Holland & Hart



PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Health and Safety

INDUSTRIES

Oil and Gas
Oil and Gas Regulatory
Oil and Gas Litigation
Conventional Power

EDUCATION

SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D., 2019

Texas Christian University, B.S., 2016

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas
New Mexico

Raylee Starnes

Associate

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Raylee leverages her Midland roots and oil and gas litigation background to navigate complex regulatory and administrative challenges for clients.

Raylee focuses on guiding oil and gas operators through complex regulatory and administrative matters before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) and other state agencies. She helps clients navigate the intricate regulations governing oil and gas permitting, development, and operations in New Mexico, resolving compliance challenges across private, state, federal, and Indian lands.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Raylee honed her litigation skills at Kelly Hart & Hallman in Midland, where she represented major operators in commercial disputes involving title, contract interpretation, and breach of operating agreements. Her Midland upbringing and experience working with industry players equip her with unique insights into the regional market, enhancing her ability to navigate regulatory challenges.

EXPERIENCE

Regulatory and Administrative

- Guidance on oil and gas permitting and compliance
- Representation in administrative hearings and regulatory matters
- Expertise in surface waste management and produced water use
- Counsel on compulsory pooling and unitization

Litigation

- Pre-litigation to final resolution of commercial disputes
- Title, contract interpretation, and breach of operating agreements
- Motion practice, depositions, and trial preparation
- Defense against environmental contamination claims

RECOGNITION

- Texas Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, 2024
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, Oil and Gas Law, Commercial Litigation, 2024-2027; Litigation – Bankruptcy, 2026; Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2026, 2027