



**Marissa G. Nortz** | Member

**PHONE** (304) 353-8156  
**EMAIL** marissa.nortz@steptoe-johnson.com  
**LICENSURE** WV  
**EDUCATION** J.D. West Virginia University

Marissa Nortz focuses her practice in the often complex and ever-changing landscape of federal and state environmental regulations. Her clients, often municipalities and industrial, chemical and manufacturing companies, regularly call on Marissa for assistance with permitting, compliance, operational, and litigation needs, stemming from issues such as water and wastewater discharges, solid and hazardous waste disposal, air emissions, and other environmental and regulatory needs.

Hailing from the “Heart of the Billion Dollar Coal Field”, Marissa has inherited the blue-collar mentality of her father, a West Virginia coal miner, and funnels that mentality into the zealous representation of her clients. Marissa thrives most when working closely with her clients to deliver a hands-on result that not only resolves the issue at hand but delivers a path towards future successful, compliant, operations.

Marissa’s experience has allowed her to negotiate excessive environmental penalties issued by state and federal regulatory agencies under various environmental statutes and regulations, many of which if left unaltered could have resulted in a shuttering of operations. Marissa also regularly counsels clients on development of permitting terms and conditions, including advising on appropriate treatment technologies for continued compliance. When necessary, Marissa takes her clients concerns before state administrative boards, including the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board, to ensure that state regulatory requirements are developed to the letter of the law.

In addition to general counseling regarding compliant operations, Marissa has recently found herself emerged in emerging contaminant issues, including providing counsel on compliance with newly emerging state and federal regulations on per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”) and 1,4-Dioxane. As regulations are being developed, Marissa is at the forefront of the issues and has offered forward-thinking solutions for dischargers of these contaminants, including wastewater dischargers, owners of contaminated properties, airports, and other municipal, industrial, and manufacturing companies.

Marissa's Southern West Virginia roots have translated into a practice that provides a client-centric approach to her clients' daily environmental and regulatory needs. Whether it's assisting in the development of a new capital improvement project, completing permitting applications, representing clients against state and federal agencies, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Justice, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, or just lending a supportive ear, Marissa strives to ensure that her representation paves the way for her clients' successes.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Advised municipalities, public service districts, and publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) on compliance with West Virginia's Open Governmental Proceedings Act when conducting virtual public meetings

Advised municipalities public service districts, and publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) on best management practices for the safe operation of essential services during COVID-19

Counseled municipal client through violation, appeal, and administrative hearing in front of the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board, which resulted in obtaining a waiver of the MS4 permit

On behalf of a Public Service District, negotiated federal consent decree under the Federal Clean Water Act and the West Virginia Water Pollution Control Act for stormwater and sanitary sewer violations involving the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Justice, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

Provided environmental due diligence and environmental risk analysis to assist private equity company in the decision making process for investments in both intrastate and interstate natural gas pipelines

Assisted in the drafting of West Virginia's first individual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System ("MS4") Permit for a West Virginia Public Service Stormwater District

Assisted large municipalities and public service districts in obtaining pre-treatment permit to incentivize economic development of manufacturing and industrial facilities

Assisted in the representation of numerous industrial and municipal clients before state administrative boards

Regularly assists in the negotiation of terms and conditions of NPDES permits with state agencies for both large industrial discharges and publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities

Assisted in the performance of environmental due diligence for the investment in a multi-billion dollar intrastate natural gas pipeline

## WORK EXPERIENCE

2015	Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
2014	Summer Associate, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
2013	Summer Associate, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Super Lawyers for Environmental Law – 2019, 2020, and 2021 Rising Star

National Association of Women Lawyers

Phi Beta Kappa

WVU College of Law Moot Court Board

George C. Baker Moot Court Competition Winner

Order of the Barristers

### **INDUSTRY/CIVIC**

Member, National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Board of Directors, Air and Waste Management of West Virginia