, mobile air source regulations, environmental justice and Title VI policy, among other concerns.

- Promulgated Climate Change regulations under the GWSA (M.G.L. c. 21N) as a member of the "3(d) air team." Received Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Award, 2017 and 2018.
- Lead DEP attorney for MA Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program, collaborating with MA Attorney General's Office and other states to defend LEV in federal court against Trump Administration proposal to eliminate LEV program.
- Member of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) team for MA.
- Developed and Implemented grant programs for \$75 million (MA portion) of national Volkswagen Settlement funds, as member of DEP VW Team. Created, in collaboration with MA Office of Disability, first-of-its-kind non-discrimination grant criteria to ensure handicap accessibility of electric vehicle charging stations on a statewide basis.
- Legal counsel to DEP's EJ Director. Developed and presented portions of EPA's EJ and non-discrimination training to environmental staff of New England states.
- Member of negotiation team for \$150 million contract for Enhanced Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program, in collaboration with MA Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- Counsel for the DEP's Solid Waste Permitting Program.
- Supervised junior attorneys and interns in legal analysis, research and writing of memoranda.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Boston, MA

Acting General Counsel

Nov 2002 – April 2003

Deputy General Counsel

July 2000 – Nov 2002

Advised Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand and his staff on wide range of legal issues, policy and legislation.

- Lead attorney for all matters related to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
- Advised Asst. Sec. Gina McCarthy in urban environmental legal issues and negotiations with industry and businesses.
- Advised first MA EJ Director Veronica Eady in development of first MA EJ Policy, overlay maps, definition of “EJ Population” and Language Access Program.
- Supervised 3-person legal office staff during any absence of General Counsel.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, Boston, MA

Enforcement Counsel, Office of Environmental Stewardship

August 1998 – May 2000

Represented agency and developed judicial and administrative enforcement cases for civil prosecution.

- Specialized in Clean Air Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Collaborated with United States Department of Justice on litigation strategy.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Boston, MA

Counsel, Office of General Counsel

June 1993 – July 1998

Represented the Commonwealth in broad range of environmental issues, with expertise in wetlands, waterways, water management, enforcement negotiation, adjudicatory appeals, and environmental justice. Negotiated resolutions with businesses and private residents in permit appeals and enforcement cases as part of the adjudicatory litigation team.

- Completed comprehensive equity analysis of major DEP Programs, Co-founded and co-chaired DEP’s first Environmental Justice Committee, and organized interpretation/ translation service

LOBBYING / ADVOCACY / VOLUNTEER WORK

Writers for Democratic Action – MA Chapter

June 2025 -- present

Steering Committee, Director of Political Engagement, pro-democracy non-profit organization

National Book Critics Circle

Board of Directors, literary arts non-profit organization

March 2024 -- present

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), Washington, DC

Board of Directors, national civil rights organization

March 2005 – August 2009

Grub Street, Inc., Boston, MA

Board of Directors; literary arts non-profit organization

February 2004 – October 2005

Amnesty International, U.S.A., Washington, DC

Massachusetts Legislative Coordinator

July 2003 – July 2005

LANGUAGES

Conversant in South Asian language of Telugu. Classes in French and Hindi.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Licensed in MA. Member of Boston Bar Association and South Asian Bar Association of Greater Boston.

OTHER INTERESTS: FICTION & JOURNALISM PUBLICATIONS

Passage West: a novel:

Ecco/HarperCollins, New York, NY, (2020)

- NEIBA New England Book Award Finalist 2020
- *A Los Angeles Times* “Best California Book of 2020”

Karma and Other Stories

Ecco/HarperCollins, New York, NY (2007)

- Winner 2008 PEN New England Award for Outstanding Fiction
- Long-listed for national India Vodafone/Crossword Award 2008

Writing Grants and Fellowships

- National Book Critics Circle, Emerging Critic Fellow – 2021-2022
- United States Department of State, U.S. Speaker & Specialist Grant – June 2013
- MacDowell Artists’ Colony, Fellow – October 2012
- Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Shane Stevens Fellow – August 2007
- Massachusetts Cultural Council, Individual Artist Grant – 2004

Essays, Reviews, Stories and Translations

Best American Short Stories, Harvard Review, Kirkus Reviews, Los Angeles Review of Books, National Public Radio’s Selected Shorts, New York Times, Partisan Review, Pushcart Prize honorable mention, and others.

EDUCATION

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

B.A., English Literature, May 1988

Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

J.D., May 1992

--Cooperative Legal Education Experience:

United Nations, General Legal Division, New York, NY

Researched and wrote legal memoranda for UNDP, UNIFEM, and UN Security Council.

Honorable Shane Devine, United States District Court, Concord, NH

Drafted orders, memoranda and decisions on banking and taxation codes, civil rights, and jurisdiction.

Lawyers Collective, Bombay, India

Assisted Indira Jaising, nationally-renowned activist attorney, in Indian Supreme Court re-hearings stemming from Union Carbide’s 1984 Bhopal gas-leak disaster.

New York State Organized Crime Task Force, White Plains,

Drafted legal memoranda on 4th Amendment protections for modern methods of gathering evidence.

Boston University, Boston, MA

M.A., English Literature /Creative Writing, September 2001