

CONTACT

mmd@vnf.com
202.298.1807

PRACTICES

Oil, Gas, & LNG

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Moritz
College of Law
University of Wisconsin

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

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

MICHAEL DIAMOND

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Michael Diamond assists clients with matters related to the regulation of natural gas before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Michael has experience on a wide range of issues under the Natural Gas Act (NGA), including pipeline rate and tariff matters, pipeline certificates, and abandonment proceedings. Michael has represented pipeline companies in rate proceedings under NGA Section 4, including drafting of applications, testimony, pleadings, and providing discovery support. Michael also assists pipeline clients with compliance, audits, enforcement, and litigation before FERC and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

During law school, Michael worked as a judicial extern for the Honorable R. Guy Cole, Jr. at the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Michael also worked at the Ohio Department of Development's Energy Resources Division, helping to restructure the state's grant program for funding small-scale renewable energy and efficiency projects. Additionally, Michael published several energy-related articles during law school and received the "best brief" award in his law school's moot court competition.

Since 2017, Super Lawyers has recognized Michael as a "rising star."

Representative Experience

- Acted as lead associate representing major pipeline company in rate case filed under section 4 of the Natural Gas Act. Involved in all legal strategy discussions, assisted with preparation of witness testimony, managed discovery matters, drafted pleadings and settlement documents.
- Conducting regulatory due diligence for clients interested in liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, addressing risks in obtaining authorizations required pursuant to energy and environmental laws.
- Assisting companies seeking authorization to construct and operate interstate natural gas pipelines, navigating regulatory issues under the Natural Gas Act and National Environmental Policy Act.
- Assisting natural gas pipeline companies in bringing challenges before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit against failures by state and local agencies to act on applications for permits under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.
- Acted as interim in-house counsel for a major gas pipeline operator.
- Represented a major natural gas pipeline in the preparation of a complicated series of facility abandonment applications at the FERC.
- Assisting District of Columbia prisoners requesting parole from the U.S. Parole Commission, as part of the firm's pro bono practice

Government Service

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Legal Intern, 2011

U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

Judicial Extern for the Honorable R. Guy Cole, Jr., 2010

Awards and Honors

Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, 2017-2019

Outstanding Original Student Article

International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (January 2012)

Winner of the 2011 Law Student Writing Competition

American Bar Association, Renewable Energy Committee (April 2011)

Best Brief, Herman Moot Court Competition

The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law (April 2010)

Winner of the Ohio Environmental Law Student Writing Competition

Ohio State Bar Association (April 2010)

Articles and Presentations

- The Basics of FERC Ratemaking for the Pipeline Industry, Albuquerque NM, 10/14/2019
- AGA FERC Manual: A Guide for Local Distribution Companies (2013-2019), American Gas Association, 08/01/2019
- Pipeline Organization (2018-2019), Regulation of the Gas Industry, 08/01/2019
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (2018-2019), Regulation of the Gas Industry, 08/01/2019
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (2016-2019), Energy Law and Transactions Chapter 56, 05/01/2019
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Nashville TN, 07/24/2016
- Gas Law Chapter, ABA's Recent Developments in Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Industries 2014, Peter V. Lacouture, Editor, pp. 287, 01/01/2014
- Will FERC Abandonment Policy Fit Today's Market and Regulatory Environment?, Natural Gas & Electricity, Vol. 29 Issue 3 pp. 10, 10/01/2012
- How will changing pipeline safety requirements affect America's growing domestic gas supply?, Trends, ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Newsletter, Vol. 44 Issue 1, 09/01/2012
- If Not Now, When? Addressing Oil Shale's Contribution to Climate Change in the Midst of the U.S. Production Boom, Journal of Energy Development, Vol. 37 Issue 2 pp. 259, 08/01/2012
- Wasting Energy: Waste-to-Energy's Struggle Highlights America's Failure to Incentivize Renewable Energy, Renewable, Alternative & Distributed Energy Resources Committee Newsletter, American Bar Association, 07/01/2011
- Energized Negotiations: Mediating Disputes over the Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Lines, Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution, Vol. 26 Issue 1 pp. 217, 02/01/2011

Alerts

- Landmark FERC Order Adopts New Method for ROE Determinations , 10/17/2018
- DC Circuit Hands Pipelines Roadmaps to Construct Projects over Delays by Local Permitting Agencies, 07/06/2017
- FERC Issues "Best Practices" for Natural Gas Industry Outreach to Stakeholders, 07/30/2015
- FERC Proposes Reforms to Improve Gas-Electric Scheduling Coordination and Flexibility, 03/24/2014