



Thorvald Nelson

Partner

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As a regulatory lawyer since 2000 and a former economist and testifying expert on regulatory law and policy, Thor Nelson offers a unique perspective in the utility industry.

PRACTICES

Public Utilities Regulation
 Environmental and Natural Resources
 Project Development and Finance
 Government

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1994

cum laude

Olin Fellow in Law and Economics
 Managing Editor, *Georgetown Journal on Fighting Poverty*

Saint Louis University, B.A., 1991

magna cum laude

Honors

Outstanding History Graduate

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Montana

He represents a broad spectrum of utility consumers and utilities in regulatory matters at the local, state, and federal level.

During his career, Thor has appeared before state utility regulatory commissions throughout the Mountain West including Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico. He also represents clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in state and federal courts, and before state legislatures.

At Holland & Hart, Thor has represented large electric consumers and electric consumer coalitions, independent power producers, renewable energy developers, competitive local exchange carriers, cable companies, rural local exchange carriers, natural gas local distribution companies and pipelines, water utilities, and utility consumer organizations.

Thor's clients value the industry understanding he gained from serving as an economist with the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel. While there, he had opportunities to serve as a testifying expert on regulatory law and policy. He was a member of several federal and state bodies responsible for economic and policy recommendations to regulators, including the Staff of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Thor is a part of the public utilities regulatory team and frequently works with [Michelle King](#), [Fred Schmidt](#), [Abby Briggerman](#), [Nik Stoffel](#), [Austin Rueschhoff](#), and [Hannah Oakes](#).

CLIENT RESULTS

Electric Experience

Since 2000, Mr. Nelson has represented a coalition of industrial and commercial customers before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in every electric rate case filed by Public Service Company of Colorado. In each instance, the coalition was able to successfully argue for millions of dollars in electric rate savings for Colorado consumers.

Since 2000, Mr. Nelson has represented a coalition of industrial customers before the Wyoming Public Service Commission in every electric rate case filed by PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power). In each instance, the coalition

was able to successfully argue for millions of dollars in electric rate savings for Wyoming consumers.

Since 2000, Mr. Nelson has represented various energy producers in filings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission including qualifying facility ("QF") certification, approvals for market-based rates, and requests to be designated as an exempt wholesale generator.

Since 2004, Mr. Nelson has represented a coalition of industrial customers before the Montana Public Service Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in electric rate filings by NorthWestern Energy. In NorthWestern's 2009 electric rate filing, the coalition was able to successfully argue for a rate reduction rather than a rate increase for its members from the Montana Commission.

Since 2007, Mr. Nelson has represented industrial customers in various Southwest Public Service and Tri-State Generation and Transmission electric rate cases before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

Since 2011, Mr. Nelson has represented an industrial electric customer before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in electric rate filings by Idaho Power. In Idaho Power's 2011 rate filing, the customer was able to successfully argue for a substantially lower rate increase than was originally proposed by the utility.

Telecommunications Experience

Since 2000, Mr. Nelson has represented several different major competitive telecommunications carriers in tariff and rate filings before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Since 2007, Mr. Nelson has represented a major cable company in CPCN filings, tariff filings, interconnection filings, and complaints before the Commissions in Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. On behalf of this cable company, in 2008 Mr. Nelson secured the first CPCN ever in Utah for a competitive telecommunications carrier seeking to serve in an area where the incumbent is a rural carrier.

Natural Gas Experience

Since 2011, Mr. Nelson has represented a natural gas utility in Wyoming in filings before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. In 2011, Mr. Nelson represented the utility in a major rate case.

Since 2012, Mr. Nelson has represented a natural gas utility in Colorado in filings before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

Railroad Crossing Experience

Mr. Nelson has represented a city and a developer in Colorado in securing approvals for various railroad crossings and, in the case of the city, securing a financial contribution from the impacted railroad toward the construction of a major grade-separated crossing.

Water Experience

In 2011, Mr. Nelson represented an investment company in an acquisition of a water utility in Montana.

Since 2014, Mr. Nelson represented a water utility in Montana before the Montana Public Service Commission.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Trends in State Implementation of PURPA and the Impacts on Qualifying Facility Development," *Speaker, Law Seminar's International's conference on Electric Utility Rate Cases, 2017*

"The Bump in the Bumpy Road to Cleaner Generating Resources," *Speaker, Law Seminar's International's conference on Buying and Selling Electric Power in the West, 2017*

"Telecommunications Law 17th Annual Conference ," *Hosted by CLE International, Co-Chair, December 2015*

"Winners and Losers in Net Metering," *Speaker, Law Seminars Conference on "Energy in the Southwest", 2015*

"Past, Present & Future," *Co-Chair, Telecommunications Law 16th Annual Conference hosted by CLE International, December 2014*

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Communications Law, 2007-2019
- *Denver Business Journal*, "40 Under 40" (2007)
- Leadership Denver, Class of 2006

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Board of Directors (2010 to present), and Chair of the Endowment Committee (2014 to present) for Energy Share Montana
- Member, Board of Directors (2012 to present), and Board President (2014 to present) for St. Clare's Ministries
- Member, Board of Directors (2014 to present), and Chair of the Program Committee (2015 to present) for Colorado Humanities
- Member, Colorado Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Appointed in 2009 by Governor Ritter
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Colorado Bar Association
- Member, Denver and Arapahoe County Bar Associations
- Member, Colorado Humanities Board of Directors
- Colorado Air Quality Control Commissioner, Appointed by Governor Owens and confirmed by the Colorado Senate (2006-2007)