



# Jason A. Hill

## Counsel

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Houston

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## **Jason counsels clients through complex natural resource litigation, compliance, and regulatory issues arising under a wide array of federal natural resource and energy statutes and regulations.**

With over 20 years of experience in the environmental and natural resources space, Jason provides clients with strategic solutions to business and operational challenges set in motion by intricate natural resource laws. Particularly, those statutes and regulations surrounding federal public lands, extraction of mineral resources, environmental justice, and sensitive resource preservation and protection.

With a background in administrative law, as it relates to energy and mineral resource issues, Jason provides guidance on compliance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (FOGRMA), the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA), and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA).

Jason's understanding of regulations and the agencies that enforce them stems from his government experience. He served in several high-ranking positions at the Department of the Interior (DOI), including as the immediate former Chief Administrative Judge of the Interior Board of Land Appeals, former Deputy Solicitor for Energy & Mineral Resources, and former senior counselor for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Jason also served as a trial attorney at the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Natural Resources Section of the Environment & Natural Resources

Division for a decade, where he was lead attorney in defense of numerous challenges brought through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), with a particular emphasis on cases brought under various natural resource and land management regulations. Jason deploys this experience when helping clients navigate federal agency programs, operations, and regulatory developments.

Jason addresses client matters in a holistic fashion while recognizing the unique factors and internal operations of federal agencies to develop strategic solutions for his clients. He is familiar with the regulatory frameworks utilized by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSM), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), and Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA).

After earning his Juris Doctor degree, Jason completed his Master of Laws in Environmental and Natural Resources Law at Lewis & Clark.

### **Relevant Experience**

- Advised on issues related to onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing, coal and other mineral leasing, implementation and enforcement of the SMCRA, administration of the Mining Law of 1872, geothermal leasing, and onshore and offshore renewable energy projects.
- Collaborated with environmental and industrial groups, private and public entities and individuals, Indian tribes, congressional committees, White House officials, state, local and other governmental officials.
- Lead attorney in defense of numerous challenges brought through the APA, with a particular emphasis on cases brought under NEPA, FOGPMA, and OCSLA.
- Defended the BLM's then-largest onshore oil and gas lease sale, which eventually ended in a successful multi-party settlement, and oversaw management of litigation for BLM's largest onshore lease sale.
- Defended the BLM's approval of numerous master development plans and applications to permit drilling.
- Lead attorney in defense of the ONRR and its assessment of royalties in several cases (DOJ award received).
- Lead attorney in defense of several challenges to federal highway infrastructure projects brought under NEPA and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

- Served on the NEPA Subcommittee of the Environmental Justice Task Force.
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## Memberships

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- Co-chair, Public Land & Resources Committee of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment Energy and Resources
  - External Advisory Board Member, Duke University Marine Lab Wildlife and Offshore Wind Project
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## Awards & Recognition

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- Recognized as 2021 Environmental Group of the Year, *Law360*, January 2022
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## Insights

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### Events

Speaker, Trends and Developments in CCUS Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, and Its Role in Achieving a Low Carbon Energy Future, Energy Infrastructure Council's Energy Infrastructure CEO & Investor Conference, May 23, 2023

Speaker, NEPA for Linear Infrastructure Projects: Developing Policy and Case Law, FNREL NEPA Special Institute, March 16-17, 2023

Speaker, NEPA Update, 34th Annual Texas Superconference, August 4-5, 2022

Speaker, Understanding the SEC's Climate Proposal for Public Companies, July 14, 2022

### Media Mentions

Quoted, Biden wants to launch 16 offshore wind farms. Can he?, *E&E News*, December 1, 2022

Quoted, BLM legal settlements target Trump public lands policies, *E&E News*, September 13, 2022

Quoted, Oil Exploration, Speculation to Be Riskier Bets in Climate Bill, *Bloomberg Law*, August 9, 2022

Quoted, Oil Industry Sees Ongoing Leasing Pause in New Biden Gulf Plan, *Bloomberg Law*, July 6, 2022

## Publications

Co-author, Expansion of Environmental Justice and Title VI Scrutiny Raises New Questions for Heavy Industry Projects in Texas, *The Texas Lawbook*, June 30, 2023

Co-author, California offshore wind: What's next following the \$757 million auction, *Renewable Energy World*, December 15, 2022

Co-author, Analysis: US federal leasing strategy will continue to evolve, *Offshore Magazine*, October 12, 2022

Co-author, Department of the Interior Funding for State Orphaned Well Programs, *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, September 2022

## Alerts

BLM Oil & Gas Policy Changes In Response to the Inflation Reduction Act, December 15, 2022

Change on the Horizon for Gulf of Mexico Energy Production, July 21, 2022

The Bureau of Land Management Issues New Policy Guidance for Onshore Development of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration on Federal Public Lands, June 21, 2022

Department of the Interior Funding for State Orphaned Well Programs, May 11, 2022

## Blog Posts

Co-author, Department of Energy Establishes Clean Hydrogen Roadmap, *The Nickel Report — Energy and Environmental Law*, June 9, 2023

Co-author, Amendments to NEPA Following Debt-Ceiling Deal Would Improve Permitting for Major Infrastructure Projects, *The Nickel Report — Energy and Environmental Law*, June 7, 2023

Co-author, Federal Judge Rules for Vineyard Wind in First of Four Pending Actions, *The Nickel Report — Energy and Environmental Law*, May 24, 2023

Co-author, DOE Identifies Pathways for the Large-Scale Commercialization of Clean Energy Technologies, *The Nickel Report — Energy and Environmental Law*, March 30, 2023

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## SERVICES

### Industries

Energy

## **Practices**

Environmental

Environmental Compliance, Litigation and Defense

Environmental Issues In Business Transactions

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Natural Resources

National Environmental Policy Act

Endangered Species Act

Oil, Gas and LNG

Energy Regulation

Extractive Industries: Mining & Mineral Processing, Oil & Gas

Energy Transition

Project Finance and Development

Public Lands

Renewable Energy and Clean Power

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## **EDUCATION**

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LLM, Environmental and Natural Resources Law, Lewis & Clark Law School, 2006

JD, University of Houston Law Center, 2001

MES, Baylor University, 1998

BA, Environmental Studies and Philosophy, Baylor University, 1996

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## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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District of Columbia

Texas

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## **GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE**

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Chief Administrative Judge, Interior Board of Land Appeals, Department of the Interior

Deputy Solicitor, Energy & Mineral Resources, Department of the Interior

Senior Counselor, Office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior

Trial Attorney, Natural Resources Section of the Environment & Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice

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## NEWS

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Hunton Andrews Kurth Expands Natural Resource Practice With Addition of Former U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Justice Attorney Jason Hill, November 2, 2021

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