



MARGARET E. PELOSO
PARTNER, ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL
RESOURCES

2200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 500 West
Washington, DC 20037-1701

+1.202.639.6774

+1.202.879.8874

mpeloso@velaw.com

Margaret's practice focuses on climate change risk management and environmental litigation. She advises energy companies, financial institutions and funds on climate risk analysis and disclosure. The other significant component of Margaret's practice focuses on translational science. She advises clients on a broad range of litigation and regulatory matters in which there are significant scientific or technical issues that require the use of outside experts.

Prior to joining Vinson & Elkins, Margaret completed her Ph.D. in environment at Duke University, where she wrote her doctoral dissertation on legal and policy issues associated with sea-level rise adaptation. Margaret frequently authors articles on climate change, environmental law and environmental shareholder activism, including a recently published book titled *Adapting to Rising Sea Levels: Legal Challenges and Opportunities*.

Experience Highlights

- Advised Citibank on the preparation of the first U.S. Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Report
- Advising an E&P company on the legal considerations related to the preparation of its first climate change report and related corporate governance changes, including modifications to board committees to address climate change risks
- Advising multiple clients on climate risk management and the enhancement of climate change disclosures
- Advised biomass producer in response to environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) report alleging inadequate climate change disclosures
- Provided environmental and climate change due diligence on transactional matters for the power and chemical manufacturing industries
- Advising global commodities merchant with respect to the creation of procedures for vetting transactions and managing reporting, and on the creation of renewable fuels obligations and trading mechanisms to realize value of renewable fuels credits
- Advised downstream energy company in connection with shareholder resolution to defer the purchase of Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) credits, including guidance on how best to balance obligations under U.S. tax code to maintain status as a MLP while meeting renewable fuels standards
- Advising association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric companies regarding EPA's proposed revisions to the Guideline on Air Quality Modeling
- Advise clients on legal issues related to climate change adaptation and flood resilience
- Advised manufacturer of industrial explosives regarding potential emission control technologies that could be applied to a new ammonia plant, including analysis of the status of its anhydrous ammonia facility under EPA's GHG permitting guidance and an assessment of the types of GHG controls that could be selected in a PSD permitting process
- Advise client on the potential impacts of proposed existing source performance standards, including the potential energy efficiency or emissions reductions measures that may be required in state implementation plans, on client's assets across the United States
- Advising biomass producer regarding implementation of the Clean Power Plan, including comments on EPA's model trading rules and advice on potential treatment of biomass as carbon neutral
- Advised publicly traded energy and services company on a number of complex issues related to acquisition of electric utility, including the impact of the Clean Power Plan on asset valuation and the risks posed by sea-level rise to coastal power plants

Education

- Duke University, Ph.D., Environment, 2010 (Dissertation: Adapting to Rising Sea Levels)
- Stanford Law School, J.D. *with distinction*, 2009 (Editor in Chief, *Stanford Journal of Law, Science & Policy*; Article Review Board Chair, *Stanford Environmental Law Journal*)
- Duke University, Masters of Environmental Management, Environmental Economics and Policy; Coastal Environmental Management, 2006
- Duke University, B.S., Biology *summa cum laude*, 2005 (Phi Beta Kappa)
- Admitted to practice: New York; District of Columbia
- Other language: Conversational in Spanish

Recognition

- *Chambers USA*, Climate Change (Nationwide), 2015–2020; Star Associate in Climate Change (Nationwide), 2015–2017; Up and Coming in Climate Change (Nationwide), 2018 and 2019; Environment (District of Columbia), 2018–2020; Associate to Watch in Environment (District of Columbia), 2016 and 2017; Up and Coming in Environment (District of Columbia), 2018 and 2019
- *Legal 500 U.S.*, Environment: Litigation, 2019; Environment: Regulatory, 2019 and 2020
- *Expert Guides*, “*Rising Star*” in Environment, 2020
- *Law360*, Rising Star, 2019
- Selected to the Washington, D.C. Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters), 2019 and 2020
- Rising Stars of Law, *DCA Live*, 2018
- American Bar Association *On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyer*, 2017

Activities

- American Bar Association
 - Section Council: Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (2017-2020)
 - Chair: Section of Environment, Energy and Resources 46th Spring Conference (2017)
 - Chair: Special Committee on Public Service of the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
 - Chair: Climate Change Sustainable Development and Ecosystems Committee (2012–2014)
- Member: *Law360* Environmental Editorial Advisory Board (2013-2014)
- Board Member: Women’s Energy Network, Washington, D.C. Chapter (2014-2016)
- Member: Women’s Energy Network, National Advisory Council