



Elizabeth Thomas

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Liz Thomas is a partner in the firm's Seattle office and member of the firm's energy, Infrastructure, and resources practice.

Liz has a national practice, concentrating in a range of matters related to energy and water regulation, transactions and project development. This includes:

- Regulatory matters in mergers, asset acquisitions, and other transactions
- Licensing, re-licensing, and compliance for hydropower facilities
- Siting, permitting, and development of renewable and traditional energy facilities
- Conducting litigation involving energy facilities, water rights, and rates
- Advising clients on public policy issues

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Law Clerk, Hon. A. David Mazzone, United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, 1979-80

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Best Lawyers' 2012 Seattle Energy Law Lawyer of the Year.
- Named a Best Lawyer in America by Best Lawyers, Energy Law, 2009-2021

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Clean Energy Transition Institute Board of Directors, 2020-present
- Past Member, Legal Foundation of Washington Board of Trustees (appointed by Washington State Supreme Court), 2011-2014; President, 2014

- Past member Climate Solutions Board of Directors, 2005-2010
- Chair, Energy Facility Siting Process Review Committee, 1993-1994

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Shorting Carbon: Innovation in Climate Solutions,” Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition annual conference (September 15, 2020)
- “Is Nuclear Energy the Key to our Carbon Goals?,” Clean Tech Alliance Debate Series, August 13, 2020
- “New horizons in corporate energy sourcing: Life—and pain points—on the cutting edge,” presented at Women in Power Conference (May 2017)
- “New Regional Energy Needs: The Promise of Pumped Hydropower Storage,” presented at Hydropower in the Northwest Conference (October 2014)
- “The Business of Renewable Energy - Integrating Intermittent Resources,” presented at Washington Future Energy Conference (November 2012)
- “Looking Past Coal,” presented at Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition annual conference (September 2012)
- “News from the Intersection of GMA and Water Rights: *Kittitas County v. EWGMHB*,” presented at 20th Annual Conference on Growth Management and Land Use (LSI, November 2011)
- “Bridging the Gap between Early and Late-Stage Financing,” presented at Midwest Cleantech 2010 Conference, September 14, 2010
- “Implications of Greenhouse Gas Regulation by EPA, Congress and States for Public Power in the Pacific Northwest,” presented at Washington Society of Municipal and PUD Attorneys, December 2, 2009.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 1979 (*cum laude*)
- B.A., Wellesley College, 1975 (*Phi Beta Kappa*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 4 February 2021, Washington State Legislature Considers First of Its Kind State-Level Natural Gas Ban (*BlogPost*)
- 16 November 2020, Energy Storage Handbook Vol. 6 (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 12 March 2020, COVID-19: Federally Regulated Energy Businesses (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 17 February 2020, Certain Uncertainty at FERC: Areas to Watch in 2020 for Natural Gas Pipelines and LNG and Hydropower Facilities (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Living With Uncertainty: Hydroelectric Operations Now and in the Future,” AWRA Spring Specialty Conference, April 18-20, 2011
- “Unlocking Regulatory Barriers to Sustainable Energy Systems,” Nat. Resources & Env’t, Fall 2004
- “The Temperature’s Rising: Business Law Considerations for Greenhouse Gas Regulation,” Nat. Resources & Env’t, Fall 2004

NEWS & EVENTS

- 20 and 27 April 2021, Fires in the Pacific Northwest: A Two Part Series (*Event*)
- 24 October 2019, K&L Gates Advises Global Infrastructure Partners on Paine Field Passenger Terminal Investment (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Power
- American Indian Law
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Project Funding
- Corporate Energy Sourcing and Sustainability
- Energy Storage and Distributed Resources
- Environment, Land, and Natural Resources

- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Mining and Metals
- Oil and Gas
- Renewables
- Water and Wastewater

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Energy Disputes
- Power Generation and Transmission
- Utilities

EMERGING ISSUES

- Hydrogen

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Boralex: FERC headwater benefits for South Glens Falls and Hudson Falls projects; other FERC regulatory matters
- PPL Corporation: FERC relicensing, license implementation and compliance for the Wallenpaupack hydroelectric project
- Major utility with multiple hydropower projects: FERC relicensing, compliance, strategy, and license transfer
- Hydro One: proposed \$5.3 billion acquisition of investor-owned electric and gas utility, including proceedings to obtain approval from five state commissions
- Represented independent power producer in sale to investor-owned utility of nearly one-half interest as tenant in common in 250 MW gas-fired facility
- Capital Power: FERC headwater benefits for the Curtis Palmer Project; project acquisition, compliance and disposition
- Consortium of investors: acquisition of investor-owned electric and gas utility
- City of Seattle: FERC relicensing, license implementation and compliance for the Boundary Project
- Energy Northwest: siting of the Pacific Mountain Energy Center, a proposed 680 megawatt integrated gasification combined cycle generation facility

- Represented purchaser of privately held company owning all or portions of 13 cogeneration projects located in six states
- TransAlta: Policy, transactional, environmental and regulatory matters relating to the 1,340 MW coal-fired Centralia Generation Facility and various wind and solar projects
- GDF Suez: EFSEC siting, development and sale of 520 megawatt gas-fired facility
- Microsoft: obtain regulatory approval and negotiate related documents to purchase carbon-free power for headquarters from third party supplier
- PPL Montana: litigation over ownership of the beds of the Missouri-Madison and Clark Fork Projects