HUSCH BLACKWELL



Markel Perkins

ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Markel draws on his experience at the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to help energy and utility clients navigate Texas's complex regulatory landscape.

Markel began his legal career at the PUCT, gaining firsthand insight into the commission and the energy and utilities industry. As an attorney in the commission's Legal Division, he handled a substantial caseload involving electric, water, wastewater, and telecommunications utilities. He researched complex legal and regulatory issues, reviewed filings, and participated in contested administrative proceedings. He also worked closely with utility companies, outside counsel, landowners, and members of the public, developing a broad understanding of the interests and perspectives that shape PUCT decisions.

After more than three years at the PUCT, Markel joined a boutique regulatory law firm where he represented municipal and government clients on energy, utilities, water, and environmental matters. He advised cities on regulatory, permitting, compliance, and policy issues, including challenges arising from new energy infrastructure proposed in their communities. This experience gave him a deeper understanding of the municipal side of the regulatory process and the ways energy projects can affect the communities in which they are developed.

At Husch Blackwell, Markel leverages his experience across the regulatory, municipal, and private sectors to help clients navigate the regulatory and permitting processes involved in developing new facilities and connecting to the Texas grid. As the state's energy

Industry

Energy & Natural Resources

Services

Data Centers
Electric Transmission
Energy Project Contracts
Energy Regulation
Energy Storage

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landscape continues to evolve, he advises clients on emerging requirements and works through the increasingly complex intersection of utilities, municipalities, and state regulators.

Markel has represented the regulator, the affected communities, and the applicants. He understands how a filing will be received by commission staff, where cities and landowners are likely to push back, and what it takes to move a project through a contested case process. Markel uses this unique perspective to help clients reach resolution without unnecessary delay.

Experience

- Represented PUCT staff in multiple contested Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) dockets for 345-kV and 138-kV transmission lines across Texas.
- Represented PUCT staff in multiple contested base rate proceedings for investor-owned water and wastewater utilities.
- As a PUCT attorney, represented the commission regarding multiple wholesale transmission rate applications and cost recovery factor adjustments for electric utilities and cooperatives.
- Participated in PUCT review of an electric utility's system resiliency plan.
- Represented PUCT staff in multiple renewable energy credit generator certification proceedings for utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage projects.
- Represented a Texas municipality in a contested case at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) and before the PUCT, defending its denial of a special use permit for a 500 MW battery energy storage facility.
- Represented a landowner coalition in a contested CCN proceeding at SOAH opposing an electric utility's proposed 765-kV transmission line project.
- Represented a coalition of cities as intervenors in an electric utility's distribution cost recovery factor proceeding before the PUCT.

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Education

- J.D., Southern University Law Center
  - *cum laude*
  - Tax Law Certificate
  - President's/Dean's List Honors
  - Public Service Fellow, Dean's Highest Honors
- B.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette
  - Business Administration
  - TOPS Opportunity Scholarship
  - President's/Dean's List Honors

Admissions

- Texas
- District of Columbia

Community Leadership

Markel volunteers with Meals on Wheels and mentors aspiring law students, drawing on his own experiences and the example set by his parents, who are also attorneys. He credits them and other mentors in his life for their guidance and feedback, and enjoys paying that support forward by helping others navigate the path to a legal career.

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

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