



Michelle Seares

Associate

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Michelle handles complex oil and gas litigation throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Her practice includes royalty underpayment litigation, commercial disputes between industry parties, title issues, surface access problems, and disputes between working interest owners.

Michelle also has extensive experience in responding to federal agency investigations and providing counsel to clients on other anti-corruption matters and related litigation.

EXPERIENCE

Michelle assists energy clients in litigation involving:

- Oil and Gas Royalty Disputes
- Class Action Defense
- Operational Disputes
- Surface Access and Title Matters
- Commercial Litigation

CLIENT RESULTS

- Successfully defended client against class action alleging royalty underpayment under New Mexico law.
- Successfully defended multimillion-dollar class action settlement against jurisdictional challenges raised by objectors in federal court.
- Successfully defended client in connection with U.S. Department of Justice investigation of tribal bribery issues.
- Successfully defended client against preliminary injunction in International Chamber of Commerce arbitration.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Michelle's practice focused on representing clients in criminal investigations and regulatory enforcement matters, including:

- Representing a major financial institution in multi-agency investigation of foreign bribery issues.
- Representing a major communications company in U.S. Department of Justice investigation of foreign bribery issues.
- Representing the audit committees of the boards of directors of two

PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Litigation

INDUSTRIES

Oil and Gas
Oil and Gas Litigation

EDUCATION

The George Washington University Law
School, J.D., 2016
magna cum laude
Order of the Coif

Colby College, B.A., 2013
cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado
District of Columbia

major communications companies in internal investigations of foreign bribery issues.

- Representing a major pharmaceutical company in multi-agency investigation concerning alleged violations of the False Claims Act.

PUBLICATIONS

"Eighth Circuit Affirms Producer's Royalty Calculations Under North Dakota Law," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 08/09/2022