

SABRINA WELLS

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Environmental policy, government affairs, and strategic communications professional with experience spanning state government, the courts, environmental advocacy, nonprofit development, and client-facing advisory work. Background includes legislative analysis, regulatory research, coalition building, public engagement, donor systems improvement, environmental enforcement support, media relations, and long-form policy writing. Known for translating complex policy and operational issues into practical recommendations for leadership, stakeholders, and the public.

AREAS OF POLICY EXPERTISE

- Climate policy and energy regulation
- Environmental enforcement and water quality
- Renewable energy financing policy
- Strategic communications and public engagement
- Legislative affairs and government relations
- Land-use and environmental regulatory analysis
- Environmental justice and community advocacy
- Research, reporting, and stakeholder briefings

MEDIA & PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Managed media relations, press inquiries, and public messaging for the Superior Court of Fulton County.
- Produced feature articles, interviews, and program stories highlighting public sector initiatives and community programs.
- Authored op-eds and commentary addressing environmental regulation and economic policy.
- Developed targeted media outreach strategies connecting policy experts with journalists and podcast hosts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Policy & Communications Consultant

Recent

Independent / Upwork-based consulting

- Conduct regulatory research and policy analysis across environmental, zoning, administrative, and public-interest topics for private clients and mission-driven organizations.
- Develop targeted media outreach strategies connecting subject-matter experts with journalists, podcast hosts, and issue-specific outlets.
- Produce investigative incident reviews examining reputational risk, documentation patterns, and organizational response strategies.
- Provide policy writing, editing, and communications consulting for advocacy campaigns, media outreach projects, and executive-facing deliverables.

Management Policy Analyst IV | Public Information Officer | Legislative Liaison

2021 - 2025

Superior Court of Fulton County

- Managed external communications, media inquiries, press materials, public statements, and legislative updates for court leadership.

- Co-chaired a multi-agency policy advisory committee that developed four formal policy proposals over 18 months; two were enacted.
- Built and managed an integrated media platform featuring articles, social media content, and staff spotlights to enhance transparency and public engagement.
- Led the court's first departmental operations assessment, translating findings into strategic recommendations to improve internal processes and resource alignment.
- Directed the development and launch of the court's first new website in 15 years, overseeing project management, design, content, and system integration.

Real Estate Broker, Commercial and Residential Advisory

2015 - 2021

Independent / Firm-based practice

- Consistently ranked among the top five highest-grossing agents in the firm.
- Earned Green Built NC certification, strengthening ability to advise clients on environmentally conscious housing options.
- Developed and delivered in-house training courses on real estate management and client service.
- Built a high-touch, referral-driven business grounded in research, credibility, negotiation, and relationship management.

Development Associate

2011 - 2014

MountainTrue

- Cultivated major donor relationships, securing significant gifts for general operations and a regional wildlands preservation campaign.
- Managed recruitment and onboarding for AmeriCorps service members.
- Secured business sponsorships for events, significantly reducing event costs.
- Overhauled donor database systems, improving tracking, segmentation, and outreach efficiency.

Energy Policy Analyst

2009 - 2010

New York State Senate

- Served as lead staffer on alternative energy policy, helping advance the nation's largest Green Jobs legislation and related sustainability initiatives.
- Advised the Senate Energy Committee Chair on legislation supporting solar energy, grid modernization, and sustainable financing mechanisms.
- Prepared policy memoranda, legislative summaries, and background materials for Senate leadership and committee deliberations.
- Met with lobbyists, advocates, agencies, and other stakeholders across the energy sector to evaluate competing policy interests.

Program Associate

2008

Citizens' Environmental Coalition

- Revitalized donor and member engagement strategies, increasing donations by 200 percent.
- Represented the organization on the NYSERDA residential green building advisory committee.
- Designed and delivered a public education series on green building, reaching more than 100 attendees through eight community events.
- Built statewide partnerships with environmental groups, policymakers, and community members around equitable energy efficiency priorities.

General Counsel Fellow

2008

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- Conducted a GIS analysis supporting air quality enforcement and environmental justice initiatives, contributing to a diesel emissions crackdown in underserved, high-asthma areas.
- Assisted senior attorneys in managing the public comment phase for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state effort to reduce carbon emissions.
- Supported legal and policy review at the intersection of environmental regulation, climate policy, and administrative process.

Program Coordinator

2005 - 2007

Hudson Riverkeeper

- Designed and launched the Watchdog Program, training citizens to identify and report pollution and generating actionable leads and legal cases.
- Expanded the legal internship program from 6 to 20 participants in one year, creating hands-on learning experiences in environmental law and nonprofit operations.
- Collaborated with legal and field teams on investigations of water pollution cases across the Hudson River watershed.
- Produced advocacy, outreach, and investigative materials related to land use, wetlands, illegal dumping, and oil-sheen incidents.

MAJOR POLICY PROJECTS & LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Clean energy workforce and renewable energy policy development: Contributed legislative research and analysis supporting clean energy deployment, workforce development, solar policy, grid modernization, and sustainable financing mechanisms in New York State.

Municipal renewable energy financing program design: Prepared policy analysis on property-linked financing structures that enabled municipalities to support energy efficiency retrofits and renewable energy installations.

Residential energy efficiency and housing policy analysis: Developed briefing materials on housing energy waste, retrofit economics, and workforce structures tied to large-scale efficiency policy initiatives.

Environmental monitoring and enforcement support: Documented pollution incidents affecting the Hudson River and surrounding waterways and helped communicate findings to agencies, property owners, and legal teams.

Wetlands and land-use regulatory advocacy: Prepared and supported environmental comments and analyses concerning wetlands protection, watercourses law, and land-use impacts tied to development proposals and infrastructure projects.

Cross-agency criminal justice operations reform: Co-chaired a court-based advisory process that translated operational challenges into formal policy proposals and leadership recommendations.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, POLICY WRITING & PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Selected work spanning environmental regulation, energy policy, climate mitigation, environmental justice, nonprofit reporting, investigative environmental documentation, and public-facing feature writing.

- **Climate Change, State Policy, and Federal Possibilities** - Research examining climate science, state and federal policy frameworks, and land-management incentives tied to carbon sequestration.
- **Energy & Telecommunications Legislative Wrap-Up** - Legislative summary of key energy and telecommunications developments considered in the New York State Senate.

- **NAFTA vs. CAFTA-DR: Environmental Implications of Free Trade Agreements** - Graduate research on environmental governance, enforcement, and political economy within trade agreements.
- **Air Quality Regulations Are Good for the Economy** - Opinion commentary on the economic case for environmental regulation.
- **Municipal Sustainable Energy Loan Program - Legislative Policy Brief** - Policy memorandum outlining municipal financing structures for renewable energy and energy-efficiency improvements.
- **Green Jobs / Green Homes NY - Policy Background Memorandum** - Policy writing on residential energy consumption, retrofit economics, and workforce development.
- **Comments on Wetlands and Watercourses Law - Irvington Planning Board** - Regulatory analysis supporting wetlands protection and environmental impact review.
- **Wise Energy for Virginia Coalition - Foundation Grant Report** - Coalition report documenting strategy to reduce reliance on coal-fired power and expand cleaner energy pathways.
- **Hudson River Oil Sheen Investigation - Croton Yards** - Investigative environmental notice documenting oil contamination concerns near Metro-North infrastructure.
- **Illegal Dumping Investigation - Harlem River** - Follow-up environmental investigation regarding debris and dumping along the Harlem River.
- **Environmental Land-Use Issues in the Tappan Zee Bridge Project** - Commentary on environmental review and land-use issues tied to major infrastructure planning.
- **A Home of His Own - Jimmy McClain's Story** - Feature article highlighting rehabilitation, recovery, and housing support through accountability court programming.
- **Judge Williams on Common Sense, Representation and the Power of Family** - Interview-based feature on judicial leadership, family court practice, and public service.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Policy briefings for government leadership: Prepared and delivered internal policy briefings and legislative updates for court leadership and public-sector stakeholders.

Cross-agency advisory committee leadership: Convened judges, advocates, prosecutors, defenders, and agency partners to evaluate operations and develop recommendations.

Legislative briefing support: Prepared memoranda, backgrounders, and talking points for Senate deliberations on energy, infrastructure, and sustainability policy.

Environmental advocacy and community education: Designed public-facing educational events and community engagement efforts related to green building, water quality, and environmental reporting.

Public communications and feature writing: Produced interviews, profiles, articles, and public-interest stories that strengthened transparency and audience engagement.

EDUCATION

Graduate study in Latin American Studies and Environmental History

SUNY Albany

B.A., Environmental Policy

Prescott College

Relevant study areas: environmental law, climate policy, ecological economics, land-use planning, environmental justice.

FELLOWSHIPS

Women in Public Policy Fellow

Center for Women in Government & Civil Society

General Counsel Fellow

New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Project Management Level I & II
- Level I ArcView GIS
- Green Built NC
- Training in Major Donor Relations (Cause Effective NYC)
- Conflict Resolution Training
- Certified Yoga Instructor

TECHNICAL & LANGUAGE SKILLS

Software and platforms: Drupal, Giftworks, Contribute Website Publishing, eTapestry, Microsoft Office (including Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher), ArcMap / ArcView GIS, CAMS, Crystal Reports, EDE, SPS.

Languages: English (primary); basic conversational Spanish.