

# KIM SMACZNIAK

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Roselle LLP Partner**

**Present**

- Founder and co-partner of boutique energy law firm, representing clients with a need for legal and regulatory advice in the electricity sector.

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of General Counsel    April 2021–Feb 2025 Special Counsel (SL)**

- One of a small group of senior staff who counseled the Chairman on the most challenging policy and legal matters facing the agency. Supported the Chairman's advisors in negotiating deals among Commissioners on priority matters.
- Led efforts to issue and legally defend three landmark rules that will dramatically reshape the power sector: generator interconnection, transmission planning, and federal transmission siting rules.
- Worked closely with the General Counsel to develop and implement litigation strategy for cases that were among the most contentious before the agency.
- Oversaw staff efforts to develop memoranda, draft orders and rules; draft letters to Congress and assist the Chairman in preparation for Congressional hearings; frequently tasked with resolving particularly thorny or sensitive policy or legal matters.
- 2024 Recipient of the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) award for Government Service, recognizing women's leadership in the field.

### **Earthjustice, Clean Energy Program Managing Attorney**

**May 2016–March 2021**

- Led a team of thirteen attorneys and litigation support staff. Made the case for and oversaw a doubling of the program staff and portfolio in my first year in the role.
- Managed ten direct reports; oversaw the program's litigation strategy across more than a dozen states (utility regulatory commissions and state courts) and at the federal level.
- Collaborated with states; environmental, trade, and consumer groups; and allied companies to articulate a shared vision and advocacy strategy to eliminate barriers to clean energy technologies, particularly in federally regulated energy markets.
- As a Staff Attorney ('16–'18) launched a new area of practice advocating before FERC, which is now a cornerstone of the program.

### **U.S. State Department, Office of Global Change U.S. Climate Change Negotiator (Special Appointee)**

**Nov. 2015–Feb 2017**

- Led U.S. climate change mitigation portfolio, including international engagement and coordination with domestic agencies. Negotiated and advised senior officials on the development of rules implementing key provisions of the Paris Agreement.
- Supported bilateral engagement with China on climate change. Advised senior officials on China's climate mitigation efforts, including energy policy reforms.
- Successfully advised and supported Cabinet members and other senior officials on strategies to achieve a top Presidential climate objective. Organized diplomatic outreach strategy reaching over 100 countries, in close collaboration with the National Security Council.
- Served as lead for bilateral engagement with European countries. Provided strategic advice to senior officials on developments in Europe and their impacts on climate priorities. Negotiated a new Climate Change Working Group under the US-EU Energy Council.

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## **U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Democratic Counsel**

April 2014–May 2015

- Advised the Senator and her Chief of Staff on key legal and policy issues, with a focus on chemical risks and cleanup of environmental contamination. Prepared testimony, witnesses, and talking points for legislative and oversight hearings.
- Excelled in a high-pressure, time sensitive environment. Analyzed bills and advised on their implications under tight timeframes.
- Regularly engaged with stakeholders, including environmental NGOs, labor groups, and trade organizations to identify strategies to drive policy change.

## **U.S. Dept. of Justice, Environmental & Natural Resources Division    Sept 2009–April 2014 Trial Attorney (GS-15)**

- 4-time recipient of the U.S. DoJ Special Achievement Award; nominated by the Division for the John Marshall Award, DoJ's highest award offered to attorneys.
- Represented client executive agencies in litigation arising under environmental statutes.
- Practiced extensive oral and written advocacy before district and appellate courts. Took and defended numerous depositions; worked with witnesses to prepare declarations. Frequently selected to respond to emergency motions, due to an ability to quickly assess legal issues and draft a winning response.
- Led teams of attorneys to file briefs in complex, multi-party litigation; worked with a team of attorneys to defend against a stay of EPA's landmark greenhouse gas rules; brought and settled enforcement actions under the Clean Water Act; drafted memos to the Solicitor General to support the Division's legal and policy positions in matters implicating nationwide implementation of core EPA programs.

## **EDUCATION**

### **HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., 2009**

Heyman Fellow, for commitment to government service

### **JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, M.P.P., 2009**

Study Concentration: International and Global Affairs; Energy

Zuckerman Fellow, for commitment to a career in public service and leadership

### **CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, B.S. Technical Writing/Environmental Policy, 2002**

## **TEACHING**

### **Carnegie Mellon University**

2018-2025

Lecturer

- Taught undergraduate course on the role of campaign finance, media coverage, and data in driving federal decision-making. Developed case studies to showcase factors that make or break policy change.

### **University of Maryland College of Law**

2015–2025

Adjunct Professor

- Taught a course on the Clean Air Act, covering key case law and EPA rulemakings. Prepared syllabus, course materials, and lectures reflecting legal developments.