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Sarah Jane Utley received a B.S. with a major in Animal Science from Texas A&M University; a Master's in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Tech University and earned a J.D. with honors from Texas Tech School of Law.

Sarah worked as an enforcement attorney for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and joined the Natural Resources Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office in 2005, where she represented various client agencies including Texas Parks and Wildlife, the General Land Office, the Texas Water Development Board, and the TCEQ. The majority of her docket consisted on environmental enforcement matters and natural resource damage actions. In 2011, Sarah joined the Harris County Attorney's Office, where her practice focused on environmental regulatory matters. In 2021, Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee named her Environmental Division Director, which handles environmental regulatory and enforcement matters for Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, and Harris Health.