

Michael Alcantar

San Francisco, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Energy & Natural Resources; Litigation; Government, Regulatory & Administrative Law; Corporate Law



Michael Alcantar is a Shareholder in Buchalter's San Francisco office and a member of the Firm's Energy & Natural Resources Practice Group. Mr. Alcantar and his colleagues from Alcantar & Kahl, LLP have joined Buchalter to enhance and expand the representation of clients in the national, western regional and California energy markets and industry.

Beginning with representation of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's efforts to implement the National Energy Act of 1978, Mr. Alcantar's experience spans a wide array of energy policy and infrastructure development, legislative actions, administrative and judicial litigation, agency and regulatory compliance, engagement and advocacy. Mr. Alcantar's experience includes energy policy and infrastructure development, legislative actions, administrative and judicial litigation, agency and regulatory compliance, engagement, and advocacy. He represents large industrial customers, conventional and renewable project developers, generation operations and procurement entities. Specifically, Alcantar handles solicitations, compliance, and the negotiation and development of successful agreements in support of new or repowered projects. Further, a significant part of his practice addresses project development, ongoing operations and regulatory compliance for large cogeneration or combined heat and power (CHP) resources under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). His recent work has evolved with the implementation of California's Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act (SB 350) and the law's wide ranging implications for virtually the entire energy sector addressing Greenhouse Gas Emission issues; including the regulation and development of the new California operations known as Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs).

Mr. Alcantar's experience has included: serving as a trial litigator; a master calendar supervisor of a large team of trial counsel; an appellate lawyer appearing in federal and state jurisdictions on behalf of Los Angeles; regulatory counsel for public institutions and private companies before numerous state regulatory commissions, legislative bodies, state and federal courts and before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. His clients include large industrial metals, chemical, and paper products manufacturing companies, international petroleum producers and refining companies, and energy project developers and operators, large and small.

Representative Matters

- Served as general counsel and executive director for the Cogeneration Association of California (CAC), and as principal regulatory counsel for the Nevada Independent Energy Coalition, and the Cogeneration Coalition of Washington (formerly known as the Northwest Cogeneration & Industrial Power Coalition)
- Participates extensively in the development of major energy projects, negotiation and regulatory approval of power purchase agreements, interconnection matters, utility ratemaking, power contract negotiations, contract administration advice, and litigation. Engages in the development of natural gas bypass pipelines, fuel supply, energy and gas users tax issues, and steam sales agreements
- Principal participant in the development and establishment of legislation for California's deregulation of the wholesale energy market (AB 1890) to address industrial customer and customer generation provider

interests

- Served as counsel for several entities addressing matters before the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), including as general counsel to the Direct Service Industries (DSI), a trade association with loads of over 3,000 megawatts of large aluminum, metals and forest product customers
- Represented a representative group of the Association of Public Agency Customers (APAC) – including Weyerhaeuser, Georgia Pacific, JR Simplot and Longview Fibre among others – in challenging BPA for recovery of overcharges in rates
- Represented the Western States Petroleum Association on matters pertaining to alternative fuel vehicle regulation and electric industry restructuring
- Represented the interests of a wide range of industrial clients before state regulatory commissions in Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington
- Presents and litigates major energy issues before BPA, FERC, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Energy Commission, the California Air Resources Board, the Public Utilities Commissions of Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Appeared before committees of Congress, and the California and Nevada legislatures, on issues concerning cogeneration development and pricing, electric restructuring and regulation
- Registered lobbyist with the California Fair Political Practices Commission to serve as technical support on legislative initiatives on behalf of clients
- Representation in the California Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) proceeding for multiple interests as the commission sets a path toward 2030 procurement, market and greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives
- Founded and managed for over twenty years the Woman and Minority Enterprise – certified law firm Alcantar & Kahl, LLP, a boutique firm with offices in San Francisco and Portland Oregon specializing in energy law; in this role with Alcantar & Kahl, and in several other positions as general counsel to the DSI, APAC and CAC organizations, and as chair of the Regulated Industries Practice Group at the Ater Wynne law firm, Mr. Alcantar has been responsible for managing multimillion dollar legal budgets and the proactive management of outside and in house counsel and staff
- Consulting with the quickly evolving CCA entities regarding regulatory compliance, joint power authorities, procurement, reliability issues and matters concerning new entrants into a complex regulatory market

Education

Mr. Alcantar earned his J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law and his B.A. from University of Southern California.

Bar Admissions

- California
- Oregon