Holland & Hart



PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Litigation
Water Resources
Federal Lands Permitting
Government Investigations and White Collar Defense

INDUSTRIES

Mining
Energy and Resources
Oil and Gas
Oil and Gas Litigation

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico School of Law, J.D., 2015
Cum Laude
Albert E. Utton Natural Resources Law Award

New Mexico State University, B.A., 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

New Mexico

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

Lila Jones

Of Counsel

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Drawing on extensive environmental compliance and enforcement experience, Lila provides strategic counsel to energy and natural resources clients on environmental litigation and regulatory enforcement matters.

Lila represents energy and natural resources clients in environmental litigation and regulatory compliance matters. She helps clients navigate complex environmental matters ranging from New Mexico water law matters to defending against government enforcement actions, and counseling clients on regulatory compliance strategies.

Serving for almost a decade as a trial attorney with the DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division, provided Lila with unique insight into federal agency decision-making processes and enforcement priorities. This perspective allows her to anticipate potential regulatory hurdles and develop practical, collaborative approaches that align with clients' legal requirements and business objectives.

Lila's experience spans the full spectrum of federal ligitation and has included multiple oral aruments and complex e-discovery. Lila has worked on matters affecting the energy sector, including oil and gas operations, mining projects, and infrastructure development. She brings extensive experience negotiating resolutions among diverse stakeholders through consent decrees and settlement agreements.

EXPERIENCE

Environmental Litigation

- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Administrative Procedure Act (APA)
- Fifth Amendment

Regulatory & Administrative Law

- Environmental compliance counseling

- Administrative record development and review
- Regulatory risk assessment
- Consent decree negotiation and drafting
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Government investigations and information requests

CLIENT RESULTS

Defensive Environmental Litigation

Served as lead counsel defending federal agencies in Federal District Court against National Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act actions.

Successfully defended the United States against Fifth Amendment takings claims and obtained favorable rulings on constitutional challenges.

Environmental Enforcement Actions

Successfully negotiated complex consent decrees in multiple environmental enforcement matters, achieving compliance outcomes through alternative dispute resolution when possible rather than protracted litigation.

Extensive litigation experience, including leading discovery and multi-person case teams in complex environmental enforcement cases under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, CERLCA, and the Oil Pollution Act.

RECOGNITION

- Assistant Attorney General Award for Excellence
- Special Commendation for Outstanding Service to the Department of Justice
- Special Achievement Award for Meritorious Acts of Service

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- CASA First, Board Member, 2025-2026; Secretary of the Board of Directors, 2026-Present
- DC Pro Bono Advice and Referral Clinic, Bilingual Volunteer Attorney, 2015-2024
- Law Camp, Volunteer Mentor, 2015-2020