wright& talisman

Vivian W. Chum

Shareholder

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Vivian has a proven track record of expertly navigating issues in energy policy and ratemaking, enforcement and compliance, antitrust and market power analyses, and infrastructure development. She has successfully settled and litigated a variety of electric, oil, and gas ratemaking and enforcement matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission). In addition, Vivian has a deep understanding of emerging issues in electric transmission and interconnection policy. Prior to joining Wright & Talisman, Vivian held numerous leadership roles during her long tenure at FERC, where she most recently served as Special Counsel to the Legal Director of FERC's Office of Administrative Litigation. She advised senior leadership on agency-wide initiatives and led the settlement and litigation of complex matters before administrative law judges and the Commission. As an innovative and skilled consensus-builder, Vivian has settled numerous multi-million to multi-billion-dollar matters addressing highly complex issues of first impression.

During her tenure at FERC, Vivian also served as a policy advisor to a FERC Commissioner, where she covered the proposed rulemakings on electric transmission planning, cost allocation, and transmission interconnection, as well as wholesale electric market issues, and stakeholder, congressional, and public engagements. Vivian has also handled and led investigations and litigation as an enforcement attorney in FERC's Office of Enforcement. In 2013, her investigative work led to the largest enforcement settlement in FERC history.

SERVICES

Electric Energy Regulation

Natural Gas Pipelines

EXPERIENCE

Advised a FERC Commissioner on electric transmission & cost allocation and interconnection proposed rulemakings (Order Nos. 1920 and 2023).

Negotiated and developed, on behalf of a FERC Commissioner, the FERC Technical Conference on Transmission Planning and Cost Management.

Led litigation addressing FERC jurisdiction over oil pipeline purchase and sale agreements in context of evolving FERC policy considerations.

Represented electric co-op in proceedings before FERC and the D.C. Circuit concerning withdrawal of membership from co-operative.

Negotiated settlement of electric transmission formula rate issues in first-ever instance of a Native-American tribe becoming a transmission owner with leasehold interests.

Identified and assessed regulatory risk associated with tax equity renewable energy project transactions.

Negotiated settlement of Financial Transmission Rights issues arising from member default in PJM.

Litigated oil pipeline market-based rate proceeding in an administrative matter involving antitrust analysis of market power within a geographic origin market.

Developed theory of jurisdiction over interstate natural gas transactions in FERC enforcement market manipulation matter. Prevailed in Fifth Circuit.

Litigated application of return on equity methodology to an electric transmission owner.

Negotiated settlement of first-ever matter assessing a battery storage unit’s request for reactive power compensation.

Negotiated settlements of reliability must-run cost-of-service contracts following requests for decommissioning by coal-fired power plants.

Investigated and settled a high-profile FERC enforcement action involving market manipulation schemes carried out in two wholesale electric regional transmission organizations.

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

New York

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D. (2007)

Rice University, B.A. (2002)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Energy Bar Association | Chair – Electricity Steering Committee

Women's Council On Energy & The Environment

HONORS/DISTINCTIONS

Lawdragon, 500 Global Leaders in Energy: Electric Energy Regulation and Natural Gas Pipelines (2026)

Lawdragon, 500 Leading Energy Lawyers: Electric Energy Regulation and Natural Gas Pipelines (2025)

PUBLICATIONS

The Need for Intertie Optimization: Reducing Customer Costs, Improving Grid Resilience, and Encouraging Interregional Transmission, Report, October 2023

A Look at FERC's Plan to End Reactive Power Compensation, *Law 360*, May 2024

What FERC's Disclosure Demands Mean for Cos., Investors, *Law 360*, April 2024

FERC's Updated Settlement Policy Comes with Risks for Companies, *Law 360*, March 2024

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Bring Your Own Questions About Data Centers: Bridging the Knowledge Gap Between the Technology & Energy Sectors and Across Disciplines, Energy Bar Association's Electricity Steering Committee's Half-Day Event, May 2026

Enforcers Panel, 2024 Enforcers and Defenders Forum, Energy Bar Association, March 2024

Panel 3: Exploring the Impacts of Renewable Energy Initiatives in Business, Sustainable Development Law & Policy 2024 Symposium, American University Washington College of Law, April 2024

Just Transitions to Net Zero: Navigating the Complexities of Decarbonizing Energy Systems (Electric Transmission and Interconnection), Harvard Extension School, October 2024