

Secretary Tolbert was appointed as Oklahoma's fourth Secretary of the Environment on January 8, 2003. In that position he coordinates the activities of the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and the Water Resources Board.

In 2003 Secretary Tolbert negotiated an agreement with the State of Arkansas to dramatically reduce phosphorus discharges to Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers. In 2004 he led the successful effort to relocate families from the most dangerous part of the Tar Creek Superfund Site. He is currently representing Governor Henry in discussions with the state's Indian tribes aimed at forging a unified environmental regulatory system.

A graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School, Secretary Tolbert came to state service from the firm of Crowe & Dunlevy in Oklahoma City. He had previously served for several years as Chief of the Environmental Protection Unit in the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office and had earlier practiced in Washington, D.C. as a trial attorney for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Secretary Tolbert is past president of the Environmental Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association and a member of the Association's Mineral Law Section.