

Environment, Lands and Resources

Go-To Firm for Environmental Matters

Bracewell has one of the largest and most highly respected environmental practices in the United States. We were named a *Law360 Environmental Group of the Year* --> in 2024, and our practice and its lawyers are consistently ranked in the top bands in *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500 US* and other leading legal publications.

Our team combines legal and policy depth with knowledge in media relations and lobbying, all focused on energy, environmental and natural resources issues faced by companies across the United States. This comprehensive and holistic approach enables us to advise clients facing severe challenges that arise simultaneously in litigation, legislative debates, agency actions and public discourse. **Air Liquide, Baker Hughes, Cheniere Energy, The Dow Company, Equinor and Kinder Morgan** are some of the companies that regularly engage our team on environmental matters.

We provide a uniquely informed perspective based on decades of experience working at the forefront of issues facing companies in the oil and gas -->, refining, power generation and transmission -->, chemical, manufacturing, technology -->, mining --> and construction sectors. Team members include lawyers with extensive experience working in house at Fortune 100 companies, as well as lawyers who have served in the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Department of the Interior, the US Department of Justice (DOJ), the Army Corps of Engineers, the White House, the US Congress, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the US Attorney's Office.

Clients turn to us for advice and guidance on policy matters at the top of the national agenda, including:

- offshore wind development

Areas of Focus

Environmental Litigation &

Enforcement Defense

Natural Resource Protection

Environmental Permitting &

Regulation

Pipeline and LNG Safety and

Regulation

Transaction Diligence & Support

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- renewable fuels standards
- regulation of greenhouse gases
- carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS)
- Clean Water Act, Section 401 reform
- Infrastructure development
- NSR reform
- renewable energy policies
- hydrogen development
- onshore and offshore royalty disputes
- oil and gas leasing and decommissioning
- Chemical Safety Board reform
- NEPA reform

We handle regulatory matters for energy and energy-related companies before a myriad of federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Transportation (DOT), Customs and Border Protection, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the EPA, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Fish and Wildlife Service, the US National Park Service and the Surface Transportation Board.

In addition, our environmental litigation group — in collaboration with our market-leading white-collar defense, appellate and energy regulatory practices — handles some of the largest and most complicated environmental litigation matters in the nation. For example, we represented **Halliburton** in the federal criminal investigation that arose from the Deepwater Horizon explosion — perhaps the most significant criminal environmental investigation in a generation. More recently, we represented **Kinder Morgan** in connection with regulatory and litigation issues surrounding the development of the Permian Highway Pipeline, as well as **RES** in the negotiation and execution of an innovative fixed-price restoration agreement with Klamath River Renewal Corporation in connection with the largest dam removal in the United States -->.

Key Contacts



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Experience

Our team represents leading energy and energy-related companies on some of the most critical issues that they face in the marketplace.

Air Liquide Large Industries LP and Airgas USA

- in negotiating a settlement agreement with the US Department of Justice and US EPA regarding alleged violations of the Clean Air Act risk management program

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

- on a challenge to the Clean Power Plan, acting as one of the leading firms in the litigation in both the DC Circuit and the Supreme Court

Ascend Performance Materials

- with a significant risk management plan, water and hazardous waste enforcement actions brought by the US EPA

Cheniere Energy

- on all environmental and safety regulatory, permitting and compliance matters in connection with the construction and operating of its LNG export facilities in Sabine Pass, Louisiana, and Corpus Christi, Texas, as well as the development of related pipelines

The Electric Reliability Coordinating Council

- on a wide range of regulatory and legislative matters that arise under various environmental statutes

Equinor Wind

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- on environmental and leasing issues related to its flagship offshore wind projects in the United States

Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

- on various investigations that arose from the Deepwater Horizon incident, including President Obama's Special Task Force, the US Congress and the CSB. Bracewell's team brought the matter to a very successful resolution for Halliburton — one that included no criminal charges related to the explosion, the oil spill or the environmental impacts

Kinder Morgan, Inc., Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline LLC and Permian Highway Pipeline LLC

- on permitting and litigation surrounding the construction of the Permian Highway Pipeline

Par Pacific

- on environment aspects of a stock acquisition of a petroleum refinery in Tacoma, Washington, and an asset acquisition of refining assets in Kapolei, Hawaii

RES

- in a first-of-its-kind fixed-price, habitat restoration, maintenance and liability transfer agreement with Klamath River Renewal Corporation to provide restoration service for the Klamath Dam removal, the largest dam removal project in the United States

The Sterling Group LP

- as lead environmental counsel in acquiring the US domestic assets of a European designer and manufacturer of trailer axles, trailer and caravan components, and motorized chassis, with more than 20 locations around the world; acquiring several bathware-related businesses across the United States in supporting the formation of the American Bath Group; and divesting a company that specializes in providing fully operated and maintained crane services, heavy rigging and specialty hauling services

Recognition

The strength and experience of our environmental strategies practice is nationally recognized by *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500* and other legal publications. In 2020, *Law360* honored us as an Environmental Group of the Year.

Chambers USA

- Nationwide Climate Change
- Nationwide Energy Transition
- Nationwide Environment
- Nationwide Offshore Energy (Band 1)
- Texas Environment (Band 1)
- Washington, DC Environment

Legal 500 US

- Environment Litigation
- Environment Regulatory
- Environment Transactional
- Government Relations

U.S. News – Best Lawyers

- National Environmental Law (Tier 1)
- National Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)
- Austin Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)
- Austin Water Law (Tier 1)
- Houston Natural Resources Law (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Environmental Law (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)