

Colette D. Honorable

Partner



Colette is a member of Reed Smith's Energy and Natural Resources Group resident in the Washington, D.C. office. Colette is a highly regarded policy maker in domestic and international energy sectors. Colette recently served as Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She was nominated by President Barack Obama in August 2014, and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December 2014 for a term that expired in June 2017. At FERC, Honorable focused on reliability oversight of the bulk power system, cyber and physical security, oversight of wholesale markets, transmission planning and cost allocation in regional transmission organizations, gas-electric coordination, renewables integration, energy storage integration and valuation, enforcement, ratemaking, infrastructure development, and enforcement matters. Colette joined the FERC from the Arkansas Public Service Commission (PSC), where she served since October 2007, and led as Chairman from January 2011-January 2015.

As Chairman of the PSC, Colette was charged with ensuring safe, reliable and affordable retail electric service. During her tenure, Arkansas led the South and Southeast in comprehensive energy efficiency programs, and electric rates were consistently among the lowest in the nation. Both state and federal regulatory appointments culminated in nearly ten years of regulatory experience in key leadership roles.

Colette is past president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where she focused on pipeline safety, reliability, resilience, fuel diversity, and workforce development. She has testified before Congress on multiple occasions on a range of energy issues.

Prior to joining the Arkansas PSC, Colette served as chief of staff to the Arkansas Attorney General and as a member of the governor's cabinet as Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. Her previous employment includes service as a consumer protection and civil litigation attorney, and as a senior assistant attorney general in Medicaid fraud before serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and Special Judge of the Pulaski County Circuit Court.

Colette is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution for their Energy and Climate Initiative; a Senior Fellow with the Bipartisan Policy Center, a member of the Global Advisory Board for the Energy Futures Initiative; an Ambassador for the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Initiative, an effort co-led by the U.S. Department of Energy and the MIT Energy Initiative formed under the auspices of the International Clean Energy Ministerial. She has also held previous appointments to the National Petroleum Council and served as Chair of the Department of Transportation's Joint Technical Advisory Committee for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. A native of Arkansas, she is a graduate of the University of Memphis and received a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law.

Honors and Awards

- 2017 American Association of Blacks in Energy James E. Stewart Award
- 2016 Women's Foundation of Arkansas Inaugural Woman in Public Service Award
- 2016 Alumnus of the Decade by the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law
- 2015 National Bar Association Congressional Black Caucus Leadership Award

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Education

University of Memphis

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, J.D.

Court Admissions

All State Courts - Arkansas

U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Arkansas

U.S. Court of Appeals - Eighth Circuit

Professional Admissions

Arkansas

- 2014 Induction into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame
- 2013 Just Communities of Arkansas Humanitarian Award

Publications

- 11 January 2018 "Thirteen States Petition FERC to Review Rates in Wake of Federal Tax Reform"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 10 January 2018 "FERC rejects DOE grid resiliency proposal and institutes new proceeding"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 11 December 2017 "FERC Chairman McIntyre Granted 30-Day Extension to Act on DOE NOPR"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 9 November 2017 "DOE's Grid Resiliency Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Reply Comments"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 3 November 2017 "Senate Confirms McIntyre and Glick"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 25 October 2017 "DOE's Grid Resiliency Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Initial Comments"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal
- 3 October 2017 "DOE's Grid Resiliency Pricing Rule: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking"
Reed Smith Client Alerts; Co-Authors: Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Debra Ann Palmer, Justin J. Mirabal

Speaking Engagements

- 14 September 2017 Reed Smith's Energy and Commodities Conference, Houston, Texas
"FERC Roundup - A Regulatory Construct for 2020 and Beyond"

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Institute
- Ambassador of the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Initiative (U.S. Department of Energy and the MIT Energy Initiative; International Clean Energy Ministerial)
- Past President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- Member of the Energy Bar Association
- Member of the National Bar Association
- Member of the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment
- Member of Sustaining and Training African American Attorneys at Reed Smith (STAARS)
- Member of the Women's Initiative Network (WINRS)
- Member of the Advisory Council at the Electric Power Research Institute