



Alaina M. Zermeno

SENIOR COUNSEL

THE LINK VIRTUAL OFFICE

PHONE: 512.479.1183

EMAIL: ALAINA.ZERMENO@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

AUSTIN, TX*

PHONE: 512.472.5456

OVERVIEW

Alaina draws on her experience at the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to provide state-specific guidance to renewable energy clients.

Alaina provides a wide range of legal consulting to wholesale electric clients and retail electric clients, including renewable and thermal power generation companies, retail electric providers, and battery storage developers. A common facet of her practice is advising on regulatory considerations for development of private use networks implementing behind-the-meter power solutions. She regularly advises on PUCT and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) regulations, handles market participant registration with both agencies, assists with ongoing compliance and licensing maintenance after registration (including enforcement representation before the PUCT), and provides counsel on the Lone Star Infrastructure Protection Act. Alaina also offers regular compliance trainings for clients.

In addition to providing regulatory guidance, Alaina dedicates a portion of her practice to performing Texas-specific due diligence for mergers and acquisitions in the renewable energy industry. She reviews and drafts the state energy regulatory provisions of permitting schedules, financing agreements, equity capital

Industry

Energy & Natural Resources

Services

Data Centers
Electric Transmission
Energy Regulation
Energy Storage
Hydrogen
Private Use Networks
Solar Energy
Wind Energy

“Alaina is extremely intelligent, responsive and professional. She is excellent to work with.”

— Chambers USA 2025

contribution agreements, purchase and sale agreements, energy management agreements, and power purchase agreements.

Prior to joining the firm, Alaina worked in PUCT's Oversight & Enforcement Division and Legal Division, representing the commission before the State Office of Administrative Hearings in various matters, including enforcement, as well as in hearings before PUCT administrative law judges. As part of her role, she also initiated investigations into regulated entities that violated statute and PUCT rules. Her background means that she understands the internal policies and procedures at state regulatory bodies, including the enforcement investigation process, inside and out. Alaina regularly assists clients in navigating PUCT investigations and in negotiating settlement agreements, and she also represents wholesale and retail electric clients in contested cases before PUCT.

Alongside the value they place on Alaina's PUCT experience, clients appreciate her always-up-to-date knowledge of the industry and its rules. Like the firm's entire renewables team, Alaina always has her finger on the pulse of ERCOT protocol changes, PUCT rule changes, and other developments with Texas' regulatory authorities impacting clients.

Experience

- Served on developer's counsel team for Swift Current in bringing a 260 MW solar project located in Southeast Texas online.
- Served as development counsel for Jupiter Power, a leading developer and operator of energy storage infrastructure, in its recently closed \$286 million project financing to support the construction of two standalone battery energy storage systems (BESS).
- Assisted Crusoe Energy Systems in reaching financial close in the second phase of a \$15B joint venture with Blue Owl Capital and Primary Digital Infrastructure to fund the 1.2-gigawatt AI data center in Abilene, Texas.

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
 - Energy Law, 2023-2025
- *Chambers USA*
 - Energy: State Regulatory & Litigation (Electricity), Up and Coming, 2025
- State Agency Council Appointee, 2021

Education

- J.D., University of Texas School of Law
 - *Texas Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy*, Associate Editor
 - Chicano/Hispanic Law Students' Association
 - Richard and Ginni Mithoff Pro Bono Service Award
- B.A., University of Missouri
 - Journalism
 - Multicultural Certificate
 - Hispanic-American Leadership Organization
 - Kappa Tau Alpha

Admissions

- Texas

*Contact Alaina to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Austin office.



2025 Best Lawyers Ones to Watch