HUSCH BLACKWELL

Jon Micah Goeller

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Jon Micah provides clients with clear-sighted solutions to environmental, permitting, land use, and transactional challenges across energy projects, M&A transactions, real estate deals, and agency enforcement actions.

In the energy space, Jon Micah's in-house development background provides him with tremendous insight into clients' needs, enabling him to assist throughout the project lifecycle. Jon Micah has helped develop and finance solar, wind, thermal, gas fuel cell, hydrogen, renewable natural gas, and mining projects in over 30 states, serving as a results driver for developers, buyers, tax equity investors, and construction lenders navigating complex environmental and permitting issues. Jon Micah understands the nuances of local zoning approvals and has extensive experience working with state and federal agencies. Jon Micah has drafted and negotiated permits; assessed wetland, cultural resources, and protected species permitting strategies; and engaged with federal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to advance projects through permitting and consultation issues. Jon Micah helps clients negotiate financing document provisions, prepare due diligence assessments, and assess key permitting risks to deliver results.

In the transactional space, Jon Micah has directed all phases of environmental due diligence for real estate and M&A deals,

Industry

Energy & Natural Resources

Services

Carbon Capture & Sequestration
Climate Change & Sustainability
Community Solar
Data Centers
Energy Storage
Environmental
Environmental & Chemical Regulation
Environmental Due Diligence
Environmental Remediation & Superfund
ESG Strategy & Compliance
Hydrogen
Oil & Gas
Product Safety
Project Finance
Proposition 65
Solar Energy
Wind Energy

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including reviewing environmental site reports and disclosure schedules, drafting indemnity provisions, negotiating representation and warranty language in purchase agreements, and working with environmental consultants to assess water, soil, and air contamination risks and reporting obligations.

Jon Micah serves as a trusted outside counsel for clients facing complex permitting questions regarding Clean Air Act emissions, RCRA and CERCLA hazardous material and waste management, TSCA-regulated product compliance, and Clean Water Act discharge authorizations. He leverages his experience as a regional counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to advise clients on the ever-changing nuances of environmental law, successfully helping clients obtain permits. In the enforcement space, Jon Micah helps clients understand agency expectations and interpret inspection reports to negotiate significant penalty reductions and help clients return to compliance.

Jon Micah's involvement in energy and environmental law and public policy extends back to his undergraduate education and has remained consistent throughout his professional career. He served as a law clerk to Indiana University's Conservation Law Clinic and the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara. He also clerked for the Environmental Crimes Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. As a practicing lawyer, Jon Micah remains plugged in to the trends shaping the quickly evolving energy industry and the environmental laws regulating it. He is a member of the ABA's Environmental, Energy, and Resources Section. He uses his network of contacts to provide clients with the very latest intelligence on matters of environmental law, land use, and permitting strategy and compliance.

Experience

ENERGY PRACTICE

- Represented Swift Current Energy as project development counsel in the multi-year development and sale of the Steel River solar and storage project to Cypress Creek Renewables.
- Led the environmental and permitting due diligence efforts for client's community-scale solar project portfolio, identifying and navigating risk associated with local ordinances, fire protection plans, road use agreements, building permits, and endangered species permit compliance.
- Provided comprehensive development and construction compliance support for client's Texas solar portfolio, including negotiating flood control easement authorizations, ensuring compliance with the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, reviewing field study scopes, leading agency consultations, and preparing opinion letters and permit matrices.

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Experience

- Led the environmental and permitting due diligence efforts for client's community solar acquisition in Illinois, covering zoning and permitting guideposts, local ordinance risk to project design and viability, and associated transactional document revisions and negotiations to support a well-informed acquisition process.
- Guided client through local opposition to a battery energy storage project, managing responses to lender questions and advising on legal and legal and political strategies while drafting responses to county officials. Analyzed public information law issues to protect client confidentiality, reviewed injunction filings, assessed compliance with local fire safety orders, and negotiated indemnity and compliance provisions to address regulatory and community concerns.
- Provided federal, state, and local environmental and permitting counsel for solar and wind projects in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Iowa, New York, and Maine.
- Evaluated federal permitting and consultation needs for renewable energy projects, focusing on the National Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Action Nationwide 404 permits, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Incidental Take Permits, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Eagle Take Permits, Federal Aviation Administration, and Bureau of Land Management.
- Part of environmental and permitting local counsel for biogas, ethanol, carbon capture, and green hydrogen projects across the United States.
- Drafted and negotiated permitting and environmental representations and warranties for energy finance, tax equity, and construction loan deals totaling over 10 GW of wind and solar projects.
- Led team's efforts to obtain Conditional Use Permits and zoning authorization across five battery storage projects in Oregon and Washington.

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Experience

- Evaluated client's Security and Exchange Commission environmental disclosures.
- Served on developer's counsel team for Swift Current in the closing of debt financing and a tax equity commitment for a 266 MW solar project located in Southeast Texas. The Husch Blackwell team assisted in the areas of real estate, environmental and permitting, and electric regulatory throughout the purchase, development, debt financing, and funding stages. The transaction was structured to reflect the new U.S. Inflation Reduction Act policy guidance.
- Assisted Arevon Energy in the closing of a $500 million financing package for the 430 MW Kelso 1 & 2 Solar Projects in southeastern Missouri.
- Assisted in closing a $278 million Texas Energy Fund Loan for a 460 MW natural gas power plant in Freestone County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

- Guided university client through complex settlement negotiations with environmental enforcement agencies, drafting key settlement documents and penalty negotiations to achieve a successful resolution through a compliance commitment and abatement plan implementation.
- Supported client's Michigan and Wisconsin renewable natural gas project development and financing work by obtaining local and state wastewater and air permits, navigating National Environmental Policy Act compliance, drafting zoning determinations, and facilitating compliance with Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act. compatible use provisions.
- Helped a global mining company client through the complex landscape of federal and state environmental permitting authority, drafting replies to public comments, reviewing tribal treaty rights authority and water quality monitoring reports, and advising on litigation strategy and national security exemption strategies.

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Experience

- Managed the comprehensive environmental due diligence review for the acquisition of manufacturing facilities across ten states analyzing operational risks, permit coverage, and environmental liabilities to ensure purchase risks and compliance matters were thoroughly addressed before closing.
- Conducted environmental due diligence for the sale of agricultural operations in Wisconsin, focusing on permit compliance and transferability, liability associated with ongoing permit noncompliance risks and corresponding transactional document revisions and negotiations.
- Worked closely with a consumer banks architect and environmental consultant to lead all phases of environmental due diligence and compliance for the planned property development with a restrictive Special Warranty Deed, beginning with negotiation and review of the Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments and continuing through the drafting and revision of the Soil Management Plan purchase document negotiation.
- Supported client's Milwaukee asset transaction by conducting detailed environmental due diligence, including review of Phase I reports, compliance memoranda, and disclosure schedules related to permit coverage and PCB contamination, drafted indemnity provisions, analyzed liability caps, and negotiated language in the purchase agreement and leases to address environmental risks and compliance gaps.
- Served as team's lead outside counsel for clean air act enforcement actions in front of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Natural Resource offices.
- Defended clients in clean air act enforcement actions brought by state Attorney General offices.
- Assisted clients in clean air act and clean water act permit acquisitions, including assessment under environmental justice.
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Experience

- Researched and drafted client support memorandums to state agencies covering EPA's Clean Water Act Veto Authority, Waters of the United States, and Supreme Court case *County of Maui* groundwater discharge functional equivalence test.
- Negotiated potential responsible party agreements and participated in mediation procedures.
- Coordinated environmental due diligence efforts for merger and acquisition deals, totaling over a $500 million portfolio across transportation, healthcare, and manufacturing clients.
- Helped clients respond to hazardous substance spill reporting requirements, product safety label enhancements, and community notice requirements.
- Assisted clients in evaluating their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) statements to avoid "greenwashing" concerns and to comply with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requirements.

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
    - Energy Law, 2026 and 2027
    - Environmental Law, 2026 and 2027

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Education

- J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of Law
  - Environmental, Energy, and Natural Resource Law focus
  - *Journal of Global Legal Studies*, Articles Editor
- M.P.A., Indiana University O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs
  - Master of Public Affairs, Energy Policy Analysis focus
- B.S., Indiana University
  - Environmental Management & Science
  - *magna cum laude*, Honors Program
  - Club Hockey, Captain and Vice President

Admissions

- Illinois
- Missouri

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