



Samuel B. Whillans

Associate

Sam Whillans represents the interests of publicly owned utilities, state agencies, ratepayer advocates, and other public sector clients before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the federal courts, and other decisional authorities.

Sam joined Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP in 2023. Before joining Spiegel, Sam was a legal fellow at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where he advocated on policy issues related to climate change and utility regulation. Sam also co-directed the Environmental Protection Clinic at Yale Law School from 2022-23.

Sam is a graduate of Penn Law, where he served as Executive Articles Editor of the *Journal of Law and Social Change* and Associate Editor at *The Regulatory Review*. He interned as a law student with Clean Air Council, Earthjustice's Clean Energy Program and the City of Philadelphia Law Department.

Before his legal career Sam worked as a solar project developer, managing permitting, planning and environmental approvals for solar generation facilities across the U.S. and Europe.

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School, JD, *magna cum laude*, 2021, Philadelphia, PA
Order of the Coif
Journal of Law and Social Change

University of Toronto, BA, *with high distinction*, 2014, Toronto, ON, Canada
Geography

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

United States Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia

United States Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit

United States Courts of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Representative Matters

- Represented clients in numerous rate case proceedings before FERC and achieved resolutions providing hundreds of millions of dollars in ratepayer savings.
- Represented publicly owned utilities in interlocutory appeal of FERC administrative law judge's order, resulting in a Commission order reversing the judge in clients' favor. DCR Transmission, L.L.C., 191 FERC ¶ 61,212 (2025).
- Represented publicly owned utilities in successfully challenging investor-

MEMBERSHIPS

Energy Bar Association

owned utilities' rate incentive requests at FERC and defending FERC's orders denying the incentives on appeal at the Ninth Circuit. *Pac. Gas & Elec. Co. v. FERC*, Case No. 24-2527 (9th Cir. 2025).

- Advised labor and climate advocacy group on emerging regulatory issues related to energy industry transition and gas decarbonization.
- Counseled clients concerning RTO tariff and market rule changes related to interconnection reform, resource adequacy, and other topics.
- Represented ratepayer advocates in rulemaking concerning FERC regulation of public utility investment.