



Chimera N. Thompson

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Chimera focuses her practice on matters related to the federal regulation of electricity and RTO/ISO operations, representing clients in a wide range of energy regulatory and administrative litigation matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She counsels clients on generation interconnection and transmission issues, as well as compliance with the tariff requirements of various RTOs/ISOs, including PJM Interconnection, NYISO, CAISO, and the Southwest Power Pool. She also advises clients in commercial transactions involving FERC-jurisdictional assets, and conducts regulatory due diligence for acquisitions of renewable energy projects. She has prepared a variety of regulatory filings, including applications for market-based rates, Section 203 filings, and QF and EWG self-certifications.

Chimera's experience in enforcement matters includes defending clients in FERC investigations involving potential violations of ISO/RTO tariffs and FERC's rules, regulations, and orders, including the prohibition on market manipulation. She is experienced in assisting clients in evaluating potential FERC rules violations and, where appropriate, formulating remediation and/or self-reporting to FERC.

Chimera also represents clients in complex litigation before state utility commissions, and prepares DOE permit applications for authorization to transmit electricity to foreign countries.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Chimera served as an associate lawyer at a national law firm based in Washington, D.C. There, Chimera defended clients in criminal and civil enforcement matters before FERC, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), the Department of Justice, and other federal regulators, including representing a major life science company in a complex, cross-border investigation involving alleged export controls violations. She also provided litigation support on behalf of an electric utility in a complex litigation before a state utility commission.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Named to *Lawyers of Color's* Inaugural Hot List of influential minority attorneys in 2013

EDUCATION

- J.D., Fordham University School of Law, 2007
- B.A., Syracuse University, 2001

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 16 May 2024, FERC Issues Landmark Transmission Planning Rule, Order No.1920: Final Rule Modifies the Proposed Rule, Drawing 2-1 Vote
- 6 December 2023, FERC Issues 2023 Enforcement Report
- 30 November 2023, What to Know About ISO/RTO Annual Certification Requirements
- 6 September 2023, Order No. 2023: Interconnection Reform is Finally Here
- 5 September 2023, BOEM Offshore Wind Lease Update: Gulf of Mexico Auction Produces Lackluster Results, Not Likely Repeated in Future Oregon and Mid-Atlantic Lease Areas Auctions
- 3 November 2022, Heightened Scrutiny of Director Positions by FERC and DOJ

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Order No. 2023: Interconnection Reform Is Finally Here,” *The Journal of Federal Agency Action*, January–February 2024
- “Offshore Wind Auction Results Portend Difficulties In Gulf,” *Law360*, 12 September 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Power

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

- Power Generation and Transmission
- Utilities

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented transmission customer in proceedings before FERC opposing a transmission owner's proposed depreciation rate changes in its formula rate. Represented the client to obtain a favorable resolution through settlement, without hearing, compared to the applicant's as-filed proposal.
- Represented default electric service provider in contested proceedings before the Ohio utility commission arising from a governmental aggregator's return of 500,000 customers to default electric service.
- Advised battery storage facility on CAISO tariff and market rules.
- Represented electric cooperative opposing a public utility's proposal to recover unamortized regulatory assets through wholesale generation and transmission formula rates. FERC agreed, finding the proposal may not be just and reasonable, and set the case for hearing and settlement.
- Represented electric cooperative in formal challenge proceedings before FERC opposing the public utility's implementation of its transmission formula rate. FERC agreed, ruling on the papers and directing refunds to transmission customers.
- Represented a major electric utility in a state regulatory proceeding involving the prudence of costs incurred in building a first-of-a-kind-at-its-size baseload power plant.
- Represented energy trading company in FERC proceeding involving allegations of market manipulation arising from sales made during the California energy crisis and secured dismissal of the California Attorney General's US\$180 million complaint through summary disposition.
- Counseled the developer of a 30MW wind project on applicable federal regulations and obtained regulatory authorizations required for the project to begin commercial operations.
- Assisted tax equity investors in obtaining regulatory approvals for transactions involving acquisitions of interests in wind energy project portfolios.
- Represented a renewable energy company in self-reports to FERC, each resulting in no enforcement action.
- Assisted owners of a geothermal power plant in obtaining priority transmission rights for planned transmission capacity on the owner's generation-tie line, and in developing a non-conforming tariff to govern transmission on the generation-tie line.
- Represented renewable facilities in the preparation and filing of self-certifications of PURPA Qualifying Facility (QF) status.
- Represented a wind developer in obtaining Exempt Wholesale Generator (EWG) status and market-based rate authority.

- Advised merchant and renewable generators, power marketers, and independent transmission companies in obtaining FERC approvals, including Section 203 and Section 204 approvals, as well as market-based rate authorizations.