



Laura Granier

Partner

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Laura delivers pragmatic counsel to help mining, energy, and natural resources clients navigate litigation and regulatory challenges.

Laura's clients, including large energy users, mining companies, and water owners, benefit from her extensive litigation and regulatory experience, and her experience as Vice President and U.S. General Counsel for a large utility provider. Laura led the legal team that successfully defended the federal and state authorizations for development of the largest known lithium deposit in the world at Thacker Pass.

PRACTICES

Environmental Litigation
Energy Consumers, Developers, and
Public Utilities
Water Resources
Environmental Transactions

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Mining
Conventional Power
Renewable Energy and Storage

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, J.D., 2000
UC Davis Law Review, Executive Editor

University of Nevada, B.A., 1996

BAR ADMISSIONS

Nevada

Regulatory Practice

Laura represents clients before numerous regulatory agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, the Nevada Division of Water Resources, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. She has served as lead counsel in numerous regulatory proceedings including general rate cases, integrated resource planning and on complex water, resource and environmental agency issues. Laura also assists clients through the permitting process for projects on public and forest system lands.

Agency Litigation & Judicial Review

Laura has served as lead counsel in numerous court cases involving agency decisions and rule-making managing large client groups and complex issues. She has frequently and successfully handled cases involving key industry issues, complex matters and high stakes litigation. Laura also has successfully defended agency decisions authorizing resource projects on public lands.

Water Rights & Government Affairs

Laura also works closely with clients in the areas of municipal law and government affairs, water rights acquisitions and permitting, and related policy issues.

EXPERIENCE

- Environmental permitting
- Mining and natural resources
- Public utilities and energy
- Water rights and policy
- Land use and governmental affairs
- Agency litigation and judicial review

CLIENT RESULTS

Represented the American Mining and Exploration Association before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and the D.C. Court of Appeals in *Earthworks et al. vs. U.S. Department of the Interior et al.*. The case represented a significant victory for the mining industry and pre-discovery rights under the Mining Law.

Successfully defended the federal and state authorizations for Thacker Pass prevailing at the State Environmental Commission, the United States District Court, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on extensive and wide ranging challenges on the permitting authorizations.

Prevailed in defeating requested injunctive relief to stop exploration for critical minerals on Forest System lands in Arizona under a plan authorized with proper and efficient use of a categorical exclusion.

Before joining Holland & Hart, some of Laura's cases included:

- Successfully challenged Bureau of Land Management's Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage Grouse in Nevada on behalf of multiple Nevada counties and several private entities. US District Court – District of Nevada found the BLM violated NEPA and remanded, requiring the BLM to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
- Successfully handled several issues of first impression involving mineral resources in Nevada including a 2011 case ruling a state tax imposed on mining claims unconstitutional as well as cases involving complex land tenure issues.
- Successfully defended one of the largest qui tam actions brought in Nevada challenging the constitutionality of an initial public offering.

PUBLICATIONS

"Renewables Need More Domestic Production of Minerals," *POWER Magazine*, Co-Author, March 1, 2023

"Water Rights: Reconciling Priorities Under the Public Trust and Prior Appropriation Doctrines," *36 Natural Resources & Environment* 3, Co-Author, Winter 2022

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Mining Law Congressional Committee Hearings, Mining Provisions, and Mining Regulations," *Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition, 11th Annual Mineral Exploration Summit, Panelist*, October 12, 2021

"Hot Topics in Water Law: PFAS and WOTUS and Walker, Oh My," *Nevada Water Resources Association Annual Conference*, January 4, 2021

"2020 BLM Greater Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Plan Supplement Release – Where Are We Now," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"States Join the Federal Government on Tribal Consultation," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"Protecting Pre-Discovery Rights & Ancillary Use under the Mining Law," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2020

"2019 BLM Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Land Use Plan Enjoined: Are we Back to 2015 Again," *American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference*, December 2019

"Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Program: Overview and Discussion of Regulations," *Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition Annual Conference*, November 12-13, 2019

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Water Law, 2023
- *Lawdragon*, 500 Leading Energy Lawyers, 2023
- *Chambers USA*, Environment, 2018-2022; 2024
- Reno Tahoe Young Professionals Network in conjunction with the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, 20 Under 40 Award, Recipient, 2007
- *Nevada Business Magazine*, Top Rank Attorneys, 2024
- *Nevada Business Magazine, Legal Elite, Top 35 Attorneys in Northern Nevada*, 2011
- *AV Preeminent*® *Peer Review Rating*™ from *Martindale-Hubbell*®

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law, Trustees Council
- Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association, Member and Past President
- Nevada Public Education Foundation, Past Chair of the Board
- American Bar Association, Member
- State Bar of Nevada, Member
- Young Lawyers Section Executive Council, Past Chair
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE), Publications Committee, Past Member
- Washoe County Bar Association, Member
- Mountain States Legal Foundation, Board of Litigation, Past Member
- American Inns of Court, Former Barrister