



Catherine P. McCarthy

Partner

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About Cathy

Catherine McCarthy has represented asset owners, developers and investors with energy regulation and policy matters for more than two decades. She chairs Bracewell's Energy Regulatory Department and is a past Chair of the American Bar Association's Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section and current Chair of the Section's Renewable Energy Committee. Her experience includes obtaining Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state authorizations for major projects and transactions; FERC compliance and enforcement matters; FERC transmission and centralized markets issues; and rate, tariff and refund matters. Most recently, much of her practice has focused on energy transition issues, supporting generation and transmission infrastructure developers and supporting transactions involving renewable energy companies and assets. She also represents energy clients before the Department of Energy, the Federal Communications Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cathy provides regulatory advice for commercial transactions, including asset sales, mergers and acquisitions. She also advises clients on generation and transmission development, such as providing advice on various ownership and rate structures available to transmission developers/owners and advice on generator interconnections. In addition, she has represented transmission owners in fully litigated FERC rate cases and in related appeals to the federal appellate courts. Cathy also advises on emerging legal issues presented by energy storage.

Cathy is consistently recognized as a top energy lawyer by *Chambers Global* (2014-2024) and *Chambers USA* (2010-2023); selected as one of *The American Lawyer's 45 Under 45* (2011); and included in *The Legal 500 United States*, Energy: Regulation (2011-2013, 2016-2023).

Recent Notable Matters

PLT Energia — regulatory support for the joint venture with GGS Energy LLC to develop more than 1 GW of renewable energy in Texas

Rockland Capital, LLC — secured state and federal approval for the acquisition of GenOn Bowline Power, LLC, which owns a 1,165 MW dual-fuel power generation facility in New York

Rockland Capital, L.P. — regulatory support for acquisition of 330 MW Ector County Power Project in Ector County, Texas

Kinder Morgan, Inc. — regulatory matters for acquisition of landfill gas-to-power facilities for conversion to renewable natural gas facilities

Pioneer Natural Resources — development of a 140 MW wind generation facility on surface acreage owned by Pioneer that will provide renewable power to the Texas electric grid and Pioneer's Permian Basin operations

Arroyo Energy Investment Partners LLC — sale of two US electric power generation investments, Brandywine and Broad River. The sale includes more than 1,100 MW of power generation.

Sol Systems — minority investment from KKR to scale Sol Systems' Impact + Infrastructure approach and the formation of a strategic partnership with a commitment from KKR of up to \$1 billion to acquire shovel-ready solar development projects

Central Maine Power Company and The United Illuminating Company — FERC transmission Return on Equity Section 206 complaint proceedings, including three full administrative hearings, and related appeals to the D.C. Circuit (Coakley cases)

Rockland Capital, LLC — FERC approvals and other energy regulatory submittals for Rockland's asset acquisition of a portfolio of six generating plants with a combined generation capacity of 972.5 MW from AES Ohio Generation

Various clients — obtain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approvals and submit required notices pursuant to Federal Power Act Sections 203, 204, 205 and 305

Utilities — represent before FERC, DOE and FCC on rate, market, merger, affiliate transaction, affiliate restriction, holding company and enforcement matters, including investigations

Renewable energy, conventional energy and energy storage project developers — advise on FERC and state regulatory issues, as well as centralized market issues, including advice on Qualifying Facility status, Exempt Wholesale Generator status and interconnection issues.

Great Plains Energy Incorporated — FERC regulatory submittals, including Federal Power Act Section 203 authorization, for the revised stock-for-stock merger of equals transaction with Westar Energy, Inc., creating Eversource Inc., a company with a combined equity value of approximately \$14 billion, and with nearly 13,000 MW of generation capacity and more than 51,000 miles of distribution lines

Transmission developer — represent on FERC cost-of-service rate matters and related filings for an approximately \$1 billion proposed transmission project to deliver clean energy to New England load

Engie (f/k/a GDF SUEZ Energy North America, Inc.) — energy regulatory matters and related assignments (before the FERC and the FCC) regarding its sale of 1.2 GW of pumped storage hydro assets and 0.2 GW of conventional hydro assets located in Massachusetts and Connecticut

AP Energy Holdings Inc. and South Field Energy LLC — regulatory matters for \$1.3 billion project financing and equity arrangements for the construction of the South Field Energy project, a 1,182 MW combined-cycle natural gas electric generating facility located near Wellsville, Ohio

Publications and Speeches

"Natural Resources: Renewable Energy," American Bar Association's *Recent Developments in Infrastructure and Regulated Industries 2023*, January 2024.

"Renewable Energy – Policy and Legal Developments," American Bar Association's Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section's 2023 Fall Council Group Meeting, October 2023.

"Electricity Restructuring Developments and Policy," The Transmission Business School (IllionoiSeminars), June 2023.

"Renewable Energy – Policy and Legal Developments," American Bar Association's Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section Spring Conference, March 2023.

"Current Policy and Regulatory Issues," Transmission Business School (IllionoiSeminars), June 2022.

"Renewable Energy – Regulatory Update," American Bar Association's Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section Spring Conference, March 2022.

"Chair's Column," *Infrastructure* Volume 60, Number 1, Fall 2020; Number 2, Winter 2020; Number 3, Spring 2021; and Number 4, Summer 2021.

"Renewable Projects Must Keep Up With FERC Filings," *Law360*, August 2019.

"Utilities Must Track FCC Licensing, Spectrum Issues," *Law360*, October 2019.

"FERC Issues Transmission Notices of Inquiry Focused on Return on Equity and Transmission Incentives," *National Law Review*, March 2019.

"FERC Revises Interlocking Directorate Reporting Requirements," *National Law Review*, March 2019.

"Federal Energy Regulatory Approvals for Power M&A Transactions," American Bar Association, *Infrastructure*, August 2018.

"Regulated Industry M&A Transactions: Special Considerations and Recent Developments," Panelist, *American Bar Association Webinar* January 2018.

"Investing in Energy: Outlook and Opportunities, Power – Supply and Demand for Private Capital, Acquisition & Divestiture Driver and the Regulatory Dynamic," Panelist, *Bloomberg BNA* (New York, NY)

November 2017.

"A Call to Focus on Strengthening Grid Resiliency and Reliability," *National Law Review*, September 2017.

"FERC Compliance," Panelist, Portland, OR, October 2016.

"FERC Reconsiders Horizontal Market Power in Transactions," *Law360*, September 2016.

"Changing Mix of U.S. Power Generation Presents Opportunities and Legal Challenges," Panelist, *American Bar Association*, Webinar, May 2016.

"Energy & Utilities Sector," Roundtable Speaker, *Financier Worldwide*, December 2015.

"Energy Infrastructure Development Faces Impediments," *Natural Gas & Electricity Journal*, April 2015.

"Impacts of New FERC ROE Calculation Formulae on Transmission Owners and Projects," Panelist, *Infocast's 18th Annual Transmission Summit*, Washington, DC, March 2015.

"Utility M&A: Mid-Year Update," Panelist, *SNL Energy Webinar*, September 2013.

"Rolling Off Long-Term Power Sales Agreements? Plan Ahead to Avoid Regulatory Speed Bumps," Speaker, *21st Annual North American Waste-to-Energy Conference*, Naples, FL, April, 2013.

"FERC Order 1000 gives transmission planning an update," *Windpower Engineering & Development*, April 2012.

"Transmission Incentives and Order 1000," Speaker, *Yale Alumni in Energy Annual Conference*, New Haven, CT, March 2012.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.
1993

Yale University, B.A.
1989

Noteworthy

Chambers Global, Energy: Electricity (Regulatory & Litigation), 2014 - 2024

Chambers USA, Nationwide Energy: Electricity (Regulatory & Litigation), 2010 - 2023

The Legal 500 United States, Energy Regulation: Electric Power, 2017 - 2023 (Hall of Fame, 2023); Energy: Regulation, 2011 - 2013, 2016 - 2017; Energy Litigation: Electric Power, 2019 - 2023; Transaction and Regulatory, 2011

BL Rankings, *Best Lawyers*, Energy Law, 2022 - 2024

Euromoney Institutional Investor plc, *Expert Guides, Women in Business Law*, Energy & Natural Resources, 2012 - 2022

Euromoney Institutional Investor plc, *Expert Guides, USA Best of the Best*, 2017 – 2022

Lawdragon Inc., *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Regulatory, 2023 - 2024

Thomson Reuters, *Washington, DC Super Lawyers*, 2013, 2015 - 2020

ALM Media Properties, LLC, *The American Lawyer*, 45 Under 45, 2011

Georgetown University Law Center, *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal*, Administrative Editor

Columbus School of Law, *The Catholic University of America*, Adjunct professor, 1996-1998

Affiliations

Section Chair, Infrastructure and Regulated Industries Section, American Bar Association

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
New York