



Brenda Colella

She | Her |Hers
Partner

Syracuse, Washington DC

P: 315.425.2722

bcolella@barclaydamon.com

Education

- University of Dayton School of Law, *Cum Laude*, JD
- Berry College, *Magna Cum Laude*, BA

Practices & Industries

- Regulatory
- Energy
- Project Development
- Renewable Energy
- Linear Infrastructure
- Oil & Gas
- Energy Markets
- Nuclear Energy
- Data Center & Digital Infrastructure

Admitted to Practice

- New York
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- US Court of Federal Claims
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Northern District of New York

Biography

For over 20 years, Brenda has practiced energy and regulatory law, focusing on the development of energy and infrastructure projects, complex regulatory issues, and energy transactions. She began her career in federal litigation involving environmental and property law.

Brenda currently serves as Barclay Damon's Regulatory Practice Group leader, managing eight of the firm's practice areas. She also serves as the Regulatory Practice Area co-chair and co-leader of the Renewable Energy and Energy Markets Teams. Brenda represents a wide array of clients, including renewable-energy developers and investors, electric generators, transmission line and pipeline owners and developers, and regulated utilities.

Brenda regularly represents developers of transmission and generation projects in major infrastructure siting and regulatory proceedings, including Public Service Law Article VII, VIII, and 10 proceedings before the New York Public Service Commission, Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Transmission, and the New York Siting Board for Electric Generation and the Environment, respectively. Brenda also routinely handles other regulatory matters, including those involving the approval of transfer of assets and ownership interests, financing approvals, and other approvals under Public Service Law Sections 68, 69, and 70; retail and wholesale-market issues; and compliance with safety laws and regulations.

Brenda often counsels energy clients in the preparation and negotiation of transactional documents such as interconnection, power purchase, energy management, fuel supply, and transportation agreements. She also represents clients in all aspects of project development, including site acquisition, right-to-build and environmental issues, preparing and negotiating EPC and construction contract documents, and securing project

financing and funding, including real property tax mitigation and development incentives.

A client told the ranking directory *Chambers USA* that "Brenda has the unique ability to manage complex settlements and keep stakeholders in check with her positive demeanor and knowledge of the law and facts."

Bar Associations

- New York State Bar Association, Environmental and Energy Law Section and Public Utility Law Section
- Energy Bar Association
- Onondaga County Bar Association
- Central New York Women's Bar Association

Selected Memberships & Affiliations

- American Clean Power Association
- Oceanic Network (formerly Business Network for Offshore Wind)
- New York Solar Energy Industries Association
- Alliance for Clean Energy New York
- New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV), Central and Western New York (CWNY) Chapter, Board Member
- Women in Communications and Energy (WICE)
- Women's Energy Network (WEN), Greater Albany Chapter
- Barclay Damon's Women Forum

Representative Experience

- Representation of LS Power New York Grid and the New York Power Authority in the development, permitting, construction, and operation of, including obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law VII for, the Central East Energy Connect Project, including 93 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related infrastructure from Marcy, New York, to New Scotland, New York.
- Representation of the New York Power Authority in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VII for the Smart Path Project, including 78 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related infrastructure from Massena, New York, to Croghan, New York.
- Representation of New York Power Authority in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VII for the Smart Path Connect Project, including 100 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related infrastructure between

Clinton, New York, and Massena, New York, and from Croghan, New York, to Marcy, New York.

- Representation of Forward Power (a joint venture of Invenergy and energyRe) in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VII for the Clean Path New York Project, including 178 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related infrastructure from Delaware County to Queens, New York.
- Representation on Queensboro Development, an affiliate of Rise, Light & Power, in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VII for the Queensboro Renewable Express Project, including 18.5 miles of submarine, high-voltage transmission lines and related infrastructure from the boundary of federal waters to the Ravenswood site in Queens, New York.
- Representation of Bull Run Energy, an affiliate of Invenergy, in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VIII for the Bull Run Wind project, including 449 MW of wind facilities and related infrastructure to be constructed in Clinton County, New York.
- Representation of Rock District Solar, an affiliate of Greenbacker Renewable Energy Corp., in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article VIII for the Rock District Solar project, including 20 MW of solar facilities and related infrastructure to be constructed in Carlisle and Seward, New York.
- Representation of Howard Wind, an affiliate of Greenbacker Renewable Energy Corp., in obtaining a declaratory ruling from the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Transmission regarding the repowering of certain wind facilities.
- Representation of Danskammer Energy in obtaining siting approval under Public Service Law Article 10, as well as air and other permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, for the repowering of an existing major electric-generating facility.
- Representation of Number Three Wind on compliance and regulatory issues related to the Number Three Wind project, a 104 MW wind facility operating in Lowville and Harrisburg, New York.
- Representation of Greenidge Generation and Greenidge Pipeline, an affiliate of Atlas Holdings, in the development, permitting, construction, and operation of a natural-gas pipeline and plant upgrades in connection with the conversion of a coal-fueled electric-generation facility to a natural-gas-fueled facility.
- Representation of various owners and developers of distributed-generation solar facilities in the preparation and negotiation of financing documents, EPC contracts, O&M agreements, and interconnection agreements and in applying to and negotiating with local industrial development agencies for real-property-tax mitigation and other incentives.

- Representation of various energy clients in the due diligence for and acquisition or sale of various energy projects, including solar, wind, energy storage, and non-renewable-power facilities, transmission lines, and energy-efficiency businesses.
- Representation of various energy clients in seeking approvals under Public Service Law Sections 68, 69, and 70 for certificates of public convenience and necessity, financing approvals, and approvals of transfers of energy assets and ownership interests in energy corporations.
- Representation of a regional planning authority on the cooperative procurement process in connection with the procurement of a solar developer to install, operate, and maintain multiple solar facilities on municipal land, including the review and negotiation of a template power-purchase agreement and lease.
- Representation of a developer with respect to a petroleum pipeline project involving environmental review, various federal and state permits, and the review of local laws for consistency.
- Representation of a power-generation owner in a proceeding before the New York State Public Service Commission with respect to the approval of an increase in the power rating for a generating facility in New York State.
- Representation of a transmission developer in a generation-retirement contingency plan proceeding before the New York State Public Service Commission with respect to a major, buried high-voltage direct current transmission line.
- Representation of a natural-gas energy company in obtaining necessary approvals from the New York State Public Service Commission for the transfer of a natural-gas pipeline to a new entity, lightened regulation, and the transfer of an amendment to an Article VII certificate for the natural-gas pipeline.

Prior Experience

- Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, Partner
- Gilberti Stinziano Heintz & Smith, PC, Partner
- Gilberti Stinziano Heintz & Smith, PC, Associate
- Marzulla Law, Associate

Selected Community Activities

- Greater Strathmore Neighborhood Association, Member
- Strathmore Huntley Group, Member and Historic Building Investor

Selected Honors

- *Chambers USA*, New York State: Energy: State Regulatory & Wholesale Electric Market, 2021–2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Energy Law, 2023–2026; Oil and Gas Law, 2023–2026
- *City & State New York*, Law Power 100, 2025
- Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter, Exceptional Women of Central New York Award, 2016

Selected Speaking Engagements

- Transmission & Interconnection Summit, June 2026, "Consolidating Interconnection & Transmission Planning Processes to Meet Increasing Capacity, Speed to Power and Cost Containment Needs," Moderator; "Engineering Design and Development of High Voltage Transmission Projects," Moderator
- New York Energy Summit, April 2025, "New Developments in Transmission Planning and Renewables Integration," Moderator
- New York Energy Summit, April 2024, "Challenges and Progress in Streamlining Siting and Permitting Processes," Moderator
- Barclay Damon Renewable Energy Webinar, June 2020, "Article 10 vs. Section 94-c: A Path to New York State's Renewable Energy Future," Presenter
- AEP Webinar, March 2020, "Article 10 and Beyond," Presenter
- Madison County Training Seminar, November 2019, "Article 10 Overview," Presenter
- New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, "Central New York Renewable Energy Forum and Roundtable," September 2019, Moderator
- New York State Bar Association Environmental and Energy Law Section Fall Meeting, October 2017, "A Second Wind: US Offshore Wind Development, Lessons Learned from the Block Island Wind Farm and Other Projects," Presenter

Selected Media

- *The Capitol Pressroom*, "New York's Green Energy Siting System"
- *Buffalo Law Journal*, "Barclay Damon Sees Future in Renewable Energy"

Selected Alerts & Blog Posts

- New York State Public Service Commission Approves Final Article VIII Rules
- New York Public Service Commission Commences Proceeding to Address Interconnection Reforms for Energy-Intensive Projects
- New York Public Service Commission Issues Order Modifying the Coordinated Grid Planning Process
- RAPID Action: NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission Issues Revised Proposed Rules and Regulations
- NYS Energy Planning Board Releases Draft Energy Plan, Detailing Pathways to Decarbonization While Maintaining System Reliability Through 2040