

CONTACT

bsk@vnf.com
202-298-1821

PRACTICE AREAS

Pipeline & LNG
Pipeline Safety

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law
Brown University

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Bar
Massachusetts State Bar

BRYN S. KARAUS

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

As a member of the firm's pipeline safety practice, Bryn focuses on the regulation of pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities and the transportation of hazardous materials, and helps operators develop, implement, and defend their safety programs. Her practice covers compliance and strategic counseling, enforcement, litigation, audit preparation, and policy.

Prior to joining Van Ness Feldman, Bryn was a Senior Attorney in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), where she handled matters related to the federal safety standards for oil and gas pipelines and LNG facilities. Bryn represented the agency in pipeline safety enforcement cases, collaborating with engineers to develop and enforce notices of probable violation, corrective action orders, and safety orders. She worked with PHMSA inspectors and with other federal and state agencies on accident and incident investigations. She also handled the legal review of PHMSA's LNG portfolio during the projects' FERC application process.

Bryn was also involved in the development of rulemakings, regulatory interpretations, special permit reviews, and congressional testimony. Today, Bryn uses this experience to help firm clients navigate the changing legal landscape of pipeline safety.

Representative Experience

- Advising PHMSA Field Operations on investigations, audits, and the preparation of enforcement documents including Notices of Proposed Violation, Proposed Safety Orders, and Corrective Action Orders, and counseling enforcement staff during subsequent negotiations and hearings.
- Advising PHMSA's senior program staff on letters of interpretation, rulemakings, and enforcement policy.
- Advising PHMSA's Engineering Department on the review of siting for LNG projects in coordination with FERC, including the handling of novel issues such as the requirements that apply to toxic refrigerants at LNG facilities, small-scale LNG facilities, and industry standards that are incorporated by reference into the pipeline safety regulations.
- Coordinating the PHMSA Office of Chief Counsel's work with the U.S. Department of Justice on the criminal prosecution of a major gas transmission company for violations of the pipeline safety laws.

Government Service

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation
Attorney 2010-2016

Awards and Honors

Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration

2015 Bronze Team Award for BPXA Consent Decree

2015 Award for Innovation and Collaboration, Santa Barbara Response and Investigation

2014 Secretary's Transportation Safety Award, Liquefied Natural Gas Review Team

2011 Bronze Team Award for Enforcement Guidance

Articles and Presentations

- Speaker, "Regulation of Pipeline Safety" - 2016 EBA Primer Series: An Introduction to Federal Regulation of the Natural Gas Industry, The Energy Bar Association, New Orleans LA, 11/03/2016

Alerts

- Court Ruling on Post-Spill Access to Records Highlights Importance of Corporate Safety Culture, 08/15/2017
- Use of Drones for Monitoring and Inspection of Energy Infrastructure, 08/17/2016