

# Clinton A. Vince

## Partner



Partner

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## Overview

Clint Vince is the chair of Dentons' US Energy practice and co-chair of Dentons' global Energy sector.

Clint is rated as one of the leading energy attorneys in the US and has directed the expansion of the US Energy team into a premier practice that includes professionals spanning the continent coast-to-coast, offering a full range of services to energy industry clients. He is widely recognized for his cutting-edge theories and solutions within the energy industry and has a top-tier litigation track record. Recently, Clint created the groundbreaking Dentons Smart Cities and Communities Think Tank and he is one of the industry leaders on this subject.

Clint remains at the forefront of energy developments and continuously handles some of the highest profile cases in the industry. His experience involves major project development, legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of public and private clients, and litigation and appellate cases including US Supreme Court advocacy. Clint has handled more than 600 regulatory and litigation proceedings and argued before trial and state appellate courts; numerous US District Courts; and the US Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh and District of Columbia Circuits; and the Supreme Court of the United States, in some instances multiple times. He also has handled too many complex energy transactions, negotiations and projects to count.

Clint has been described by clients as "brilliant, dedicated, professional, experienced. He has an amazing ability to work with each Board Member and with each Staff Member on their own level. He has the ability to make each one feel respected and valuable, and to guide even the most contentious topics to amicable resolve. He can also stand against the fiercest opponent successfully; his track record for this company proves that fact. Clint has been victorious in every lawsuit we have been involved in...for the last 30 years."

Dentons was named the "Energy Firm of the Year" by *Who's Who Legal Awards* for three consecutive years, in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Clint and his team of energy professionals, also were awarded Energy Daily's Leadership Award for "Most Dynamic Energy Practice" in the US. Clint was recently honored as one of the 2015 "Energy & Environment Trailblazers" in the *National Law Journal's* inaugural supplemental issue. He also has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500 US* and Washington, DC, *Super Lawyers*.

Dentons was named as one of the "Fearsome Foursome" in 2016, and one of the "Fearsome Five" in 2017 by BTI Consulting Group, an honor bestowed upon four elite law firms that General Counsel of large companies most fear to litigate against, based on its intense approach, fierce tactics and achievement of successful litigation outcomes. BTI also ranked Dentons No. 2 in the world for client service excellence in its "Client Service A-Team Survey," which

involved in-depth interviews with more than 330 top legal consumers.

Clint is a past editor-in-chief of the Energy Law Journal and has served as Co-Chair of the prestigious Keystone Policy Center, a think tank known for its work in the energy and environmental fields.

Prior to joining Dentons, Clint was the managing partner of the Washington, DC, office of Sullivan and Worcester LLP, where he was also director of the firm's Energy practice.

He served for many years as co-chair of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand, where he was the founder and chair of the firm's Energy and Environmental practice.

## Experience

- Clint serves as a direct report to the CEO of CPS Energy for strategic issues and also for assistance with CPS Energy's ground-breaking Smart Cities initiative. Clint advised CPS Energy on a 400-megawatt project in San Antonio, TX, to help meet the city's 2020 renewable energy goals. This project is particularly unique in that it contains an economic development feature that will draw US\$100 million in capital investment and create 800 permanent jobs in the San Antonio area. This comes on the heels of winning a multibillion-US-dollar nuclear lawsuit, in which our team achieved 100 percent victory in the highest profile nuclear litigation case in recent years in a court battle that pitted the city of San Antonio against NRG Energy. Simultaneously, our deal team negotiated a settlement worth billions of US dollars to San Antonio, including the resolution of allegations against the city, an agreement to provide San Antonio with a 7.6 percent share in any future nuclear plant without payment of any future construction costs and an upfront settlement of US\$90 million, if the project proceeds.
- As the City of New Orleans' lead federal trial counsel for 35 continuous years, Clint is credited with helping to save several billion dollars for the ratepayers of the city and assisting with the rebuilding of the city's electric and natural gas systems that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Clint and his team have received favorable outcomes in every significant proceeding for New Orleans in the past 5 years and have won the overwhelming majority of the cases they have handled for more than 3 decades. Clint and his team are also playing a lead role in assisting New Orleans with a highly advanced Smart Cities initiative.
- He has handled more than 600 regulatory, state, federal, trial and appellate proceedings, including US Supreme Court advocacy, and too many complex energy transactions, negotiations and projects to count.
- Clint serves as outside general counsel for the Alliance to Save Energy, a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide to benefit consumers, the environment, economy and national security.
- Clint serves as legal counsel to Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc., a 44-member electric generation and transmission cooperative utility, and advises on regulatory and litigation matters, including all proceedings before the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- Clint and his team represent the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and are assisting with the development of technology and intellectual property agreements as NYPA creates a digital utility.
- Clint has represented Navopache Electric Cooperative, Inc., for more than 30 years, including recently with respect to the negotiation of power supply and network service agreements and before FERC in transmission rate proceedings.
- Represents several municipal utilities and associations of municipal utilities, including the Municipal Electric Utilities Association of New York State (MEUA), before the FERC on numerous issues.
- Clint has served as lead trial counsel to the Southeastern Federal Power Customer group (SEFPC) in the highly publicized "Tri-State Water Wars," and has handled many other cases for them as well.
- He serves as counsel to a coalition of foreign businesses engaged in energy industries worldwide.
- He serves as counsel to the International Association of Energy Economists and the U.S. Association of

## Energy Economists.

- As outside general counsel to Rayburn Country Electric Cooperative, Clint has won every major energy case involving Rayburn in the past 30 years.
- Clint represents some of the largest corporations in Japan, assisting them in navigating the US energy industry with particular emphasis on energy and environmental policy and all forms of project development, including renewables.
- Clint and his team provide strategic advisory services to Anterix (formerly pdvWireless) in connection with its efforts to play a key role in the modernization of communications infrastructure in the nation's various critical infrastructure sectors, and particularly in the utility sector. Clint is working with Anterix to coordinate between state and federal agencies, cities, utilities and a host of private sector industries to develop models and deploy a 21<sup>st</sup> century communications network.
- Clint and his team have advised NetPower in its efforts to remove carbon dioxide from natural gas power plants through break-through technology for zero-emission power plants. Clint is assisting NetPower and its key investors: Occidental Petroleum, Exelon, McDermott and 8 Rivers Capital with energy regulatory, corporate, IP/licensing and litigation advice.

## Recognition

With more than 40 years of experience in the industry, Clint has been described by clients as "fair, equitable and extremely intelligent" and as "a 'master' at assessing a situation, planning a strategy, presenting that plan ... and following through to closure." As a leading industry litigator, he is "tenacious in trial advocacy and always mindful and gracious in negotiation."

Clint and his team of energy professionals were awarded Energy Daily's Leadership Award for "Most Dynamic Energy Practice" in the US. Clint has also been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500 US* and Washington, DC, *Super Lawyers*.

## Honors and Awards

- Awarded "Top Innovators 2018" by Public Utilities Fortnightly
- Ranked in *Chambers USA*, Nationwide, Energy: Electricity (Regulatory & Litigation), 2011-2019
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® for Energy Law since 2007
- Leadership Award for "Most Dynamic Energy Practice," Energy Daily, February 2010 and May 2012
- Recognized in the *National Law Journal's* 2015 "Energy & Environment Trailblazers" inaugural supplemental issue
- Awarded 2012 Champion by the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment (WCEE), has served this organization for more than 30 years and presently serves on their Leadership Advisory Council
- Voted Washington, DC, Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers magazine*, 2007–2019
- Recognized in *The Lawyer's* "Transatlantic Elite" issue, June 2011
- The Keystone Center's Founder Leadership Award, 2011
- Recognized by *Legal 500 US*, Energy: Litigation and Energy: Renewable/Alternative, 2015–2017
- Recommended as a leading practitioner in the 13th edition of Expert Guide's "Energy and Environment 2017 Guide", *Euromoney*, 2017
- Lawdragon in America, 2010 and 2011

- SNR Denton Firmwide Diversity Committee's Fifth Annual Duane C. Quaini Agent of Change Award, 2009
- Voted "Legal Elite," Washington's SmartCEO Magazine, 2006

## Insights

- "Game Changers Impacting the Global Energy Sector: Smart Cities," *Dentons*, November 30, 2018
- Author, "Trump decides to leave Paris climate accord," June 2, 2017
- Co-author, "USA," *Energy*, 5th ed. Global Legal Insights, 2017
- "Clean Power Plan has its day in court," September 29, 2016
- Panelist Contributor, "Energy and Utilities Sector Roundtable," *Financier Worldwide*, December 2015
- Panelist Contributor, "Energy and Utilities Sector Roundtable," *Financier Worldwide*, December 2014
- Panelist Contributor, "Energy and Utilities Sector Roundtable," *Financier Worldwide*, December 2013
- Panelist Contributor, "Energy and Utilities Sector Roundtable," *Financier Worldwide*, December 2012
- "Global Warming and Related Issues," *Energy Law and Transactions*, LexisNexis, 2011
- "Shaping the US Energy Industry," *Financier Worldwide*, January 2011
- "New Orleans Energy Systems Recovery a Huge Success," *Natural Gas & Electricity*, February 2008
- "Update on Regional Transmission Organizations-Order No. 2000," *Energy Law and Transactions*, Matthew Bender and Co., Inc. Rel. 19-5/00, 2000
- "Independent System Operators," *Energy Law and Transactions*, Matthew Bender and Co., Inc. Rel. 17-6/99, 1999
- "The Future of Public Power and Electric Cooperatives," *The Electricity Journal*, Vol. 10, Number 9, November 1997

## Activities and Affiliations

### Memberships

- Member, President's Council of Resources for the Future
- Member, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, World Resource Institute, 2011–present (Ranked #1 Environmental, and Energy and Resource think tank in the world)
  - Chair, Development Committee
  - Co-founder, Global Advisory Committee
  - Co-founder and Chair of the Energy Advisory Council
- Member, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Alliance to Save Energy and outside general counsel, 2014–present
- Leadership Advisor, Women's Council on Energy and the Environment, 2017–present
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, American Public Power Association

- Member, Federal Energy Bar Association
- Chair, Foundation of the Energy Law Journal, 1994–1998
- Member, Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Keystone Policy Center
- Member of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, 2012–present
  - Co-chair, Main Board, 2008–2010
  - Co-chair, Energy Board, 2003–2008
- Editor-in-chief, Energy Law Journal, 2004–2005
- Member, Center for Strategic and International Studies, International Policy Roundtable (named the #1 security and international affairs think tank in the world)
- Member, Economic Club of Washington
- Member, The Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs
- Member, Advisory Committee, Aspen Institute World Energy Forum (co-chair of the forum for 2015 and 2016)
- Member, Energy Efficiency Global Alliance Steering Committee, 2019

## Prior and Present Employment

Prior to joining Dentons, Clint was the managing partner of the Washington, DC, office of Sullivan and Worcester LLP, where he was also director of the firm’s Energy practice.

He served as co-chair of Verner, Lipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand, where he was the founder and chair of the firm’s Energy and Environmental practice.

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Energy Litigation
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Project Development

### Industry sectors

- Biomass
- Electricity
- Energy
- Energy Market Reform and Regulation
- Energy Transactions
- Oil and Gas
- Renewable Energy

- Solar
- Wastewater Treatment, Water Management, Desalination

## Issues and opportunities

- Smart Cities & Communities Initiative and Think Tank

## Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, 1974, JD
- Trinity College at Hartford Connecticut, 1971, BA

## Admissions and qualifications

- District of Columbia
- New York
- US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- US District Court for the District of Columbia
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Southern District of New York
- US Supreme Court