

CONTACT

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PRACTICES

Air
Climate Change
Cybersecurity & Emerging
Technologies
Hydropower
Litigation & Investigations
Native Affairs
Renewable Energy

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina
School of Law
University of Phoenix

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia Bar
North Carolina State Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Seventh Circuit

NAKIA ARRINGTON

ASSOCIATE



Professional Background

Nakia Arrington assists clients by assessing, investigating, and resolving compliance issues across a variety of industries. Her practice covers environmental policy, pipeline safety, citizen suits pursuant to the Clean Water Act, hydroelectric power, compliance planning, incident response, internal investigations, and American Indian Law, as well as a broad range of civil litigation in federal and state courts. She also advises on environmental, social, and governance issues (ESG).

Nakia has recently advised clients navigating interactions with the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

During law school, Nakia was accepted into the U.S. DOJ Attorney General's Honors Program. Following graduation, she served as Assistant General Counsel at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Sensitive and Strategic Information Litigation Section, where she handled complex litigation involving the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act with a nexus to national security, technology, data, high-visibility activities, and an array of sensitive matters.

In 2021, Nakia retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as an Operations Officer.

Since joining Van Ness Feldman, Nakia's Pro Bono practice has focused on representing underserved individuals.

Nakia is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe.

Government Service

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Assistant General Counsel, 2021-2022
Security Clearance

Environment and Natural Resources Division, Law Clerk, 2019

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), Various positions foreign and domestic, 2001-2021
Security Clearance

Awards and Honors

"Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch" by *Best Lawyers*

Energy Law, 2024 - 2025
Litigation-Environmental, 2024- 2025

U.S. DOJ Special Recognition Award for Initiative and Tenacity

UNC School of Law 2019 Trial Advocacy Best Advocate Award

UNC School of Law 2018 Eugene Gressman & Daniel H. Pollitt Oral Advocacy Award

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

The Marine Corps League's Distinguished Citizen Award

Articles and Presentations

- American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources' ("SEER") Fall 2024 Conference, American Bar Association, Seattle WA, 10/23/2024
- Driving Diversity in Law & Leadership, CenterForce, Washington DC, 06/12/2024
- LEPA 2023 Annual Business Conference, Liquid Energy Pipeline Association, Minneapolis MN, 09/19/2023
- Hydrovision International 2023, Charlotte NC, 07/12/2023
- NHA Waterpower Week 2023 , National Hydropower Association, Washington DC, 05/09/2023
- Energy Bar Association Energy Law Academy – Course 109 An Introduction to Hydropower Law and Regulation , Energy Bar Association, Seattle WA, 03/31/2023
- Energy Law and Transactions Ch. 53 (2022), Hydroelectric Power, D. Muchow and W. Mogel, eds. (2022), 12/15/2022
- 2022 NHA Northeast Regional Meeting, National Hydropower Association, Baltimore MD, 06/27/2022
- Energy Law and Transactions Ch. 53 , Hydroelectric Power, D. Muchow and W. Mogel, eds. (2022), 05/19/2022
- Waters and Water Rights Ch. 40, Hydroelectric Regulation Under the Federal Power Act, Kelley ed. (2022), 05/19/2022

Alerts

- Ninth Circuit: Physical Presence on Tribal Land Not Required for Tribal Jurisdiction Over Nonmember, 09/23/2024
- FERC Announces Changes in Enforcement Procedures, 02/21/2024
- FY2023 FERC Actions Signal Potential Uptick in Enforcement Actions, 01/16/2024
- DOJ Issues First-Ever Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy Report, 10/20/2023
- Supreme Court Rules Against Navajo Nation in Tribal Water Rights Case, 07/06/2023
- TSA Requests Input from Pipeline and Rail Sectors on Cyber Risk Management to Inform New Regulations , 12/05/2022