



Devin D. Parram

Partner



Devin Parram provides counsel to clients on a wide range of energy and utility issues. A significant portion of his practice focuses on litigating and processing cases before the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Devin advises clients on various PUCO matters, ranging from routine regulatory filings to complex rate cases.

Devin regularly represents the Ohio Hospital Association in electric cases before the PUCO and advises hospitals regarding ratemaking proceedings, energy efficiency, energy procurement, distributed energy resource opportunities and all PUCO regulatory matters that potentially impact the unique needs of health care providers. Devin also represents the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) before the PUCO in a variety of matters affecting residential and commercial consumers' electric and natural gas rates. NOPEC is the largest public retail energy aggregation in the U.S., with approximately 220 county, township and municipal members. Devin also represents competitive energy suppliers on PUCO matters, including advising suppliers regarding the PUCO's consumer protection rules.

At the OPSB, Devin represents major electric generation facility developers and natural gas utilities. He has served as lead counsel in fully-contested wind farm cases before the OPSB and as regulatory counsel in dozens of cases involving the development of natural gas pipeline infrastructure.

Outside of the regulatory space, Devin has represented a variety of clients regarding energy-related transactions by drafting and negotiating purchase power agreements, lease agreements, energy procurement agreements, utility management/optimization agreements and asset purchase agreements related to the purchase of utility systems. He frequently works with hospitals, schools, businesses and municipalities on these various energy transactional matters.

Prior to his career at Bricker, Devin served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Ohio Attorney General's Office Public Utilities Section. In this role, he argued numerous cases in the Ohio Supreme Court regarding PUCO appeals. In addition, while serving as an Assistant AG, Devin represented PUCO staff in cases before the PUCO and OPSB.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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INDUSTRIES & PRACTICES

Energy
Regulatory Law
Environmental Law

Bar Admissions & Activities

- Admitted, State of Ohio, 2007
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association

Education

- Capital University Law School (J.D., Order of Curia), 2007

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* (Energy Law; Energy Regulatory Law), 2021–2023



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Presentations & Published Works

- Presenter, "Solar Energy Top 10: What Schools Need to Know," Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center Administrative Conference, August 2021
- Presenter, "An Introduction to Solar and Wind Energy Development in Ohio," Ohio State Bar Association 28th Annual Bradley J. Schaeffer 35th Real Property Institute Seminar, December 2020
- Presenter, "An Introduction to Solar and Wind Energy Development in Ohio," Ohio State Bar Association 2020 Oil and Gas Update, November 2020
- Presenter, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Natural Gas Access Forum, July 2020
- Presenter, "Wind Farm Development in Ohio," Columbus Bar Association (CBA), Environmental Law Committee, November 2019
- Presenter, "Strategies to fund energy projects and reduce energy consumption," Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio (AICUO), Collaborative Conference, April 2019
- Moderator, "Public Utilities CLE: A Net-Metering Panel Discussion," Ohio State Bar Association Live CLE, May 2018
- Presenter, "Buildings & Energy: Legal Complexities and Financing," Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio (AICUO), Buildings and Energy Symposium, March 2018
- Speaker, "Review of Ohio's Recent Legislative Changes to Energy Efficiency Standards," Ohio State Bar Association Live CLE, March 2017

Professional & Community Activities

- Former Chair, Bricker & Eckler Walker Link Leadership group
- Past Vice President of Columbus (Ohio Chapter), American Association of Blacks in Energy
- President of the Board, Ohio Energy Project
- Past President, Capital Law African American Law Alumni Association
- Member, Public Utilities Committee, Ohio State Bar Association (former Chair)

Experience

First greenfield project in the United States

Represented an international paper products manufacturer in connection with the establishment of the first greenfield project in the United States. This Project involved the creation of a public-private partnership to finance the necessary infrastructure, including a 12-mile gas line. The Bricker team included construction, environmental, public finance and real estate attorneys.



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Energy generation facility counsel

Represent Apex Power Group before the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) for the proposed Guernsey Power Station, a 1650-megawatt, natural gas-fired energy generation facility. In 2017, the project received approval to construct and operate the facility. Our team continues to provide substantial regulatory, legislative, tax, permitting and real estate counsel. In addition, we resolved issues involving interconnection with the local transmission company and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Wind energy certification and project modification

Represent Hog Creek Wind Farm before the Ohio Power Siting Board. The project successfully received a certificate to construct and operate a wind farm of up to 66 megawatts. We recently assisted in amending the OPSB certificate to incorporate new turbine technology and advised the project in due diligence to support its sale to a major U.S. energy company.

OPSB certificate for Ohio wind project

Represented 6011 Greenwich Windpark before the Ohio Power Siting Board. In August 2014, the OPSB granted the project a certificate to construct and operate a 60-megawatt wind project in Huron County, Ohio. The firm continued to represent the project against a landowner opposition group, culminating in a successful dismissal of the challenge at the Ohio Supreme Court.

Negotiation of a \$1 billion electricity supply contract

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest public retail energy aggregation in Ohio, serving about 900,000 electric and gas customers across 14 counties. NOPEC's electric supplier abruptly notified NOPEC that it was terminating its contract, thus leaving NOPEC's nearly half-million electric customers to return to utility service at higher rates. Bricker attorneys sprang into action to prevent NOPEC's customers from paying these increased rates. The team negotiated a new complex electricity supply contract with NOPEC's replacement supplier (worth approximately \$1 billion); and, within 10 days, our client had signed a new three-year contract. With our assistance, NOPEC obtained two waivers from the PUCO to meet the expedited enrollment timeline. Meanwhile, within two weeks, our litigation team settled a TRO and injunction case involving the original supplier, which resulted in a multi-million-dollar settlement payment to NOPEC. In addition, our energy litigation team dissolved an ex parte TRO issued against NOPEC to a competitor regarding the NOPEC customer enrollment process. We also obtained a complete dismissal of the competitor's lawsuit on the basis that the PUCO had exclusive jurisdiction over the matter.