Biography

Dr. Coon graduated cum laude from Michigan State University in 1977 and went on to graduate from Wayne State University School of Law in 1980. He has spent his career holding polluters and wrong-doers accountable for their actions. After a brief stint practicing law with Eldon Butzbaugh, Jr. in his home town of St. Joseph, Michigan, he went on to become a trial lawyer with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Detroit. From there he went to St. Croix, U.S.V.I. to work with the Law Offices of John K. Dema focusing on class action environmental and civil rights litigation. Dr. Coon opened his own practice in St. Croix in 1984. The Law Offices of John R Coon evolved into Coon & Sanford and, later, Coon, Sanford and Amerling. Dr. Coon represented labor unions in the Caribbean and began to play an increasing role in national trial teams representing asbestos product manufacturers, trying cases around the country. From approximately 1987 Dr. Coon began representing clients in CERCLA/RCRA litigation. In the early 1990s he moved his family to Brunswick, Maine, and became a partner in the firm of Amerling and Burns, P.A. In 1995 he formed a new law firm, Wright and Coon, P.A., specializing in the national practice of toxic tort and related actions.

Dr. Coon left the full-time practice of law in 2000 and focused on the “science side” of environmental litigation by enrolling in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies PhD program at the University of New Hampshire. While attending and teaching at UNH, he worked for a variety of law firms as a consultant on various cases, including the Deepwater Horizon litigation, and received his PhD in 2012. Dr. Coon is still affiliated faculty in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UNH.

The Law Offices of John R Coon, PhD, is dedicated to the representation of clients who demonstrate and foster a sustainable approach to activities and behaviors that impact the resilience of ecosystems. The firm believes that there are businesses and enterprises that can be part of an overall solution to the largely negative environmental trends that plague our nation. By the same token, Dr. Coon is never hesitant to use his natural resources and environmental science education and his years of experience with complex environmental class actions to work with communities and law firms to hold polluters responsible for their actions and restore/remediate even the most challenging and complex sites. Further, the firm participates in the facilitation of CERCLA allocation efforts designed to get responsible parties to ultimately agree to remediation/restoration commitments.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Academic Papers and Conference Proceedings


Non-Academic Publications


Invited Presentations

