

## Sarah M. Keane

Sarah Keane dedicates her practice to all aspects of the clean energy transition, in transactional, regulatory and litigation contexts.

Sarah advises a wide range of project developers, investors, and sponsors regarding asset development, purchase, and sale, with a particular focus on renewable energy, energy storage, electric vehicles and clean mobility, microgrids, campus energy systems, and transmission projects. She drafts and negotiates purchase and sale agreements, power purchase agreements, interconnection agreements, and other project-related contracts.

A leading advocate before public utilities commissions and other agencies, Sarah also represents energy project owners, environmental organizations, local government interests, and other parties in a variety of energy regulatory and climate change policy proceedings.

Collaborating closely with other members of the Firm, Sarah assists project proponents to secure approvals under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), state counterpart laws, and the full suite of local, state, and federal land use requirements.

Sarah currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for GRID Alternatives Colorado, a unique and remarkable non-profit organization that brings clean energy and mobility solutions to low-income households and disadvantaged communities. She was previously an attorney at two large international law firms.

### Representative Experience

#### Energy Projects and Transactions

- Representing independent power producer in development and sale of hydrogen electrolyzer assets
- Representing project developer in design-build agreement for multi-phase solar projects on Tribal property
- Representing rural cooperative utility in power purchase agreement negotiations for generation, storage, and energy efficiency products
- Representing infrastructure platform regarding energy efficiency agreements with municipalities
- Representing independent transmission developer in securing approvals and contracts for proposed interstate transmission line
- Representing various solar and storage developers in securing land use approvals for utility-scale projects



#### Partner

Denver Office  
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#### Areas of Practice

Air Quality  
Clean Transportation, Beneficial Electrification, and Microgrids  
Climate Policy & Litigation  
Energy Litigation and Regulated Proceedings  
Energy Litigation and Regulated Proceedings  
Energy Project Permitting and Approvals  
Energy Transactions  
Energy and Climate Change  
Environment, Public Lands, and Conservation  
Environmental Impact Reviews  
Government and Public Policy  
Land Use and Zoning  
Legislative Drafting and Lobbying  
Methane Regulation  
Public Lands

#### Education

J.D., *Order of the Coif*,  
University of California –  
Berkeley, 2010  
B.S., Stanford University, 2004

#### Bar and Court Admissions

Colorado  
California  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Tenth Circuit  
United States District Courts for  
Northern District of California,



## KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

- Represented independent power producer in sale of power plant to utility purchaser
- Represented solar project developer in membership interest sale of portfolio of solar and solar + storage projects
- Represented municipal utility in multiple transactions and stakeholder proceedings regarding solar project development and interconnection
- Coordinated complex environmental, permitting, and interconnection due diligence for multiple investments in project portfolios involving solar, hydropower, wind, geothermal, and natural gas facilities
- Drafted power purchase agreement, license and loan agreement, and related documents for transactions involving sale of distributed solar generation installed in multiple states

Central District of California, and  
Eastern District of California

### **Energy and Climate Regulatory Proceedings**

- Representing independent transmission developer in state public utilities commission (PUC) proceeding regarding proposed projects
- Representing independent power producer in state PUC proceedings regarding utility electric resource plans
- Representing environmental groups in utility electric resource plan and transportation electrification plan proceedings before state PUCs
- Representing coalition of local governments in air quality proceedings regarding implementation of climate laws
- Representing environmental groups in state air quality rulemakings regarding the adoption of clean vehicle standards and related litigation

### **Energy Project Litigation**

- Representing solar project owner in contract dispute with utility off-taker
- Represented community choice aggregator utility in power purchase agreement dispute with wind project developer; negotiated favorable settlement for utility
- Represented group of citizens in complaint proceeding against local utility regarding rate restructuring, resulting in favorable settlement
- Represented energy and water asset owner in administrative litigation under NEPA and the Endangered Species Act
- Successfully defended challenges brought against federal permit approval for a solar project

### **Professional and Civic Activities**

- Denver Business Journal 2020 Top Women in Energy



# KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

- Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy, Member (2020-Present)
- Board President, GRID Alternatives Colorado (2018–Present)
- Advisory Board Chair, Berkeley Energy & Resources Collaborative (2014–2018)
- Election Protection Steering Committee Member, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (2012–2016)
- University of California, Berkeley Law, Energy and Cleantech Law Certificate and Environmental Law Certificate (2010)
- Development Director, *Energy Law Quarterly* (2008–2009)

## Publications

Microgrids: Opportunities and Challenges for US Airports  
Fall 2021

Colorado Energy & Climate Legislation: 2021 Year in Review  
06.16.21

A Leader in Following: Colorado's Adoption of California Clean Car Standards  
Summer 2019

Energy + Climate Change Law Alert – New Climate Action Plan Released  
05.31.19

Colorado Energy and Climate Legislation: 2019 Year in Review  
May 2019

A Success Born of Crises: California & Renewable Energy  
07.11.16

Renewable Energy On The Rise In Calif  
01.03.13

A Giant Leap Forward In Reducing GHGs In Calif  
03.20.12

Ramping Up California Renewable Energy  
02.07.12

Navigating the Landscape of the California Renewables Portfolio  
08.2011

## News

Colorado Energy & Environmental Legislation: 2022 Year in Review  
06.01.22



## KAPLAN KIRSCH ROCKWELL

Firm Represent NRDC in Deal with Colorado's Largest  
Greenhouse Gas Emitters; Cut Emissions by 2030  
01.25.22

Colorado Adopts Groundbreaking and Innovative Rule to Cut  
Pollution from Pneumatic Controllers  
02.18.21

Colorado Adopts Air Quality Monitoring Requirements for the Oil  
and Gas Industry  
09.29.20

Courts Reject Challenges to Colorado Rules to Reduce Oil and  
Gas Ozone and Climate Pollution  
08.19.20

Tenth Circuit Sides with Colorado Communities; Keeps Climate  
Change Case in State Court  
07.09.20

Colorado Adopts Rules for Climate Reporting  
06.12.20

Sarah Keane Named Among 2020 Top Women in Energy by  
Denver Business Journal  
04.27.20

The Trump Administration Finalizes Rollback of Protective  
Vehicle Standards  
03.31.20

Colorado Moves Ahead on Climate Action  
02.24.20

Firm Supports Colorado Communities in Case Seeking  
Damages from Oil Companies for Climate Change-Related  
Injuries  
01.15.20

Firm Represents Environmental & Local Officials in Reducing Oil  
and Gas Ozone and Climate Pollution in Colorado  
12.19.19

Firm Represents Coalitions of Local Governments and  
Environmental Organizations in Zero Emission Vehicle  
Rulemaking  
08.19.19

Groups Ask Court for Permission to Help Defend Colorado Clean  
Car Standards  
03.12.19

Colorado Advances Clean Car Standards  
11.19.18



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## **Presentations**

Colorado's Climate Future  
09.23.21

Colorado—Impacts of New Legislation and Regulation on  
Renewable Energy Markets  
10.22.19

Sustainability and Renewable Energy  
10.15.19

The Utility of the Future  
10.07.14

California – Germany Comparative Energy Policies  
10.11.13

Lessons Learned  
10.26.09

The Way Forward  
10.24.09