

Margaret Ann Samuels
Attorney at Law
787 Montrose Ave., Columbus OH 43209
(614-231-9134)

As Federal Counsel at the Ohio Office of the Consumers' Counsel (OCC), I represented utility consumers in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal agencies with authority to affect utility rates.

Current Responsibilities:

- Active in watershed advocacy; serve on the board of the Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries (FACT). I was FACT president for 3 years after its founding in 1998.
- Represent FACT on the Greenways Steering Committee at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and chair a subcommittee of that body.
- Serve on the Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) for the Public Works Commission District 3 Integrating Committee, reviewing applications for funding under the Clean Ohio program.

My responsibilities for FACT include:

- Providing comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on development proposals that affect the Alum Creek water quality.
- Treasurer for 5 years, tracking memberships and reports to OEPA, taxation authorities and other entities.
- Attending workshops sponsored by the Ohio Environmental Council and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on watershed issues.

Prior Employment: At OCC I concentrated primarily in areas of interstate natural gas ratemaking, as well as issues under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA). As federal counsel and as chair of the natural gas committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA)

- I negotiated changes to PUHCA in the Gas-Related Activities Act in 1989.
- I took part in a group of organizations seeking to preserve PUHCA benefits during negotiations underlying the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.
- I testified on utility-related matters before various Congressional committees and the FERC. I have also spoken on panels at a variety of conferences and seminars.

Prior to my years at the Office of Consumers' Counsel, I was an assistant attorney general in the area of fraud and misrepresentation in consumer transactions. Now retired from state employment.

Education: Juris Doctor cum laude from the Ohio State University College of Law. I am a graduate of Blackburn College and studied at the University of Munich, Germany under the Fulbright program.