

## Jeffrey R. Holmstead

Partner

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Jeff Holmstead, former assistant administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation, is one of the nation's leading climate change lawyers as recognized by *Chambers USA* (2008-2025) and heads the Environmental Strategies Group at Bracewell. The Environmental Strategies Group is a multi-disciplinary group that includes environmental and energy attorneys, public policy advocates and strategic communications experts – most of whom have had high-level government experience. Under Jeff's leadership, they work together on a daily basis to advise and defend companies and business groups confronting major environmental and energy-development challenges, both domestically and globally.

From his time in both the government and the private sector, Jeff is very familiar with the environmental and energy challenges facing the business community. He advises clients dealing with an increasingly complex regulatory, legal and public relations landscape, drawing on his experience in policy development, administrative and legislative advocacy, litigation and strategic communications. He has worked with clients in a number of industries on issues related to climate change, Clean Air Act policy and enforcement, and energy policy — including the development of new coal-fired power plants, refineries, renewable energy sources, and electric transmission infrastructure.

Jeff headed the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation from 2001 to 2005, longer than anyone in EPA history. During his tenure, he was the architect of several of the agency's most important initiatives, including the Clean Air Interstate Rule, the Clean Air Diesel Rule, the Mercury Rule for power plants and the reform of the New Source Review program. He also oversaw the development of the Bush Administration's Clear Skies Legislation and key parts of its Global Climate Change Initiative. Between 1989 and 1993, Jeff served on the White House Staff as Associate Counsel to former President George H.W. Bush. In

### Industries

[Energy](#)

### Practices

[Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Downstream Transactions](#)

[Environmental Litigation &](#)

[Enforcement Defense](#)

[Environmental Permitting &](#)

[Regulation](#)

[Transaction Diligence & Support](#)

that capacity, he was involved in the passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the key steps taken to implement those amendments. From 1987 to 1988, he served as a law clerk to Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

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## Credentials

### Education

- Yale University, J.D., 1987
- Brigham Young University, B.A., 1984, *summa cum laude*

### Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

### Chambers USA

- Nationwide Climate Change, 2010 – 2025
- District of Columbia Environment, 2008 – 2025

### The Legal 500 United States

- Environment: Litigation, 2012, 2016 – 2024
- Environment: Regulatory, 2017 – 2025 (Leading Partner, 2023 – 2025)
- Environment: Transactional, 2017 – 2021
- Government Relations, 2019 – 2020, 2023
- Energy Litigation: Conventional Power, 2017 – 2018

### ALM Media Properties, LLC

- *National Law Journal*, Energy & Environmental Trailblazer, 2016

### BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Environmental Law, 2008 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Environmental, 2020 – 2025

### Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon Leading 500 Lawyers in America*, 2021
- *Lawdragon Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law*, Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, 2024
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Climate Change and Environmental Strategy, 2024 – 2025

## Law Business Research Ltd.

- *Lexology Index's Thought Leaders: USA*, Environment, 2025
- *Who's Who Legal*, Environment and Climate Change Global Leader, 2023
- Environment Thought Leader, 2023

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## Resources

### **Understanding <i>West Virginia v. EPA</i>, Part 1: The Opinions**

Podcast

### **Understanding <i>West Virginia v. EPA</i>, Part 2: The Impact**

Podcast

### **After West Virginia, What's Next at EPA?**

Video

### **The Future of Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Projects**

Video

### **Climate Change on Every Menu**

Video

### **The First 100 Days and the Second 100 Days of the Biden Administration**

Video

### **Climate Change: A Policy Driver in Agency Decision Making**

Video

### **The Next Four Years: What Will the Clean Air Act Bring?**

Video

### **Climate Change**

Podcast

### **EPA's ACE Rule With Global Energy Institute CEO Karen Harbert**

Podcast

## **Replacing the Clean Power Plan?**

Podcast

## **2020 Post-Election Analysis: Issue by Issue**

Update

## **Under the Sea: Congress Amends OCSLA to Provide for Offshore CCS**

Update

## **Council on Environmental Quality Seeks Input on Path Forward for Carbon Capture**

Update

## **The Major Questions Doctrine and Agency Rulemaking**

Article

## **EPA's Proposal to Grant Class VI Primacy to Louisiana – Availability of Application Documents**

Update

## **Texas UIC Class VI Update: Proposed Amendments to 16 TAC Ch. 5**

Update

## **We Need a Legislative Path to Power Plant Emissions Cuts**

Article

## **Chevron Overturned: No Judicial Deference to Agencies in Interpreting Statutes**

Update

## **The Future Is <i>Loper Bright</i>**

Podcast

## **Environmental Essentials Webinar Series – Revoking the Endangerment Finding**

Video

## **Revisiting the Endangerment Finding: The Future of Greenhouse Gas Regulation**

Podcast

## **Environmental Essentials Webinar Series – EPA’s Proposed Repeal of the Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants: Implications for the Rest of Industry**

Video

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### **Publications & Speeches**

- "We Need a Legislative Path to Power Plant Emissions Cuts," *Law360*, May 28, 2024.
- "The Major Questions Doctrine and Agency Rulemaking," *Bloomberg Law*, August 2022.
- "Critical Considerations for the Development and Operation of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Projects," Chapter 7, 68 FNREL-INST 7, 2022.
- Keynote speaker, "Plan for Growth and Sustain Compliance in an Uncertain Climate", Environmental Resource Management's Air Quality Roundtable for Natural Gas Midstream Industry, September 2019.
- Keynote speaker, "Sea Change? Energy and Environmental Policy Under Trump," Southern Gas Association Management Conference, April 27, 2017.
- Moderator, "All Trumped Up: The First 100 Days and Beyond," Gulf Coast Power Association Spring Conference & Exhibition, April 19, 2017.
- Panelist, "Clearing the Air on the Status of Significant Air Regulations," American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Spring Meeting, March 31, 2017.
- Panelist, "The Evolving Southeast Energy & Environmental Policy Landscape," Energy and Environmental Policy Landscape: Charting the Course for the Southeast Electricity Sector, hosted by Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, February 15, 2017.