

20 People to Know in Energy: Jean Mosites, environmental attorney, shareholder, Babst Calland

By Ethan Lott

Jean Mosites is one of Pittsburgh's most well-known experts in energy and environmental law and a shareholder in Babst Calland's Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Group. Her legal expertise and advice has been instrumental for Babst Calland's clients in energy who are navigating the complexities of the Marcellus Shale development and the myriad regulations in Pennsylvania that surround it.

What do you see as the biggest opportunities for the energy industry right now?

One current opportunity is for oil and gas producers to enhance our country's energy security and independence by building and maintaining a steady supply of fuel. Production, however, is only one part of the necessary steps in getting products to market. Support is needed to ensure that transmission and refining capabilities are available for long-term reliability of supplies.

What's your biggest concern for the energy industry right now?

The difficulty of getting product to market as permits and approvals for transmis-



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Jean Mosites, Babst Calland

sion are challenged, blocked or overturned. This situation affects not only consumers in the region and in the United States, but in the world. Blocking natural gas production in the region reduces energy options for the poorest at home and abroad.

What are some of the major legal issues involving natural gas producers in Pennsylvania?

As environmental law evolves, a major legal issue for natural gas producers is keeping track of new laws, regulations, policies and procedures. The changing nature of the law presents a challenge for businesses that need certainty for long-term planning. New permit requirements related to air emissions or new listings of endangered species, for example, affect operational, regulatory and

financial decisions regarding the development of natural gas assets in Pennsylvania.

What is one issue that your clients would like to see changed in Pennsylvania in terms of natural gas law?

Clients seek certainty and consistency in the legal and regulatory framework within which they operate. I am not aware of one issue that all clients would like to see changed, but it would be good for the energy industry, the public and the commonwealth to have a common commitment to the development of reliable energy sources in the commonwealth within a practical regulatory framework that protects the environment while balancing the undisputed need for fossil fuels.

How much do you think the market, with a greater desire for lower carbon footprint among some investors, will drive energy choices?

The desire for a low carbon footprint is increasing among investors, industry and the public. The desire drives innovation, which we are seeing every day.