

CONTACT

skm@vnf.com
202.298.1927

PRACTICES

Electric
Renewable Energy

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law
Center
Boston University

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Bar
Virginia State Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
District of Columbia Circuit

SUZANNE KEPPELER MCBRIDE

PARTNER



Professional Background

Suzanne Keppeler McBride applies her in-house and law firm experience to counseling energy clients on the development of transmission and power sale rate and tariff structures; negotiating interconnection, transmission service and power sales contracts; compliance with bilateral and organized market rules; defense in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) investigation, enforcement, and litigated matters; and representation on mergers and acquisitions. She also advises on compliance with, and the implementation of, NERC and regional reliability standards.

Suzanne frequently appears before FERC and the U.S. Courts of Appeal.

In addition to her private practice experience with Van Ness Feldman, Suzanne's experience includes serving in regulatory and legal roles with investor-owned utilities, focusing on FERC matters and NERC compliance, serving as lead counsel in developing stated and formula-based transmission rates for electric utilities in bilateral and organized markets, drafting and negotiating unique transmission and interconnection agreements, developing internal compliance and training programs, as well as assisting her internal clients with day-to-day implementation and interpretation of transmission and market-based rate tariffs. She has extensive experience advising legal, technical, and executive offices on compliance with, and potential violations of, FERC regulations. Suzanne also has served in various advisory roles for NERC compliance in both corporate and governmental organizations.

Representative Experience

Electric

- Advising various public utility clients in developing stated and formula transmission rates and representing clients in rate case proceedings before the FERC.
- Drafting and negotiating tariff provisions and protocols for public utility transmission systems.
- Drafting and negotiating transmission and interconnection agreements for public utility clients.
- Representing various public utilities before the FERC to obtain and maintain the authority to sell electricity at market-based rates.
- Counseling public utility clients on compliance with organized market rules and participation in the various RTO/ISO product markets.
- Representing multi-state public utility clients in obtaining federal regulatory approvals of mergers and acquisitions of assets.
- Successfully litigating complaint proceedings before the FERC on behalf of electric utility clients.
- Advising various entities subject to the mandatory reliability standards on the development and implementation of internal NERC compliance programs.
- Guiding regulated companies on the preparation of internal compliance programs to meet mandatory reliability standards, standards of conduct, affiliate restrictions and open access transmission requirements.
- Defending and regularly advising regulated companies in audit, investigation and enforcement proceedings regarding market-based rate authority, open access transmission tariff administration,

market manipulation and reliability standard compliance.

- Formerly in-house counsel with: Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (holding company for Arizona Public Service Company); Entergy Corporation (holding company for the 5 Entergy utility companies), Pepco Holdings, Inc. (holding company of Potomac Electric Power Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, and Atlantic City Electric Company) and Constellation Energy Corporation.

Government Service

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Office of Electric Reliability, Energy Industry Analyst, 2014-2015

Office of Administrative Litigation, Attorney-Advisor 2000-2001, Energy Industry Analyst, 1998-2000

Alerts

- FERC Proposes Policy Statement on Incorporation of Carbon Prices in Wholesale Electricity Markets, 10/19/2020
- FERC Opens Inquiry on Transmission Incentive Policy, 03/22/2019
- FERC Rejects DOE Proposal, Initiates Fact-Finding on Grid Resilience, 01/09/2018