Areas of Work
Energy, Oil & Gas Pipelines, Appeals & Advocacy

Overview
Steve Reed helps major US oil pipeline companies resolve their most difficult regulatory problems. Because of his exceptional experience with complex pipeline issues and his deep understanding of the industry, he is consistently sought out to shepherd new pipeline projects through the regulatory process, and to help resolve challenging disputes arising before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), state regulatory agencies, and appellate courts. In recognition of his achievements and capabilities, Best Lawyers in America named him the 2017 Washington "Lawyer of the Year" in Natural Resources Law.

Oil Pipeline Regulation
For more than three decades, Steve has played a key role in landmark cases that have laid the foundation for FERC’s current regulation of oil pipelines. He was a leading participant in the FERC’s major rulemaking initiative that established the governing principles for oil pipeline rates and authored a seminal article on that topic. Because of his extensive background in oil pipeline regulation, he is often asked to speak on the history of the field and the ongoing development of FERC’s regulatory methodology.

Backed by a deep bench of experienced energy lawyers, Steve frequently represents industry-leading clients, such as the owners of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (particularly ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska Inc.), Enbridge, and the Association of Oil Pipe Lines. He served as lead counsel in a case for Spearhead Pipeline that led to FERC’s first explicit approval of firm service contracts for oil pipelines. He has successfully guided oil pipelines through contested FERC cases in which their tariff rates were ultimately found to be lawful as filed, most notably on behalf of the Southern Lights Pipeline. Further, he has helped to devise and defend creative settlements, such as the settlement regarding Enbridge’s multibillion-dollar Alberta Clipper project.

Steve frequently assists clients with projects to build new pipelines, to expand existing pipelines, and to extend lines into new markets. These have included major cross-border pipelines between Canada and the US, new pipelines to the US Gulf Coast region, and major expansions of pipelines serving the Bakken region of North Dakota and other growing domestic oil resources. In total, these projects have led to investments of billions of dollars in new US infrastructure.

Appellate Practice
Steve is also a seasoned appellate litigator who has argued major cases in the federal courts of appeals and state appellate courts, including the Supreme Courts of Texas and Alaska. His appellate experience ranges beyond energy to rail transportation, insurance, environmental law, and taxation.

Steve is a Band 1 Oil and Gas lawyer in both Chambers USA and Chambers Global. He serves as co-head of the firm’s Regulatory and Legislative Department, which encompasses Steptoe’s transportation, telecommunications, energy, environment, and government affairs practices.

Bar & Court Admissions
• District of Columbia

Clerkships

Education
• J.D., Harvard Law School, 1979, magna cum laude; Senior Editor, Harvard Law Review
• B.A., Harvard University, 1974, magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa

Speaking Engagements
• Association of Oil Pipe Lines’ 2016 Annual Business Conference, September 1, 2016
• “Oil: The Quest To Be A World Player,” 2016 Energy Bar Association Annual Meeting and Conference, June 8, 2016
• Association of Oil Pipe Lines’ 2015 Annual Business Conference, Atlanta, GA, September 1, 2015
• Association of Oil Pipe Lines’ 2014 Annual Business Conference, Coeur d’Alene, ID, September 16, 2014
News & Publications

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 125 Individual Mentions in Best Lawyers in America 2021
Four Lawyers Named ‘Lawyer of the Year’
August 20, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 28 Practice Rankings, 29 Individual Awards in Legal 500 US 2020
July 7, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 19 Practice, 56 Individual Mentions in Chambers USA 2020
April 23, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
Washington, DC Super Lawyers Recognizes 62 Steptoe Attorneys
April 17, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 13 Practice, 29 Individual Mentions in Chambers Global 2020
February 13, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 86 Individual Mentions in Best Lawyers 2020
Two lawyers named ‘Lawyer of the Year’
August 15, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 30 Practice, 149 Individual Mentions in Legal 500 US 2019
June 5, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 20 Practice, 63 Individual Mentions in Chambers USA 2019
April 29, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Washington, DC Super Lawyers Recognizes 63 Steptoe Attorneys
April 19, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 13 Practice, 25 Individual Mentions in Chambers Global 2019
February 14, 2019

Resources
Pipeline Accident Response Services
Events

WEBINARS

How Will the 2017 Tax Act Affect FERC-Regulated Oil Pipeline Rates?
January 23, 2018
Speakers: Aaron P. Nocjar, Daniel J. Poynor, Steven Reed

WEBINARS

Pipeline Accidents: Are You Prepared?
Part Four: Negotiating the Most Favorable Outcome and Calculation of Penalties
September 26, 2017
Speakers: David H. Coburn, William T. Hassler, Joshua Runyan, Steven Reed

WEBINARS

Pipeline Accidents: Are You Prepared?
Part Three: Private Enforcement and Civil Litigation Considerations
April 5, 2017
Speakers: Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov, Robert L. Shuftan, Cynthia L. Taub, Steven Reed

WEBINARS

Pipeline Accidents: Are You Prepared?
Part One: The First 48 Hours
December 1, 2016
Speakers: Dane Jaques, Joshua Runyan, Steven Reed

Noteworthy

- Chambers USA, Band 1, Energy: Oil & Gas, Regulatory & Litigation, Nationwide (2010-2020)
- Best Lawyers in America, "Lawyer of the Year," Washington, DC Oil and Gas Law (2018)
- Best Lawyers in America, Natural Resources Law; Oil and Gas Law (2007-2021)
- The Top Rated Lawyers Guide to Appellate Law (2013)
- Benchmark: Litigation, Appellate (2010-2014)
- Who's Who Legal, Oil & Gas (2012)
- The Top Rated Lawyers Guide to Environmental Law (2012)
- 3000 Leading Lawyers in America by Lawdragon.com (2010)
- Chambers USA, Energy: Oil & Gas, DC (2009)
- 500 Leading Lawyers in America by Lawdragon.com (2007)

Professional Affiliations

- Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law Section, American Bar Association
- Energy Bar Association

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