



Brian T. Cragg

Partner

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Practice Areas

Energy | Energy Project Development | Infrastructure | Public Utility
Regulation

Clients turn to Brian Cragg when they need advice on energy regulatory and transactional matters, including meeting regulatory requirements for the development or purchase of generation, energy storage, and transmission projects, evaluating the risk of energy-related investments, and navigating the interconnection, transmission, and new resource processes of the California Independent System Operator.

Brian also represents clients before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission (CEC), and other state and federal regulatory agencies. He performs risk analyses for development, purchase, or financing of renewable energy and energy storage facilities; he helps seek CPUC approval for the construction of large transmission facilities; he analyzes potential microgrid installation at manufacturing complexes; and he provided regulatory guidance for an energy company that progressed from start up to Series C financing.

In addition to these services, he advises clients on the risks and opportunities presented by emerging energy storage technologies, regulatory responses to the challenges presented by climate change, including the cap-and-trade approach to greenhouse gas emissions developed by the Air Resources Board, and the requirements for selling Renewables Portfolio Standard energy and Resource Adequacy capacity.

Before entering private practice, Brian was an Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge at the CPUC, where he supervised a group of administrative law judges handling energy-related cases. During his 18 years at the CPUC, he was involved in many of the Commission's major cases on topics ranging from rate cases and mergers to cost reviews of nuclear power plants and the introduction of competition into the electric utility and telecommunications industries.

Prior to joining Downey Brand, Brian was a partner at San Francisco-based Goodin, MacBride, Squeri & Day from 1998 until 2021.

Professional & Community Service

- Energy Bar Association, Member
- Power Association of Northern California, Member
- Conference of California Public Utility Counsel, Board of Directors, 2008-2012; President, 2012

Education

- J.D., University of California at Berkeley School of Law, 1977
- B.A., Yale University, 1970

Honors & Rankings

- Individual recognition for Energy: State Regulatory & Litigation – California, *Chambers USA*, 2019-2025
- Best Lawyers 2024 “Lawyer of the Year” for Energy Regulation Law in San Francisco
- Best Lawyers 2024 “Lawyer of the Year” for Administrative/Regulatory Law in San Francisco
- Best Lawyers 2022 “Lawyer of the Year” for Administrative/Regulatory Law in San Francisco
- Best Lawyers 2020 “Lawyer of the Year” for Utilities Law in San Francisco
- Best Lawyers in America, Administrative/Regulatory Law, Energy Law, Energy Regulatory Law, Utilities Law, 2016-2026

Speaking Engagements / Events

- *Shaping California’s Energy Landscape*, ELI 12th Annual Western Boot Camp on Environmental Law, May 3, 2024
- *Navigating California’s Unique Legal, Permitting, and Environmental Risks for Offshore Wind*, Joint Webinar Presentation, August 5, 2022
- *Regulatory Practice 101*, Speaker, Energy Bar Association, December 7, 2020
- *Ethics and Revised Ex Parte Requirements at the CPUC*, Speaker, 39th Annual Meeting of Independent Energy Producers Association, September 24, 2020

Publications

- *Energy Commission Sets California Offshore Wind Target of 25 GW by 2045*, Downey Brand Energy Publication, August 11, 2022

- *Recent Developments for California Offshore Wind*, Downey Brand Energy Publication, May 26, 2022
- *Developing Offshore Wind in California – Environmental Permitting and Interconnection Considerations*, Downey Brand Energy Publication, February 18, 2022

Legal Alerts

- *California Public Utilities Commission Stretches Out the Reimbursement Period for Data Center's Energization Costs to Reduce Ratepayer Risk*, November 19, 2025
- *California Supreme Court Overrules Chevron-like Deference For Review of Decisions of California Public Utilities Commission*, August 15, 2025
- *CAISO Responds to Load Growth, Proposes \$4.6 Billion of New Transmission Facilities To Boost Reliability*, April 1, 2025
- *The CAISO Maps Out Transmission Additions Needed to Connect 165 GW of New Resources by 2045*, August 5, 2024
- *CAISO Proposes Transmission Links to North Coast Offshore Wind Resources*, April 3, 2024
- *CPUC Issues Rulemaking to Address Electric Utility Failures to Connect or Upgrade Service for Electric Consumers*, January 31, 2024
- *Department of Transportation Announces \$426.7 Million Grant to Develop Deepwater Port and Marine Terminal in Humboldt Bay*, January 29, 2024
- *California Energy Commission Releases Draft AB 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan*, January 25, 2024
- *Newly Signed SB 286 Streamlines and Clarifies Permitting Process for Offshore Wind*, October 19, 2023
- *New Law Creates Central Procurement Mechanism to Enable Offshore Wind Development*, October 12, 2023
- *CEC Releases Offshore Wind Permitting Roadmap that Proposes Several Permitting Pathways*, May 4, 2023
- *CAISO Draft Plan Signals Shift to Proactive Transmission Planning*, April 14, 2023
- *California Energy Commission Releases Draft Permitting Roadmap for Offshore Wind Development and Report on Economic Benefits of Offshore Wind*, January 4, 2023
- *BOEM Announces Results of First West Coast Offshore Wind Lease Sale*, December 7, 2022
- *BOEM Publishes Final Sale Notice for California Offshore Lease Areas*, October 25, 2022
- *California Eases Environmental Requirements to Address Threatened Electricity Outages*, July 5, 2022

- *CPUC to Consider Expansion of Service Quality Standards to Internet-Based Telecommunications Providers*, March 9, 2022
- *Significant Transmission Additions and Upgrades Identified in the California Grid Operator's 20-Year Transmission Outlook*, February 18, 2022

Blogs

- *Court Holds CEQA Is Not Preempted in Federal Hydroelectric Relicensing Proceeding*, September 21, 2022