

Matthew Christiansen

PARTNER

Energy and Climate
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FOCUS AREAS

Clean Energy

Energy Regulation and
Competition

Energy and Climate
Solutions

Environmental, Social, and
Governance

Project Development and
M&A

Sustainability and
Decarbonization

EXPERIENCE

Matt Christiansen is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he is a member of the energy and climate solutions practice. As a former general counsel at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and one of the nation's leading energy regulatory attorneys, Matt represents a diverse range of clients, including independent power producers, hyperscalers and other large energy consumers, and trade associations, both before FERC and in the development of energy and digital infrastructure, such as data centers.

He has extensive experience with major FERC proceedings involving energy market rules, generator and load interconnection procedures, and the development of electric transmission facilities and natural gas infrastructure. Matt specializes in crafting novel arguments that combine his unparalleled experience at FERC with his understanding of the relevant statutes, regulations, and court precedent, as well as in representing clients at every stage of the regulatory proceeding, including initial pleadings, rehearing requests, and appeals, where necessary.

Matt also represents clients in negotiations involving the development of both energy infrastructure and digital infrastructure. He has particular expertise in negotiating FERC-jurisdictional agreements and in applying his experience with the relevant rules and regulations to secure the most favorable outcome for his clients.

As FERC's general counsel, Matt oversaw a team of more than 200 lawyers on all manner of adjudicatory and rulemaking matters and was involved in nearly every aspect of the commission's work, including supervising its activity in federal courts throughout the country. He has extensive knowledge of FERC rules and regulations under the Federal Power Act and Natural Gas Act, particularly with respect to energy markets and the development of electric transmission facilities and interstate natural gas pipelines.

Prior to becoming general counsel, Matt was a legal advisor to FERC Commissioner Richard Glick and an attorney-advisor in FERC's Office of General Counsel. Before joining FERC, Matt served as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen F. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the Honorable Jesse M. Furman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Matt is a lecturer in law at Yale Law School, where he teaches Advanced State and Federal Electricity Law.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Yale Law School, 2012
Editor-in-Chief, Yale Journal of International Law; Student Director, Energy Law and Regulation Group and Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic; Recipient, Thomas I. Emerson Prize for Distinguished Paper Related to Legislation

- B.A., Economics and History, Columbia University, 2007
Summa Cum Laude; With Departmental Honors; Editor-in-Chief, Columbia Political Review; Phi Beta Kappa, Recipient, Chanler Prize for Excellence in Original Historical Research and, Edwin Robbins International Research Fellowship

Admissions

- Bar of the District of Columbia
- State Bar of New York

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- Co-author, “Transource Ruling Affirms FERC’s Grid Planning Authority,” *Law360*, October 20, 2025
- Co-author, “Long Live the Federal Power Act’s Bright Line,” 134 *Harvard Law Review*, 2021
- Co-author, “FERC and Climate Change,” 40 *Energy Law Journal* 1, 2019
- Co-author, “The Dark Side of DG: Addressing the Environmental Impacts of Dirty Distributed Generation,” 25 *Y.U. Environmental Law Journal* 141, 2017
- “The FPA and the Private Right to Preempt,” 84 *The George Washington Law Review Arguendo* 130, 2016
- “FERC v. EPSA: Functionalism and the Electricity Industry of the Future,” 68 *Stanford Law Review Online* 100, 2016
- “FPA Preemption in the 21st Century,” 91 *New York University Law Review Online* 1, 2016
- Co-author, “The Conscious Congress: How Not to Define Overrides,” 93 *Texas Law Review*, 2015
- Co-author, “Congressional Overrides of Supreme Court Statutory Interpretation Decisions,” 1967-2011, 92 *Texas Law Review* 1317, 2014

Select Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, “What FERC’s Former General Counsel Thinks About the Agency’s Future Under Trump,” *POLITICO Energy*, June 2, 2025