



Christopher L. Callas

Member

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Christopher L. Callas is a Member in the Renewable Energy and Utilities industry groups, and is the leader of the Renewable Energy industry group. He practices out of the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Chris's practice centers on utility regulation and independent power generation. He represents investor-owned electric, gas, and water company before the Public Service Commission (PSC) of West Virginia in certificate applications, general rate cases, purchased power proceedings, and utility acquisitions and divestitures. He also has acted as a regulatory counsel in merchant generation projects and as coordinator of Jackson Kelly's other project development services.

For him, his practice often comes down to ensuring that engineers, accountants, and other technical experts tell their stories in ways that make sense to regulators and stakeholders.

One of his specialties is energy development projects, including the siting of solar and wind facilities. Chris has served as lead counsel on several solar and wind projects before the PSC and has advised both landowners and lenders. He frequently advises on project financing concerns and siting certificate transfer questions.

Chris also has extensive legislative experience. He was the primary author of environmental securitization legislation enacted by the West Virginia Legislature in 2005, and then helped secure regulatory approvals under that legislation for the nation's first issuance of securitization bonds for environmental control facilities.

He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2003, and his community outreach efforts include serving as Chairman of Board of Directors of the United Way of Central West Virginia.

Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Lawyer of the Year, Charleston, WV for Energy Law (2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Energy Law (2003-2025)
- Phi Beta Kappa'
- *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* – Energy & Natural Resources in West Virginia (2024)

Notable Legal Experience

Utility Regulation

- Representation of investor-owned electric, gas and water utilities before the WV Public Service Commission
- Certificate applications
- General rate cases
- Fuel-purchased power proceedings
- Purchased gas adjustment filings

- Regulatory consent cases, including utility acquisitions and divestitures
- Certification of interstate high voltage transmission lines, working closely with PJM Interconnection on regional transmission reliability issues
- Regulation of utility financings, ranging from debt and equity issuances to utility holding company IPOs and ratepayer obligation charge financings

Merchant Generation Projects

- Leader in siting and development of these facilities in West Virginia
- Served as regulatory counsel and coordinator of Firm's project development services
- Served as lead counsel on several wind energy projects before the PSC
- Advises both landowners and lenders on wind energy projects
- Advises on siting issues, project financing concerns, and siting certificate transfer questions

Legislative Experience

- Represents governmental and private clients in both legislative drafting and lobbying matters
- Co-author of legislation to streamline the exempt wholesale generator siting process after the Supreme Court of Appeals' *ACT v. PSC* decision
- Primary author of the environmental securitization legislation enacted by the West Virginia Legislature in 2005

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (1992-Present)
- West Virginia Legislature House Judiciary Committee, Counsel (1997-1998)

Practices

- Appellate
- Business Law
- Economic Development
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Renewable Energy

Industries

- Energy
- Utilities

Education

- Vanderbilt University Law School (J.D., 1992)
- Washington & Lee University (B.A. in European History and French, *summa cum laude*, 1989)

Admissions

- West Virginia (1992)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1996)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (1992)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1992)

Community

- United Way of Central West Virginia, Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- Junior Achievement
- Read Aloud West Virginia