

**CONTACT**

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**PRACTICE AREAS**

Electric  
Endangered Species  
Energy, Environment & Natural Resources  
Hydropower  
NEPA & State Equivalents  
Water Resources

**EDUCATION**

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law  
Georgetown University  
University of Hartford

**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

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

**SHARON WHITE**  
OF COUNSEL



**Professional Background**

Sharon represents a broad range of clients on issues relating to the regulation of hydroelectric projects before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, federal and state regulatory agencies, and the U.S. Courts of Appeal. She has significant experience providing counsel on licensing and environmental matters under Part I of the Federal Power Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other statutes affecting energy development. In addition, Sharon regularly represents clients' interests in a range of hydroelectric regulatory proceedings, including licensing and relicensing, preliminary permits, license transfers and amendments, and compliance matters. On behalf of the hydroelectric industry, Sharon has prepared amicus curiae briefs before several U.S. Courts of Appeal and the U.S. Supreme Court. Sharon also represents a large group of hydroelectric licensees in challenges to federal agencies' annual charges for costs incurred in administering Part I of the FPA.

Complementing her hydroelectric practice, Sharon also assists electric industry clients on issues relating to the development and acquisition of power projects, market-based rate authorizations, and related regulatory compliance. She has assisted generator interconnection customers through the generator interconnection process in requests to interconnect to transmission owners in PJM and other organized markets, and also advises clients on their compliance with the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). Sharon also assists clients in preparing reactive power rate filings before FERC, and advises them in settlement procedures.

Currently, Sharon serves as Vice Chair for Year in Review of the American Bar Association's Hydro Committee in the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. She also is actively involved with the National Hydropower Association. Prior to and during law school, Sharon was a paralegal and law clerk at Van Ness Feldman, focusing primarily on hydroelectric relicensing and electric practice issues.

Sharon's pro bono activities include representation of adoptive parents and guardians through the Children's Law Center.

**Representative Experience**

- Negotiated relicensing settlement agreement between licensee and U.S. Forest Service and special use permit for the FERC relicensing of the Toledo Bend Project.
- Assisted in negotiating a multi-party settlement agreement for the potential removal of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project.
- Drafted successful petition for declaratory order before FERC on federal preemption of state and local regulatory authority over a hydropower project in Washington.
- Represented a coalition of hydroelectric licensees at FERC technical conferences presenting arguments disputing agency annual charges.
- Drafted amici curiae briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the hydroelectric industry
- Represented a FERC licensee in amending and partially transferring its license to sell one of two project developments to a new owner
- Assisted in representation of large coalition of hydroelectric licensees in administrative litigation before FERC and appellate proceedings concerning FERC's federal land fees program.

- Assisted in representation of a FERC licensee in a trial-type hearing before a U.S. Coast Guard administrative law judge on disputed issues of fact underlying agency mandatory conditions

## Awards and Honors

### Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, 2017-2019

## Articles and Presentations

- Deep Decarbonization and Hydropower, Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States, Ch. 22, Michael B. Gerrard & John C. Dernbach, eds., Forthcoming. , 04/01/2019
- Panelist, "Proposed Regulatory and Legislative Reforms to the ESA" - ESA and CITES: Two Statutes, Both Alike in Dignity, Environmental Law Institute and American Bar Association, Washington DC, 11/01/2018
- [Deep Decarbonization and Hydropower](#), Environmental Law Reporter, Vol. 48 Issue 4, 04/06/2018
- Panelist, "Hot Topics in the Southeast: Endangered Species Act Updates" - National Hydropower Association 2017 Southeast Regional Meeting, National Hydropower Association, Atlanta GA, 11/02/2017
- Opportunities for New FERC Policies Promoting Hydropower Development Under New Administration, Irrigation Leader, Vol. 8 Issue 5, 05/01/2017
- Water Transfers & the CWA, The Water Report, Issue 157 pp. 16, 03/01/2017
- Hydroelectric Regulation Under the Federal Power Act, Waters and Water Rights (Michie, 3rd ed.), 01/01/2017
- Hydropower Licensing under the Federal Power Act: A Century of Resource Conflict Resolution in the Public Interest, Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 31 Issue 1 pp. 27, 08/01/2016
- Presenter, "Jurisdiction Changes - Who's Responsible for What in the U.S.?" - HydroVision International 2016, Minneapolis MN, 07/26/2016
- [Revised Rules for Trial-Type Hearings: Room for Improvement](#), Hydro Review, pp. 8-18, 04/01/2016
- Speaker, "Federal and State Clean Energy Programs" - National Hydropower Association 2015 Alaska Regional Meeting, National Hydropower Association, Anchorage AK, 08/18/2015
- [Hydro Power - Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2015](#), American Bar Association, 05/02/2015
- Panelist, "Emerging Regulatory Issues Facing Hydro Development in Alaska" - National Hydropower Association 2014 Alaska Regional Meeting, National Hydropower Association, Ketchikan AK, 06/10/2014
- Hydroelectric Power, Energy Law and Transactions (D. Muchow and W. Mogel, eds.) (2012), 10/28/2012
- Rebuttal in Defense of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, Washington Journal of Environmental Law & Policy, Vol. 1 pp. 297, 12/01/2011
- Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Interim Agency Rules; Industry Hopes that Rulemaking will Improve Hearing Procedures, Hydro Review, Vol. 30 pp. 32, 09/01/2011
- Hydro Power, Environment, Energy and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2010 American Bar Association (2011), 05/01/2011
- Hydro Power, Environment, Energy and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2009 American Bar Association (2010), 05/01/2010

## Alerts

- EPA Issues Revised CWA Section 401 Guidance to States, 06/10/2019
- D.C. Circuit Holds that States Cannot Use Section 401 Authority to Delay Hydropower Relicensing, 01/28/2019
- Congress Enacts Legislation to Promote New Hydropower Development, 10/24/2018
- FERC Revises License Term Policy for Hydropower Projects, 10/19/2017
- Second Circuit Reinstates EPA's Water Transfers Rule, 01/23/2017
- FERC Holds that Federal Power Act Preempts State Shoreline Management Act for Hydro Tidal Project, 06/25/2014