

DINAH BEAR

Ms. Bear is a lawyer and consultant, specializing in the field of environmental law and policy. For 25 years, she served in positions of confidence for both Democratic and Republican administrations at the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the environmental agency within the Executive Office of the President. She joined CEQ as Deputy General Counsel in 1981, was appointed General Counsel in January, 1983, and served in that capacity until October, 1993. She resumed that position in January, 1995 and served as General Counsel of CEQ until her retirement from government at the end of 2007. The Chairman of CEQ is the President's environmental advisor. CEQ has responsibility for developing environmental policy and coordinating its implementation within the executive branch. Ms. Bear regularly handled matters requiring extensive interagency coordination, both within the federal executive branch and with state, tribal and local governments and citizens. In that context, Ms. Bear often facilitated discussions with parties holding diverse views on an issue.

CEQ oversees implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the statutory basis for the environmental impact assessment process. As part of that responsibility, CEQ issues and interprets regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. Ms. Bear had lead responsibility for legal issues associated with NEPA and for much of her tenures responsibility for oversight of over 85 federal agencies.

Ms. Bear served on the National Environmental Conflict Resolution Advisory Committee from 2002-2005. The Committee, co-chaired by the owner and operator of the Diamond Tail Ranch in Greybull, Wyoming and an environmental justice and community advocate from Hartford, Connecticut, developed a series of recommendations to improve federal agency decisionmaking within the framework of the NEPA Process, https://www.udall.gov/documents/Institute/NECRAC_Report_Summ.pdf

Ms. Bear received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Environmental Law and Policy from the American Bar Association and the Chairman's Award from the Natural Resources Council of America. She chaired the Standing Committee on Environmental Law of the American Bar Association from 1991-1993. During that period, the Committee, spearheaded an ABA resolution on the issue of environmental justice, and held a series of conference exploring the linkages between trade and the environment in Hong Kong. She chaired the Steering Committee of the Environment Section of the District of Columbia Bar Association, which won the "best section" award during that period. In 2011, she served on the committee of the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences on the topic of Health Impact Assessment.

Since moving to Tucson, Arizona in 2011, Ms. Bear has continued to work in the environmental field in a variety of capacities. Ms. Bear received a Bachelors of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1974, and graduated from McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento, California, in 1977.