

Catherine D. Little

Partner

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For more than 30 years, Catherine Little has counseled oil and gas pipeline, storage, and LNG clients across the United States on traditional and renewable energy, transportation and safety-related legal matters at federal, state and local levels. At the forefront of cutting-edge legal issues for this industry, including with respect to the energy evolution, and carbon dioxide and hydrogen in particular, Catherine and her team regularly assist clients in navigating complex regulatory compliance and enforcement defense matters, encompassing construction, operations, maintenance, and inspection, incident response, and security issues. Catherine also routinely advises clients on litigation strategy and legislative and rulemaking developments, and frequently manages compliance audits and confidential internal and governmental investigations. As to the latter, Catherine and her team have favorably resolved criminal investigation matters led by the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General and the US Department of Justice and successfully challenged administrative agency actions at the federal appellate level.

Catherine is consistently recognized as a preeminent pipeline safety lawyer by industry ranking publications. She is highly ranked by *Chambers USA* as Band 1 in Energy: PHMSA Specialists and was named Energy Natural Resources & Mining Lawyer of the Year at the 2024 Women in Business Law Americas Awards. According to sources, Catherine “has deep knowledge of PHMSA regulations” and her “advice is very practical.” (*Chambers USA*, 2024).

Catherine also regularly serves as a moderator and speaker at legal and industry conferences and seminars across the United States, and is the author of several articles, chapters and editorials on compliance and regulatory issues.

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

Practices

[Energy Regulatory](#)

[Pipeline and LNG Safety and Regulation](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Midstream Transactions](#)

[Energy Litigation](#)

[Biomass](#)

Credentials

Education

- Tulane University Law School, J.D., 1991, *cum laude*
- University of Virginia, B.A., 1986

Bar Admissions

- Georgia
- District of Columbia

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, Past Vice Chair, Enforcement and Environmental Crimes Committee
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources Law, Section on Administrative Law
- Energy Bar Association

Hart Energy

- *Oil & Gas Investor*, Influential Women in Energy, 2025

2024 Women in Business Law Americas Awards

- Energy Natural Resources & Mining Lawyer of the Year

Chambers USA

- Nationwide Energy: PHMSA Specialists, 2024 – 2025
- Nationwide Energy: Oil & Gas (Regulatory & Litigation), 2023
- Georgia Environment, 2007 – 2025

The Legal 500 United States

- Energy Regulation: Oil and Gas, 2022 – 2025; Environment: Regulatory, 2023; Environment: Transactional, 2023

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Energy Law, 2008 – 2022, 2024 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Environmental Law, 2008 – 2022, 2024 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Environmental, 2011 – 2022, 2024 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Oil and Gas Law, 2024 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Energy Regulatory Law, 2025

BRACEWELL

- Atlanta Lawyer of the Year, Energy Law, 2012, 2022

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Regulatory, Compliance, 2024 – 2025

Atlanta Magazine

- Super Lawyers, Environmental Law, 2008 – 2013

Resources

TSA Revises Cybersecurity Directive for Critical Pipeline and LNG Facilities

Update

PHMSA Informational Meeting on Upcoming Leak Detection Inspections

Blog Post

Many Await Updates to Existing CO₂ Pipeline Safety Regulations

Article

Publications & Speeches

Publications:

- “Many Await Updates to Existing CO₂ Pipeline Safety Regulations,” *Oil and Gas Investor*, January 2025.
- “Final Liquid Pipeline Rule Emphasizes New Safety Requirements,” *Law360*, October 24, 2019.
- “House and Senate Pipeline Bills: Ships Passing in the Night,” *Law360*, August 20, 2019.
- “Legal Roundtable: PHMSA Key Developments,” Natural Gas Connect, July 2019.
- “When Defendants Invoke ‘Necessity’ In Pipeline Sabotage,” *Law360*, May 24, 2018.
- “Oil and Gas Pipeline Industry in an Evolving Legal Landscape,” *Trends*, American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, September/October 2017.

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- “Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure for Market Expansion: Regulatory and Political Landscape,” Southern States Energy Board 57th Annual Meeting, Exploring the New Vision for America’s Energy Economy, September 2017.

Presentations:

- "Pipeline Safety Committee Meeting," 2025 INGAA Spring Joint Committee Meeting, May 8, 2025.
- "Fireside Chat with Catherine Little," 2024 Wood Mackenzie Carbon Capture, Utilization & Storage Conference, October 2024.
- "To Appeal, or Not to Appeal," LEPA 2024 Annual Business Conference, September 2024.
- "Lifecycle of PHMSA Enforcement," LEPA 2023 Annual Business Conference, September 2023.
- "PHMSA Inspections and Enforcement: Insights and Updates," LEPA 2022 Annual Business Conference, September 2022.
- “PHMSA Regulatory Developments: Agency Focus and Direction,” Moderator, American Petroleum Institute (API) 2022 Pipeline Control Room and Cybernetics Conference, May 2022.
- “Midstream Policy & the Supply Chain: Challenges and Opportunities for the Refining Industry,” Panelist, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) Annual Meeting, March 2022.
- “PHMSA Update,” Moderator, AOPL Legal Committee Meeting (annually).
- “Legal Roundtable: Pipeline Safety Legal Issues Breakfast Roundtable,” Moderator, AOPL Annual Business Conference (annually).
- “Natural Gas Connect Legal Roundtable: PHMSA Updates,” Speaker, Southern Gas Association Natural Gas Connect Academy, 2019 and 2020.
- “Regulatory Updates,” API/AOPL Annual Legal Committee Meeting, May 2020.
- “Legal Roundtable: PHMSA Regulatory Updates,” Association of Oil Pipelines Annual Business Conference, September 2019.
- "Legal Roundtable: PHMSA Key Developments," Natural Gas Connect, July 2019.
- "Legal Roundtable," AOPL Annual Business Conference, September 2018.
- "Legal Roundtable," API/AOPL Annual Legal Committee Meeting, May 2018.
- "Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure for Market Expansion: Regulatory and Political Landscape," Southern States Energy Board 57th Annual Meeting, Exploring the New Vision for America’s Energy Economy, September 2017.
- "Legal Roundtable," AOPL Annual Business Conference, September 2017.

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- "Survey of Pipeline Permitting Issues," AOPL Annual Business Conference, September 2017.
- "Recent Updates and Developments in Legal Ethics Relevant to the Oil and Gas Industry," AOPL Annual Business Conference, September 2017.