

Francesca Ciliberti-Ayres

ASSOCIATE

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Francesca advises interstate pipelines, intrastate pipelines, natural gas producers, marketers, and distribution companies on many aspects of natural gas, oil and environmental regulation. She represents clients in rate cases, complaints, certificate proceedings and confidential investigations before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) and state public utility commissions involving natural gas, oil and environmental matters.

Francesca previously worked at FERC in both its Office of Enforcement and in the Office of General Counsel, as well as for the El Paso Corporation. While in FERC’s Office of Enforcement, Division of Investigations she managed dozens of non-public investigations involving possible violations of the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act and FERC regulations. In FERC’s Office of General Counsel she prepared draft orders and policy statements relating to the interstate transportation of natural gas and oil by pipeline. Francesca also worked as an attorney for El Paso Corporation’s Western Pipeline Group, including El Paso Natural Gas Company, Mojave Pipeline Company, Colorado Interstate Gas Company, Wyoming Interstate Company and Cheyenne Plains Gas Pipeline. While at El Paso, she represented the aforementioned interstate natural gas pipelines on all aspects of complex FERC hearings, technical and settlement conferences, compliance inquiries, and rulemaking proceedings. She was also responsible for apprising her clients as to emerging climate change and greenhouse gas emissions developments.

Concentrations

- Energy regulation
- Energy projects
- Energy litigation
- Environmental compliance

Capabilities

Energy & Natural Resources | Litigation | Environmental

Experience

Representative Matters

- Represented major interstate natural gas pipeline in multiparty rate case proceeding.
- Represent shipper in complaints against petroleum products pipeline alleging unjust and unreasonable cost-based and market-based rates, and unlawful extra-tariff charges
- Counseled clients in the development, implementation and maintenance of a major energy company's corporate regulatory compliance program.
- Conducted FERC compliance seminars for major interstate natural gas pipelines and advised clients on compliance matters.

Legal Experience

- Attorney, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of General Counsel, Energy Markets, 2012-2014
- Attorney, El Paso Corporation, Western Pipeline, 2008-2010
- Attorney, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Enforcement, Division of Investigations, 2006-2007

Recognition & Leadership

Professional & Community Involvement

- Member, Energy Bar Association
- Member, Women's Council on Energy and the Environment, 2015, 2017, 2018
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Michigan Bar Association
- Member, Advancing Women in Energy

Credentials

Education


- J.D., Tulane University Law School, 2006
 - Member, *Tulane Environmental Law Journal*
- B.S., Economics, *cum laude*, Vanderbilt University, 2003

Admissions

- Colorado

- Michigan
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- Navajo Nation

News, Insights & Events

Francesca is a contributor to the E2 Law Blog 

January 16, 2020 PRESS RELEASE

A Year in Review: Environmental Practice Grows in Size, Rankings

February 13, 2019 - February 14, 2019, 10:30 AM MST EVENT

Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction

August 04, 2016 GT ALERT

CEQ Issues Measured Final Guidance for Federal Agencies in their Consideration of GHG Emissions in NEPA Reviews

July 30, 2015 GT ALERT

FERC Assesses Penalties for Alleged No-Risk UTC Trading Against City Power and Its Founder

June 25, 2015 GT ALERT

Performance Enhancement: FERC Approves Significant Restructuring of PJM's Capacity Market

June 09, 2015 GT ALERT

May 2015 Brings a Crop of FERC 'Loophole' Manipulation Civil Penalty Assessments