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Energy Bar Association Honors Holly Rachel Smith with the 2020 State Regulatory Practitioners Award



Washington, DC – Holly Rachel Smith with Walmart Inc., a nationally recognized attorney with a long list of accomplishments in the energy space, has been honored as the 2020 State Regulatory Practitioner Award recipient by the Energy Bar Association (EBA). The award recognizes innovation and superior advocacy by members of the state utility regulatory bar. Smith was honored during EBA’s Virtual Fall Forum on October 13, 2020.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this award. It is an exciting time to be in the energy industry and to play a small role in urging that industry to adopt customer friendly solutions to critical problems we face, particularly in regard to the need for more clean energy,” said Smith.

Ms. Smith has been driving state energy regulatory policy for more than 2 decades. Now Director of Markets and Compliance at Walmart, Ms. Smith has formerly served as staff to state public utility commissioners. She served as a Senior Legal Advisor to the Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and as the Assistant General Counsel of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC), responsible for directing energy policy

and coordinating NARUC's many electric initiatives, representing the collective interests of state energy regulators before FERC, DOE, and EPA and in US Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Prior to NARUC, Ms. Smith spent over ten years in private practice both at long established law firms, and as the managing member of a boutique energy law firm. She specialized in representing regulated companies, state government agencies and energy customers on emerging energy policy issues, appearing before 23 different state regulatory agencies. Ms. Smith also served as Assistant General Counsel to Exelon, representing Exelon and Constellation before state commissions and with respect to distributed energy project development. Today her focus is on state and Federal energy regulatory compliance and policy at Walmart. For more than 15 years, Walmart has been working to power its facilities with renewable energy. Currently Walmart powers around 29% of its operations with renewable energy and last month announced that it was committing to power its facilities globally with 100% renewable energy by 2035.

State representation comprises the largest part of Ms. Smith's total practice, and her successful advocacy in numerous state energy proceedings has led to the adoption of significant forward-looking policies, for which she has received widespread recognition. Having often been at the forefront of innovative policy initiatives required to address the industry's many challenges, she is well known among state practitioners and is a welcome speaker at many national conferences on state and federal energy regulation and carbon policy issues.

Ms. Smith is also the immediate past Chair of the Board of Governors of the Environmental Law Section of the Virginia State Bar. Throughout her career as a state regulatory practitioner, Holly Rachel Smith has demonstrated professional excellence and adherence to the highest ethical standards

"I am so pleased that this prestigious award goes to Holly this year!" EBA President, Jane Rueger, said. "Her boundless energy and enthusiasm are well-known and greatly appreciated by colleagues and clients alike."

The State Regulatory Practitioner Award is presented annually at EBA's Mid-Year Energy Forum. The criteria for award eligibility mandates that state representation is a predominant part of the nominee's total practice, a nominee's state practice and participation in the state energy regulatory process has produced significant results or recognition, and the nominee's state practice reflects enhanced professional competence of the practice of energy law. Recent award recipients include H. Russell Frisby and Andrew O. Kaplan (2019) Sandra Mattavous-Frye (2016), Stephen H. Watts, II (2015), Charles Gray (2014), Jeff Genzer (2013), Honorable Sonny Popowsky, Consumer Advocate for the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2012), Ben Stone (2011) and James Van Nostrand (2010).

To learn more about the State Regulatory Practitioner Award, visit [EBA Awards](#).

The Energy Bar Association is an international, non-profit association of attorneys, energy professionals, and students active in all areas of energy law. The EBA advances the professional excellence of those engaged in energy law, regulation, and policy through professional education, exploring diverse viewpoints and building connections. The EBA provides superior educational programming, networking opportunities, and information resources.