

CONTACT

rlipinski@vnf.com
206.802.3843

PRACTICES

Hydropower
Litigation & Investigations
Oil, Gas, & LNG
Water

EDUCATION

University of Oregon School of
Law
Lewis & Clark College

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar
Oregon State Bar
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Washington
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Ninth Circuit

RACHAEL L. LIPINSKI

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Rachael L. Lipinski is an associate in the Litigation & Investigations Department. She is a member of the Washington State Bar, Oregon State Bar, and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She has extensive experience in the oil, gas, and LNG industry, including litigation and investigations. She is currently representing a client in a dispute involving the construction of a hydroelectric project. She has also represented clients in disputes involving the regulation of oil and gas production. She is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has published articles on industry developments.

Rachael L. Lipinski is a member of the Washington State Bar, Oregon State Bar, and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She has extensive experience in the oil, gas, and LNG industry, including litigation and investigations. She is currently representing a client in a dispute involving the construction of a hydroelectric project. She has also represented clients in disputes involving the regulation of oil and gas production. She is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has published articles on industry developments.

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Representative Experience

- Represented a client in a dispute involving the construction of a hydroelectric project.
- Represented a client in a dispute involving the regulation of oil and gas production.
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- Represented a client in a dispute involving the regulation of oil and gas production.

- Represented the U.S. Coast Guard in the litigation of the *U.S. Coast Guard v. *Chambers**, a case involving the U.S. Coast Guard's authority to enforce the Clean Water Act's discharge permit requirements.
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Government Service

Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Maritime and International Law, Environmental Law Division

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia

Presidential Management Fellow, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Awards and Honors

"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers*

Environmental Law, 2022

U.S. Coast Guard Special Act Award

Spirit of Excellence Award

Meritorious Team Commendation Award Recipient

"Ones to Watch" by *Best Lawyers*

2022

Articles and Presentations

- Changing NEPA Implementation and What That May Mean for Hydropower, NHA's Powerhouse Newsletter, 05/31/2022
- Water Law Institute, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Santa Fe New Mexico, 11/04/2021
- Transboundary River Management: Transboundary Management of the Lower Snake River Dams, The Water Report, Issue 210, 08/19/2021
- The Purposeful Tension Within the Doctrine of Beneficial Use, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Journal, Vol. 58 Issue 1 pp. 33-71, 08/02/2021
- The Dividing Line: Applying the Navigability-for-Title Test after *PPL Montana*, Oregon Law Review, Vol. 91 Issue 247, 11/01/2012

Alerts

- DOJ Restores Supplemental Environmental Projects in a Slate of Environmental Justice Initiatives, 05/12/2022
- Biden Administration Walks Back Key Trump Era NEPA Regulation Changes, 04/26/2022
- Shifting Baselines: New Guidance from Army Corps and NMFS on ESA Compliance for Work on Existing Structures, 01/19/2022
- UPDATED: EPA and Army Corps Announce Latest Update to Definition of "Waters of the United States", 12/07/2021
- U.S. Supreme Court Relies on Established Doctrine in Interstate Groundwater Dispute, 12/02/2021

- EPA and Army Corps Announce Latest Update to Definition of "Waters of the United States", 11/29/2021
- Biden Administration Proposes to Walk Back Key Trump Era NEPA Regulation Changes, 10/12/2021
- UPDATED: Rough Waters Ahead, Once Again: A District Court Vacates the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule as the EPA and Corps WOTUS Definition Rulemaking Continues, 09/03/2021
- Rough Waters Ahead, Once Again: A District Court Vacates the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule as the EPA and Corps WOTUS Definition Rulemaking Continues, 09/02/2021
- The Death Knell for Dispersants?, 08/17/2021
- Criminal and Civil Liability a Possibility for Vessel Owners Following Unix Line Decision and Transition to Electronic Records, 04/28/2021
- DOI Releases Proposal to Revise Supplemental Financial Assurance Requirements for Offshore Decommissioning Costs, 09/25/2020
- Updated: CEQ Issues Final Rule to Modernize NEPA Regulations, 08/07/2020
- CEQ Issues Final Rule to Modernize NEPA Regulations, 07/20/2020
- Executive Order Seeks to Promote Economic Recovery by Expediting Environmental Reviews for Project Development, 06/08/2020
- U.S. Supreme Court Holds Clean Water Act Covers Groundwater in *Limited Circumstances*, 04/24/2020
- New International Fuel Standard for Vessels Takes Effect, 01/08/2020