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Practice Areas

Climate Change

Electricity

Energy Technologies

Environment

Government Relations & Public Policy

Natural Gas

Nuclear Energy

Education

J.D., Yale Law School, 1963

B.A., Stanford University, 1960

Bar and Court Admissions

District of Columbia

New Mexico

United States Supreme Court

Robert R. Nordhaus

Member

Bob Nordhaus specializes in federal electric, natural gas, and environmental regulation. His work in private practice and his governmental experience have encompassed legislative, regulatory and transactional work, administrative and appellate litigation in these fields, and alternative dispute resolution. He has represented electric utilities, independent power producers, end users of natural gas and electricity, and state and local governments, and has served both as neutral and as party-appointed arbitrator in electric and natural gas arbitration proceedings.

Mr. Nordhaus originally joined Van Ness Feldman in 1981, after serving three years as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's first General Counsel. He practiced with the firm until 1993, when he was appointed General Counsel of the Department of Energy by President Clinton. He rejoined the firm in 1997.

Professional Background

In 1977, prior to his service at FERC, Mr. Nordhaus was a member of the Energy Policy and Planning Office in the Carter White House, and served as Assistant Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration. In 1975 and 1976, he was counsel to the House Commerce Committee, and from 1963 to 1974, he was Assistant Counsel in the Legislative Counsel's Office of the U.S. House of Representatives.

He served as a member of the Electric Power Research Institute's Advisory Council and was a member of the Market Surveillance Committee of the California Independent Transmission System Operator from 1998 to 2001.

Mr. Nordhaus was an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center from 1980 to 1985 and currently serves on the adjunct faculty of the George Washington University Law School.

In the past he has served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Energy Bar Association and as Chair of the Administrative Law and Agency Practice Division of the District of Columbia Bar.

Government Service

- General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy, 1993-1997
- General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 1977-1980
- Assistant Administrator, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 1977
- Counsel, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, 1975-1976

- Assistant Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, 1963-1974

Professional and Civic Affiliations

- PNM Resources Board Member
- Energy Bar Association

Honors & Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*; Energy Law; 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010