

Biographical Summary for Paula Kocher, J.D.

Paula Kocher is Deputy Associate General Counsel (HHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Ms. Kocher received her BA from Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and her law degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ms. Kocher joined the CDC/ATSDR Branch of the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) in 1987 and was selected as its Chief in February 2005. Ms. Kocher supervises a staff of 22 attorneys, seven of whom work in the DC area, and one in Boston.

The CDC Branch provides legal advice and services to two agencies, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Primary enabling authorities are found in the Public Health Service Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act.

Ms. Kocher also serves as an adjunct professor at Emory University School of Law, assisting in the curriculum development and teaching of a course entitled Public Health Law.

