



## Mike Smith

Of Counsel

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**Mike helps companies navigate the labyrinth of regulatory, policy, and stakeholder relations issues involved in permitting and developing projects.**

Clients benefit from Mike's extensive experience working in regulatory, policy influence, government affairs, and legal roles for QEP Resources, a former NYSE-listed oil and gas exploration and production company.

Mike has cultivated valuable working relationships with a broad range of energy industry stakeholders including federal, state and local regulators, Tribal authorities, other energy operators, landowners, trade organizations, and conservation groups in Wyoming and Colorado. He leverages sophisticated understanding of government and tribal processes to help clients obtain defensible permitting and other regulatory approvals to facilitate project development and operation.

As a registered lobbyist, Mike helps clients anticipate legislative, policy, and political developments and develop proactive strategies to protect their business interests. He also helps position clients in the regulatory process through comments on regulatory initiatives and rulemakings. Mike also advises clients on complex and routine operational and corporate formation.

In the early stages of his career, Mike honed his policy and government affairs skills serving as a senior Legislative Assistant to former Wyoming Senator Craig Thomas. Following law school, he clerked for Judge Wade Brorby at the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and worked as an associate at Holland & Hart and another law firm serving energy industry and other corporate clients.

### EXPERIENCE

Mike represents energy clients in matters involving:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and defense
- Surface Access and Right-of-Way Agreements
- Permitting of oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission
- Land use regulations and approval processes

Mike also has experience representing clients before federal and state agencies, including:

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

### PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources  
American Indian Law  
Government Affairs

### INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources  
Oil and Gas  
Electric Power

### EDUCATION

University of Wyoming College of Law,  
J.D., 1999  
*with honors*  
*Wyoming Law Review, Editor in Chief*

University of Wyoming, B.S., 1991

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado  
Wyoming

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wyoming Industrial Siting Division
- North Dakota Industrial Commission

## **PUBLICATIONS**

"Wyoming Industrial Siting: Navigating the Path for Industrial Growth," Co-Author, 11/17/2020

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Wyoming Tax Policy Discussions: 2023 and Beyond," *2022 Holland & Hart Wyoming Tax Conference*, 05/19/2022

## **PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**

- Cheyenne Frontier Days, General Committee, Public Relations Chairman, 2020-present
- Wyoming State Bar Association, Member