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This week's Q&A with

Jennifer Brough

Jennifer Brough is a Partner in Locke Lord's San Francisco and Washington, D.C., offices, where she represents energy companies of all types and sizes in proceedings before federal agencies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Department of Energy. Jennifer helps clients understand and navigate complex federal regulations and structure their companies to be compliant with ever-changing requirements. Her practice also involves administrative litigation before FERC and federal courts of appeal.



More About Jennifer

Tell us about the most interesting or significant matter you've worked on in your career.

I've had a few matters over the years that required spending significant time in Alaska. Deciphering the puzzle of federal regulatory requirements that apply to a non-contiguous U.S. state is a regulatory lawyer's dream. I loved my visits there and all the interesting people I met along the way.

What's the biggest challenge you've faced in your career?

Earning respect as one of few women in a male-dominated practice area. I've been asked to make coffee and order lunch more times than I can count but have broken barriers and earned respect by demonstrating subject matter knowledge and being someone that clients can count on and enjoy working with.

Who has had the biggest professional influence in your life? // Did you have a mentor? If so, tell us the most important things you learned from them.

Former Locke Lord Washington, D.C., Partner and current client Jim Moriarty took a chance on me when I was a new lawyer and new to D.C. He showed me the FERC ropes and allowed me to have significant responsibility for cases right from the start. I'll never forget a time in federal court in New Orleans when opposing counsel greeted the male attorneys but refused to shake my hand. Jim would not stand for this and let me argue our motion in front of the judge. I will always be grateful for these subtle acts of mentorship.

What do you do to give back to the community?

Although I now live in California, I've continued to fight for the legal needs of Washington, D.C.'s most vulnerable children by proudly serving on the Advisory Board of the Children's Law Center, the city's largest provider of pro bono legal services. Funding for the city's social services is tied to the federal budget and has experienced drastic cuts in recent years. We're working every day to ensure all kids have access to better education, good health and a stable, loving family.

What do you do to relax and reset after a long week?

I love to be outdoors hiking with my husband and 4-year-old daughter, and I've covered over 500 trail miles with them. You can also find me racing fellow lawyer moms on my Peloton spin bike. We put our kids to bed and then ride together (virtually) in the evenings.

What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, San Francisco?

The access to outdoor activities, good food and good weather is amazing. We can go to Sonoma for a wine country lunch or go skiing in Tahoe and be home for dinner.



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