

# Brian M. Meloy

*Leonard, Street and Deinard, P.A.*

**UP & COMING**  
ATTORNEYS

**E**nergy has come to dominate the news, and behind every energy-related transaction is a lawyer practicing in the white-hot area of energy law.

Among the local powerbrokers in the field is Brian M. Meloy.

With less than a decade of experience under his belt, the Leonard, Street and Deinard shareholder has already built a name for himself in this growing niche as an attorney with a broad — and in many instances groundbreaking — national practice.

Meloy commutes regularly between Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., where he spends much of his time representing some of the country's largest utilities before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

According to Meloy, not many lawyers are involved in the relatively obscure practice area of FERC representation. "There is a pretty standard cast of characters that you run into," he says. "It's a small bar. ... It's a unique practice because it's not strictly law. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is a policy commission."

The biggest hurdle for a new attorney who wants to become involved in energy law is getting down the lingo. "I struggle explaining exactly what we do [to people not versed in the language] because you can only presume so much knowledge of things that aren't typically thought of in the legal context. But if you are interested in economics, policy and engineering, it's a pretty good field to be in."

Meloy has earned a national reputation helping to develop energy supply and transmission markets throughout the country. He also represents clients before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in rate-making proceedings.

When Meloy is not advising how to navigate the new energy market rules, he is often helping clients develop or acquire energy plants, particularly wind energy plants in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and other areas around the country. He is also a frequent speaker at national industry conferences.

Meloy didn't always envision being an energy lawyer. In law school he was leaning toward environmental law. However, once he began practicing, "it turned out that the little bit of environmental law I was doing was associated with energy projects," he says. "I enjoyed it and kept going."

Meloy acknowledges that he often sees eyes glaze over when he tells people that he is an energy lawyer. "It is an interesting and dynamic area, but it is also esoteric," he says, adding that even his wife has to "feign interest."

When he is not practicing energy law, Meloy is committed to providing pro bono services at his firm's legal clinic. In 2005, he was selected as the clinic's volunteer of the year. Much of Meloy's pro bono work has involved representing disabled individuals who are appealing denials of Social Security benefits.

"For me, it's a natural extension of the practice that I have," he says. "I routinely appear before administrative law judges in my practice."

Meloy says the firm has been "very supportive" of his desire to perform pro bono work, and he likes having such a direct impact on people's lives. But that does not mean he is ready to give up his energy law practice.

"I am still learning on the job," he says. "And I hope after 20 years I will still be learning on the job."

— Mark A. Cohen



## BRIAN M. MELOY

**Born:** Jan. 11, 1973; Dubuque, Iowa

**Education:** University of Iowa College of Law, J.D., 1998; University of Iowa, B.A., 1995

**Employment:** Leonard, Street and Deinard, associate/shareholder, 2003-present; O'Neill, Grills & O'Neill, associate, 2000-03; Miller, Balis & O'Neil, associate, 1998-2000

**Professional Associations:** District of Columbia Bar, Energy Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association

**Community Activities:** Hearts & Hammers, Leonard, Street and Deinard Legal Clinic

**Hobbies/Interests:** Basketball, kayaking

**Personal:** Wife, Rachel

## ENERGY EFFICIENT



Congratulations to **Brian M. Meloy**, who has been recognized as one of Minnesota's "Up & Coming Attorneys." Brian advises energy companies across the United States, representing them in connection with their energy project development and finance, including state and federal regulatory matters.

We are proud of Brian's achievements and salute his leadership in the energy industry.

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