

Brian Christian

A governmental affairs expert with nearly 30 years in legislative communications and environmental policy development.

Experience

August 2018 – Present

President, Brian Christian Consulting LLC

- Provides lobbying and advisory services to clients with issues before the Texas Legislature and state natural resource agencies.
- Services include strategy development, advocacy communications, compliance assistance, monitoring, research into and analysis of emerging issues, and proactive public and governmental official engagement.
- Experience helping manufacturers, aggregate production operations, public drinking water systems, electric utilities, and other regulated entities navigate legislative, permitting, and enforcement systems.

November 2008 – July 2018

Director, Environmental Assistance Division (EAD), Office of the Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

- Senior-level management position with responsibility for multiple compliance assistance and advocacy programs.
- Worked with all TCEQ regulatory programs to effect changes to agency enforcement and permitting policies on behalf of the public and regulated community.
- Helped regulated entities and the public navigate TCEQ systems.
- Experienced in all environmental media, including public drinking water, oil and gas regulation, aggregate production operations, municipal solid waste management and recycling, air quality, water resource management (e.g. drought response), and public participation in permitting.
- Designed proactive outreach strategies to educate the public and regulated entities on environmental issues.
- Represented the TCEQ before federal agencies, other Texas state agencies, local governments, and the Texas Legislature.

October 2006 – October 2008

Manager, Small Business and Local Government Assistance, EAD, TCEQ

- Oversaw programs to assist small businesses and small local governments achieve compliance with environmental regulations.
- Served as Small Business Ombudsman, advocating for the needs and interests of small businesses in regulatory matters.

September 2005 – September 2006

Manager, Pollution Prevention and Industry Assistance, EAD, TCEQ

- Oversaw innovative pollution prevention and regulatory flexibility programs.
- Designed and implemented incentive programs that encourage regulated entities to go beyond compliance.
- Wrote proposals for federal grants related to pollution prevention and non-point source pollution reduction.

October 2001 – August 2005

Executive Assistant/Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Commissioners, TCEQ

- Served as advisor to Chairman Robert J. Huston of the TCEQ.
- Represented the interests of the Chairman and commissioners in the development of air quality, waste management, budget, enforcement, and water policy.
- Developed legislative communication strategies.

February 1999 – September 2001

Legislative Liaison, Intergovernmental Relations Division, TCEQ

- Served as a liaison between the TCEQ and the Texas Legislature, with a focus on air quality, solid waste management, low-level radioactive waste management, and public participation in permitting.
- Advised senior TCEQ management on legislative strategies and developed communications plans.
- Monitored hearings, prepared reports, and advised on agency strategy.
- Resolved constituent matters for legislators.
- Briefed legislators and their staff on emerging issues.
- Helped draft legislation, amendments, and statements of intent.

September 1995 – January 1999

Policy Specialist, Office of Policy and Regulatory Development, TCEQ

- Coordinated TCEQ rulemaking concerning air quality and agency procedures.
- Designed and helped execute TCEQ's processes for reviewing, tracking, and implementing legislation.
- Served as a Regulatory Reform Coordinator, helping eliminate unnecessary rules, identify process efficiencies, and achieve greater consistency.

May 1994 – August 1995

Program Administrator, Mobile Source Division, Office of Air, TCEQ

- Implemented alternative fuels and clean fleet requirements mandated by the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments and Texas law.
- Coordinated with metropolitan planning organizations and councils of government on air quality improvement programs.

January 1992 – April 1994

Legislative Liaison/Policy Specialist, Texas General Land Office

- Developed recommendations for recycling market development and promoted Texas natural gas as an alternative fuel source.
- Monitored the agency's budget from filing through final conference committee, drafted legislation, and briefed legislators on agency priorities.

January 1991 – October 1991

Bill Coordinator/Research Specialist, Senate Research Center, The Texas Senate

- Worked on legislation that restructured significant governmental functions and was key to addressing a shortfall in the Texas budget.
- Analyzed over 800 pieces of legislation for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources, State Affairs, and Economic Development.

Career Highlights

- During the 86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature (2019), tracked and analyzed bills, drafted legislation and amendments, developed communications strategies and advocacy materials, monitored hearings and prepared reports, and briefed legislative staff
- Works with *Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas*, an organization representing critical energy, health, and research providers to ensure the safe and cost-effective disposal of low-level radioactive waste
- Appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Onsite Wastewater Treatment Research Council (serving from 2010-2011)
- Helped develop Early Action Compacts for maintaining attainment of national ambient air quality standards, in close coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and environmental groups
- Advised on the development and funding of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan
- Served as an expert on two Sunset Reviews of the TCEQ
- Developed and implemented proactive strategies to engage local officials in the Eagle Ford oil and gas shale play
- Appointed TCEQ Water Liaison to the Texas Water Development Board to assist with implementing the Texas Water Plan (serving from 2015-2018)
- Helped conceive and served on the Texas Emergency Drinking Water Task Force, a multi-agency and multidisciplinary panel charged with taking swift action to help water systems avoid outages in times of drought
- Conceptualized, coordinated the development of, and wrote a detailed white-paper on methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) that was used to brief state leadership and legislative staff and influenced state policy
- Served as 10-time Co-Chair of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Committee for the selection of winners of the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

Education

Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas at Austin, December 1990

- History Major/Government Minor. Emphasis on Antebellum American history and foreign affairs.

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