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Cliona Mary Robb

Director

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she says. “Customers large and small are demanding clean energy, as well as more control over their energy the way they choose. They have realized the utilities’ high-priced options are not sufficient alternatives.”

Today, Cliona is regarded as one of Virginia’s leading experts and staunch defenders of the interests of renewable and competitive service providers, as well as municipal, industrial, and commercial customers of electric, natural gas, and water utilities. Always adverse to monopoly utilities, Cliona’s work often regards issues surrounding rates and service. She has done a significant amount of work related to transmission line and facilities siting, advocating for customers that would be negatively impacted by utility projects. She also regularly works on renewable energy transactions involving solar power, wind power, and landfill gas, and advises energy lobbyists working in the Virginia General Assembly.

During her research into clean energy, Cliona also learned of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, the most widely used green-building rating system in the world. Becoming certified in LEED requires passing a comprehensive exam. “The last big test I had taken was the Bar exam many years earlier, so I found it rather daunting to sit for another exam,” she says. She put off the test three times before passing and earning her accreditation in 2009. A LEED® Accredited Professional (AP) designation is known more for its acquisition among architectural and construction professionals, but it is one denoting the Duke University graduate as an expert in green buildings.

At her previous firm, Cliona established a green energy practice long before anyone (peers included) thought renewables would become such an integral part of the economy. But her proudest career moment? Stopping the construction of electrical transmission lines across the Rappahannock River, towers that would have been adjacent to the iconic Robert O. Norris Bridge. Local residents hired Cliona to

stop it from happening. “And we actually won,” she says. “We forced our opponent to put the lines underneath the river.”

Cliona also has considerable experience representing competitive telecommunications providers, cable companies, and independent power producers. She has served as an adjunct professor at William & Mary Law School, teaching an introductory course on Energy Law.

Practices

Energy and Telecommunications

Competitive Supply and Large Utility Customers

Local Government Energy Purchasing, Municipal Utilities, and Franchises

Renewable Energy

Siting Energy Infrastructure

Telecommunications

Professional Licensure, Administrative, and Regulatory Disputes

Regulations of Industries and Professions

Representative Experience

Representative Local Government Matters

Counsel for Virginia Energy Governmental Association (VEPGA), an association of local governments in Dominion's service territory, for contract negotiations with Virginia Power

Counsel for City of Alexandria in transmission line proceeding

Representative Energy Services Matters

Representing commercial customers in Virginia State Corporation Commission proceedings

Representing industrial customers in FERC electricity and natural gas rate cases

Negotiating for purchasers of renewable energy

Advising on major energy legislation considered by the Virginia General Assembly.

Representing local governments and developers in public utility commission proceedings involving siting of electric transmission lines.

Representative Power Producers Matters

Negotiating purchase power contracts for independent power producers.

Seeking regulatory approvals for certification of competitive service providers

Representing renewable developers concerning interconnection matters involving the Virginia State Corporation Commission and PJM

Representative Telecommunications and Broadband Matters

Advocating statewide regulation of electric cooperative pole attachments.

Negotiating cable franchise agreements.

Advising on implementation of statewide cable franchising provisions.

Seeking regulatory approvals for certificates for competitive telecommunications services.

Advising on rulemaking proceedings at public utility commission

Recognition

Selected by peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© in the field of Energy Law (2009-2023)

Selected by The Best Lawyers in America© as Energy Law “Lawyer of the Year” (2022)

Virginia Super Lawyers Energy & Natural Resources (2012-2018)

Virginia Business Magazine’s “Legal Elite,” Legislative/Regulatory /Administrative category (2020-2022)

Virginia Lawyers Weekly “Influential Women of Law” (2022)

President’s Leadership Award, Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association (2013)

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design® Accredited Professional (LEED® AP)

Qualified for Boston Marathon with time of 3:09

Education

Duke University Law School, J.D., 1992
Notes Editor, *Alaska Law Review*

Duke University, M.A., 1992

Princeton University, A.B., 1985

Woodberry Forest School, 1981

Admissions

All Virginia courts including the Supreme Court of Virginia

Affiliations

Energy Bar Association

Board of Directors: 2020-present

Southern Chapter, Board of Directors: 2013-present (Chair
2015-2016)

Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority

Chair (two four-year gubernatorial appointment
to board commencing 2015 and ending in 2023)

Virginia Renewable Energy Alliance

Board of Directors: Chair, 2020-present; Treasurer,
2015-2019

Virginia Chapter of Women in Cable Telecommunications
(WICT)

Board of Directors: 2004-present; Secretary, 2015-present;
Assistant Treasurer, 2011-2015
President, 2009-2010; Treasurer, 2005-2007

Virginia Bar Association

Board of Governors, 2020-present

Law Practice Management Division, Chair, 2020-present;
Executive Counsel, 2011-present
Administrative Law Section, Council Member, 2011-2016

Virginia State Bar

Environmental Law Section, Board of Governors, 2020-present
Administrative Law Section, Board of Governors, former Chair; National Regulatory Conference Planning Committee, 2008-present
Disciplinary System, Third District Committee, Section II, 2007-2013

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Board of Directors: Immediate Past Chair, 2021; Chair, 2017-present; Member, 2011-present

Local Government Attorneys of Virginia

Adjunct Professor

William and Mary School of Law, 2014-present

Commentary

Cliona Robb Named to VA Lawyers Weekly 2022 Influential Women of Law

April 07, 2022

Energy Bar Association 2022 Southern Chapter Annual Meeting

VBA Practice Management Advisor Live Chat

Southeast Renewable Energy Summit

“The Business Case for Solar” – Solar Congress

Virginia Clean Energy Summit