

# Emma F. Hand

## Partner



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## Overview

Emma Hand is a founding partner and leader of Dentons' award-winning Energy Practice, and a Past-President of the Energy Bar Association. She plays an essential role on the US federal and state regulatory team, advising public power entities, municipalities, large energy customers and load-serving entities, including signature clients such as the City of New Orleans, CPS Energy in San Antonio, Municipal Electric Utility Association of New York (MEUA), and the Alliance to Save Energy in both regulatory and litigation settings. Emma has extensive experience litigating before administrative agencies and tribunals at the federal and state government levels; representing clients in appeals from agency decisions and rulemakings; and counseling clients on energy efficiency and all sources of electric generation, including renewables and distributed generation.

Highly regarded by her peers, Emma served as President of the Energy Bar Association for 2016-17, and has served on the boards of directors of the Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association and the Foundation of the *Energy Law Journal*, and on the Energy Law Advisory Board of The George Washington University Law School.

Emma advises a broad array of industry clients on all aspects of state and federal utility regulation and litigation. Emma has extensive experience with energy efficiency, demand-side management programs, and smart cities initiatives. She frequently is called upon to lead broad-based community outreach programs and is a highly skilled negotiator. Some of her specific projects have included advising the New Orleans City Council in all aspects of their role as utility regulator. She works closely with the Council, the regulated utility, and stakeholders on integrated resource planning matters, ratemaking and cost allocation issues, reliability issues, designed and implementation of energy efficiency programs, FERC and state court litigation, environmental issues, and so forth.

She also has experience advising clients on a host of issues related to state and federal regulatory structures, and energy-related incentives that may be available to businesses. She works closely with municipal entities and industrial clients on matters that relate to FERC jurisdiction and the organized power markets. She also closely tracks innovations in the energy sector that may foreshadow regulatory challenges or opportunities for clients.

## Experience

- Advises the New Orleans City Council in all aspects of utility regulation, including the design and implementation of retail energy efficiency and conservation programs, and represents the Council before the

US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

- Advised a large industrial customer in negotiating unique power arrangements with a utility, drafted the arrangements, gained approval from the state commission and defended the commission's decision on appeal to the state Supreme Court.
- Represented several municipal utilities and associations of municipal utilities before the FERC on numerous issues, including regional transmission organization (RTO) and market design, cost allocation and state/federal jurisdiction.
- Advises clients interested in doing business in the US energy sector regarding the comparative advantages and disadvantages of various state regulatory structures, and the federal and state incentives related to energy that may be available to their businesses.
- Represented a large industrial electricity customer before the FERC in a multi-region rate case involving transition charges related to the region-wide elimination of through-and-out rates.
- Appealed a FERC ruling on behalf of load-serving entities regarding a Section 206 complaint to the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals.

## Recognition

- Selected as Emerging Leader by the Economic Club of Washington DC
- Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® for Energy Regulatory Law, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 USA* in multiple categories including, Energy Renewal/Alternative Power, Energy: Litigation: Conventional Power and Energy: Regulatory: Conventional Power

## Honors and Awards

- Awarded, Energy Bar Association's inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award (2019)
- Awarded "Top Innovators 2018" by Public Utilities Fortnightly

## Insights

- Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities 2020 Annual Report and Summit Highlights, Dentons, September 2020
- Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank Spring/Summer 2020 publication, Dentons, July 2020
- "Game Changers Impacting the Global Energy Sector: Smart Cities," *Dentons*, November 30, 2018
- Co-author, *Earth, Wind, and Fire: Power Infrastructure in Alberta's New Age*, *Alberta Law Journal*, June 16, 2017

## Activities and Affiliations

### Presentations

- "Energy Law for Environmental Professionals," Environmental Law Institute's Eastern Boot Camp 2013, 2014 and 2015
- "Energy Policy Act of 2005 —FERC's Role in Interpretation," Georgia Mayor's Summit, 2005

## Memberships

- Energy Bar Association:
  - Nominating Committee, 2018-present
  - Director, 2017-2018
  - President, 2016-2017
  - President-Elect, 2015-2016
  - Vice President, 2014-2015
  - Secretary, 2011-2013
  - Assistant Secretary, 2009-2011
- Director, Charitable Foundation of the Energy Bar Association, 2013-2017
- Director, Foundation of the *Energy Law Journal*, 2013-2017
- Member, Energy Law Advisory Board, The George Washington University Law School

## Prior and Present Employment

Prior to joining Dentons, Emma served as an associate in the energy practice groups of Sullivan and Worcester LLP and Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand.

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Appellate Advocacy
- Energy Advocacy
- Energy Regulation
- Public Policy and Regulation

### Industry sectors

- Electricity
- Energy
- Nuclear
- Renewable Energy
- Transmission and Distribution

### Issues and opportunities

- Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Initiative and Think Tank

## Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, 2001, JD
- University of Virginia, 1997, BA, with High Distinction

## Admissions and qualifications

- Commonwealth of Virginia
- District of Columbia
- Ohio
- US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit