

**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 First  
Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
Ninth Circuit

**MICHAEL DIAMOND**

**PARTNER**



**Professional Background**

Michael Diamond represents natural gas pipeline companies and electric utilities before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and federal courts of appeals. Michael provides comprehensive FERC regulatory advice and counsel to natural gas pipeline companies on rate and tariff matters under the Natural Gas Act, as well as pipeline certificate and abandonment proceedings. He also assists pipeline clients with compliance, complaints, enforcement and rulemaking proceedings before FERC and with litigation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Michael also is advising the [Clean Hydrogen Future Coalition](#) regarding issues related to the development of interstate hydrogen pipelines, including the federal regulation of hydrogen transportation.

Michael also leads the firm's "inmate assistance program," which helps incarcerated individuals seeking release from prison. Michael obtained compassionate release for an inmate in 2021.

**Representative Experience**

- Representing major pipeline companies in rate cases filed under sections 4 and 5 of the Natural Gas Act and achieving favorable settlements.
- Representing a natural gas pipeline company to obtain dismissal of a complaint that alleged undue discrimination in process of awarding pipeline capacity.
- Assisting pipeline companies to modernize their FERC gas tariffs to facilitate natural gas transportation agreements.
- Conducting regulatory due diligence for clients interested in liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities and addressing risks in obtaining authorizations required pursuant to energy and environmental laws.
- Assisting companies in seeking authorization to construct and operate interstate natural gas pipelines, navigating regulatory issues under the Natural Gas Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and defending those authorizations before federal courts of appeals.
- Acting as an interim in-house counsel for a major gas pipeline operator.
- Assisting District of Columbia prisoners requesting compassionate release from the D.C. Superior Court, as part of the firm's pro bono practice.
- 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**

**"Best Lawyers in America" by *Best Lawyers***

Oil and Gas Law, 2021-2023

**Super Lawyers**

Rising Stars, 2017-2021

**"Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch" by *Best Lawyers***

Oil and Gas Law, 2021

**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**

- Jurisdiction Over Hydrogen Pipelines and Pathways to an Effective Regulatory Regime, EBA Brief , Vol. 3 Issue 2, 11/11/2022
- 2022 Energy Bar Association's Mid-Year Meeting, Energy Bar Association, Washington DC, 10/11/2022
- The Natural Gas Conference & Expo, Southern Gas Association, Charlotte NC, 10/17/2021
- VNF Live - Natural Gas Pipelines: How the Biden Administration May Influence the Future of the Industry, 02/23/2021
- FERC Rescinds Pipeline Contracts and Reaffirms Capacity Posting Policy, American Bar Association, 12/01/2020
- 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
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (2018-2019), Regulation of the Gas Industry, 08/01/2019
- Pipeline Organization (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

- TSA Requests Input from Pipeline and Rail Sectors on Cyber Risk Management to Inform New Regulations , 12/05/2022
- FERC's Updated Certificate Policy and Interim GHG Mitigation Policy Statements: VNF's Pipeline Attorneys Weigh In, 02/22/2022
- U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Natural Gas Pipelines' Authority to Exercise Eminent Domain Power over State Land, 06/30/2021
- FERC Rescinds Pipeline Contracts and Reaffirms Capacity Posting Policy, 10/20/2020
- Revised FERC Policy on ROE and Proxy Group Composition May Have Positive Impacts for Pipelines, 05/26/2020
- FERC Extends Certain Filing Deadlines and Takes Other Actions in Response to the Impacts of COVID-19, 03/20/2020
- FERC Revises Policy for Evaluating Public Utility Return on Equity, 11/25/2019
- 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