



## Jon Katchen

Partner

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**Jon Katchen leverages extensive state government experience and sophisticated knowledge of Alaska's resource and economic development opportunities to help energy industry clients achieve their business goals.**

Jon's practice focuses on natural resources project development, defense of governmental and citizen enforcement actions, and complex commercial litigation. He also counsels investors and resource development companies regarding economic development opportunities in Alaska.

Jon practices in federal and state courts and has represented clients before the U.S. Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, federal District Court of Alaska, the Alaska Supreme Court, the Alaska Superior Court, the Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. He has also testified before the Alaska Legislature.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Jon served in strategic roles for the State of Alaska, including senior counsel to Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Dan Sullivan; and special assistant to then Attorney General Dan Sullivan.

After graduating from law school, Jon served as a law clerk to the Honorable Maryanne Trump Barry on the court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

### EXPERIENCE

- Clean Water Act
- Project development
- Commercial litigation
- Federal lands

### Government Experience

As senior counsel to Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, Jon advised senior administration officials and state legislators on natural resource issues, including impediments to oil, gas, and mining project development, improvements to state and federal permitting requirements, and strategies to increase investment and job opportunities in Alaska. Jon was also responsible for the agency's administrative appeals and land use planning decisions.

As Alaska-Assistant Attorney General, Oil, Gas and Mining section, Jon

### PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources  
 Environmental and Natural Resources  
 Litigation  
 Endangered Species and Wildlife  
 Regulation  
 NEPA, Public Lands, and Cultural  
 Resources  
 Government Affairs  
 Environmental Compliance and  
 Enforcement

### INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources  
 Mining

### EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College  
 of Law, J.D., 2004  
 Boston College, M.A., 2001  
 Boston College, B.A., 1998  
*cum laude*

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Alaska

### COURT ADMISSIONS

Alaska Supreme Court  
 U.S. Supreme Court  
 U.S. District Court for the District of  
 Alaska  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth  
 Circuit

counseled the Attorney General, Governor, and senior state officials on oil and gas lease disputes, permitting natural resource development on federal lands, and pipeline regulatory issues.

## CLIENT RESULTS

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Jon worked on the following matters:

- Represent a leading LNG company in connection with a \$600 million transaction involving the acquisition of Cook Inlet gas reserves, lease negotiations with a local government for the liquefaction facility, marketing efforts, and permitting issues associated with the LNG facility.
- Represent an independent oil and gas company in a \$500 million public-private partnership to finance development drilling, civil work, pipelines, and the first independently owned and operated production facility on the North Slope.
- Multiple representations with lenders and borrowers in financing deals associated with Alaska's oil and gas production tax credits.
- Drafted amicus brief on behalf of the Alaska Congressional Delegation in a dispute over federal land management, resulting in a unanimous favorable decision by the United States Supreme Court, *Sturgeon v. Frost*, 136 S.Ct. 1061 (2016).
- Advise numerous oil, natural gas and mining clients in obtaining permits and other governmental approvals, including federal, state, and North Slope Borough permits for land and water use, bonding, exploration and development plans, unit agreements, lease assignment, and royalty modifications.
- Advise independent oil and gas companies in connection with unconventional oil and gas leasing, permitting, and unitization.
- Defend a mining company in a Clean Water Act veto proceeding.
- Assist in preparing responses to comments under NEPA and in acquiring 404(b) and related permits for mining and oil and gas clients.
- Prosecuted an Unfair Trade Practices Act action for a corporate client, which settled on favorable terms for the client.
- Defended a managing member of a limited liability company in litigation against a minority member involving the parties' respective rights and obligations under the company's operating agreement. The client prevailed on summary judgment.
- Represented an oil and gas lessee in litigation and negotiations with a lessor regarding alleged violations of conservation laws and compliance with lease terms.
- On behalf of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources Commissioner, led successful negotiations that culminated in a landmark settlement between the state and three major energy companies over one of the largest undeveloped oil and gas fields in North America.

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Joint Ventures Now," *American Exploration & Mining Association's 123rd Annual Meeting*, Reno, Nevada, December 5, 2017

"Roundtable discussion on Alaska resource development issues and federal commitments made to the state under the Alaska Statehood Act," *Panelist, Western Congressional Caucus*, August 17, 2017

"Industry in Turm-Oil: An Exploration of Financing, Workout, and Bankruptcy Issues Unique to the Oil & Gas Industry," *ABA 2016 Business Law Section Annual Meeting, Co-Presenter*, Boston, MA, September 2016

## **RECOGNITION**

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Environment, Natural Resources & Regulatory Industries, 2015-2020; Natural Resources & Environment, 2021