

Laura K. Estep

Partner



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Calgary

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Overview

Laura is a member of Dentons' Energy Regulatory practice group in Calgary and is also a member of the Dentons Canada Board. She has significant experience in assisting major energy companies through all stages of the regulatory process including representation before the Canadian Energy Regulator, the Alberta Utilities Commission, and the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Experience

- **Pipeline companies:** Acting in connection with large-diameter pipeline applications and hearings before the Canadian Energy Regulator, the Alberta Energy Regulator and the Alberta Utilities Commission.
- **Various companies:** Acting in connection with facilities applications and hearings before the Alberta Energy Regulator (e.g. oil sands mines and expansions) and the Alberta Utilities Commission (e.g. power plants, transmission lines).
- **Various companies:** Strategic advice on the development of Indigenous consultation programs and the integration of those programs with the environmental assessment and project approval process.
- **Various companies:** Acting in connection with leave to appeal, appeal and judicial review applications before the Alberta Court of Appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.
- **Pipeline companies and oil and gas developers:** Acting in connection with the development of land acquisition programs, and where necessary, expropriation proceedings and compensation hearings before the Alberta Surface Rights Board and the Canadian Energy Regulator.
- **Pipeline companies:** Defense of administrative monetary penalties for non-compliance with approval conditions before the Canadian Energy Regulator.
- **Electricity market participants:** Advising in connection with Alberta Electric System Operator rule proceedings before the Alberta Utilities Commission.
- **Electricity market participants:** Advising in connection with Alberta Market Surveillance Administrator

Recognition

First recognized in 2016, Laura has been commended for her extensive knowledge and experience in a variety of respected publications, including:

- *Chambers Canada: Energy: Oil & Gas (Regulatory); Energy: Provincial Regulatory & Litigation (Alberta)*
- *The Legal 500 Canada: Energy and Natural Resources – Oil and Gas; Energy and Natural Resources – Power*
- *The Best Lawyers in Canada: Energy Regulatory Law; Oil and Gas Law; Administrative and Public Law; Natural Resources Law*
- *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory: Energy: Oil & Gas; Indigenous Law; Energy: Electricity*
- *Lexpert Special Edition - Canada's Leading Lawyers: Corporate; Global Mining; Energy*
- *Acritas: Acritas Star*

In the Media

- Profiled in, "Pipeline nightmares," by Scott Neilson, April 30, 2018
- Profiled in, "Transforming the NEB," by John Greenwood, October 27, 2017
- Profiled in the *Calgary Herald Law Review* by Shannon Sutherland, November 30, 2011

Insights

- Co-author, "Shifting sands? Alberta Court of Appeal requires EIA for silica sand project," *Dentons Insights*, May 19, 2020
- Co-author, "*Fort McKay First Nation v Prosper Petroleum Ltd: The Alberta Court of Appeal directs the AER to consider constitutional Aboriginal rights issues outside of the duty to consult*," *Dentons Insights*, May 1, 2020
- Co-author, "Update on Bill C-69 and Bill C-48: Major changes are almost here," *Dentons Insights*, July 23, 2019
- Co-author, "Case comment: Reference re *Environmental Management Act* (British Columbia): One step forward for Trans Mountain," *Dentons Insights*, June 4, 2019
- Co-author, "Rebranding the National Energy Board," *Dentons Insights*, February 20, 2018
- Co-author, "Practical Impacts: changes to Canada's environmental assessment framework," *Dentons Insights*, February 20, 2018
- Co-author, "The maturation of the duty to consult: Top ten developments of 2017 in Canadian Aboriginal law," *Dentons Insights*, February 9, 2018
- Co-author, "*Ktunaxa Nation: The Supreme Court returns to Haida first principles in dismissal of ski hill duty-to-consult case*," *Dentons Insights*, November 7, 2017
- Co-author, "Making a constitutional case out of constructing pipelines," *Dentons Insights*, August 8, 2017
- Co-author, "Update on Canada's environmental and regulatory review process," *Dentons Insights*, July 11, 2017

- Co-author, “Highlights from the National Energy Board Modernization Report,” *Dentons Insights*, May 23, 2017
- Co-author, “A CEAA Change,” Commentary on the Environmental Assessment Expert Panel’s Report, *Dentons Insights*, April 10, 2017
- Co-author, "Renewal, road-maps—and rhetoric? Top ten developments of 2016 in Canadian Aboriginal law," *Dentons Insights*, January 31, 2017

Activities and Affiliations

- Board Member, Dentons Canada Board
- Chair of the Governance Committee, Dentons Canada Board
- Board Member, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter
- Member of the Natural Resources Subsection of the Canadian Bar Association
- Member of the Calgary Bar Association
- Member of the Law Society of Alberta

Presentations

- Presenter, “Administrative Law After *Vavilov* – Rebalancing Judicial Review”, delivered to in-house counsel, Calgary, Alberta, February 2020
- Presenter, "Bill C-69, Where Things Stand", delivered to in-house counsel, Calgary, Alberta, November 2019
- Presenter, “Review of New and Amended Legislation in 2016 Across Canada”, delivered to in-house counsel, Calgary, Alberta, February 2017
- Presenter, "Current Issues of the National Energy Board", panel presentation delivered to the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, Calgary, Alberta, November 2016
- Presenter, “The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada”, presentation delivered to in-house counsel, Calgary, Alberta, November 2015
- Presenter, "NEB Oil Pipeline Regulation", presentation delivered at the EUCI Course: Canadian Pipeline Regulations: FERC, and NEB on Energy Transit, Denver, Colorado, February 1-2, 2012
- Presenter, "Water: The Lifeblood of Industry", presentation delivered at the Lexpert Conference: Oil and Gas Current Issues and Trends, Calgary, Alberta June 2, 2011
- "Alberta's Water for Life Strategy: Looking Ahead - What Industry Can Do to Prepare for the Future Regulatory Landscape": paper delivered at the Insight Conference: Water and Land Use for the Oil and Gas Industry, Calgary, Alberta, November 14 - 15, 2005
- Presenter, "Consultation as Part of the Regulatory Approval Process": presentation delivered at the Insight Conference: Community Consultation and Land Development, Calgary, Alberta, February 17, 2005

Areas of focus

Practices

- Aboriginal Law (Canada)

- Energy Advocacy
- Energy Litigation
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Industry sectors

- Electricity
- Energy
- Energy Project Approval
- LNG
- Oil and Gas
- Oil Sands
- Pipelines
- Transmission and Distribution
- Water
- Wind
- Mining
- Biofuels
- Biomass
- Solar
- Waste to Energy
- Renewable Energy

Education

- University of Alberta, 2003, LLB
- University of Calgary (B.A., Sociology), 2000

Admissions and qualifications

- Alberta, 2004

Languages

- English