

Midwest Environmental ADVOCATES

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Midwest Environmental Advocates Expands to Milwaukee and Hires a New Director

Milwaukee, WI. Midwest Environmental Advocates, Wisconsin's first and only non-profit environmental law center, has expanded its capacity to promote environmental justice in Wisconsin by opening a Milwaukee office and bringing on a new Executive Director.

"We're very excited that this day has come," said founder Melissa K. Scanlan. "Since opening our doors in 1999, Midwest Environmental Advocates has actively engaged communities across Wisconsin and has achieved victories for clean air and water, but with our new office we'll be able to increase our work with low-income communities that are living with greater environmental degradation," she added.

After founding and serving as the Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates for eight years, Ms. Scanlan has moved her family to Milwaukee to open Midwest Environmental Advocates' office and serve as Senior Counsel for the organization.

At the same time, Midwest Environmental Advocates recently hired another experienced environmental lawyer as the new Executive Director, Karen M. Schapiro, to take the growing organization to the next level. Ms. Schapiro comes to Midwest Environmental Advocates from the law firm of DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C., where she was a partner in the environmental practice group. Earlier in her career she served as an air enforcement attorney at the U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C. where she prosecuted violations of the Clean Air Act around the country, and also worked on regulation and policy developments. Ms. Schapiro is a recipient of the EPA's Bronze Medal of Commendation for her role in negotiating emission reductions from over 40 "high risk" sources of air toxics. While in Washington, D.C., she also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2005, Ms. Schapiro was named a "Leader in the Law" by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. The award recognized her for pursuing citizen suit litigation against the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for dumping raw sewage into Lake Michigan and Milwaukee-area rivers. She is also included among lists of Wisconsin Super Lawyers® and the Best Lawyers in America.®

"I'm honored to assume the role of Executive Director and I'm looking forward to working to carry forward our mission of promoting environmental justice in the Western Great Lakes Region," says Ms. Schapiro.

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