



John G. Cossa

Of Counsel

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John's practice focuses on issues related to the development of energy and mineral resources on federally-managed lands.

He advises clients on matters related to the leasing and development of oil and gas, wind, solar, and mineral resources both onshore and on the Outer Continental Shelf. John also counsels clients on compliance with applicable operations, environmental, and safety regulations, agency notices, and orders. The legal services he provides to clients include:

- Assisting in compliance with rules, notices, and orders issued under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Mineral Leasing Act, and Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- Counseling on land use planning and resource development issues, such as oil and gas leasing, exploration and production, and onshore renewable energy leases and rights-of-way, and the acquisition and development of offshore renewable energy leases.
- Drafting planning, regulatory, and environmental compliance documents necessary for federal project approvals, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, applications, and plans.
- Advising on various environmental issues related to offshore drilling and resource development, including air emissions, oil spill scenarios, and compliance with species protection statutes such as the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Advising on legislative matters and agency regulatory proposals.
- Providing litigation services in federal courts, as well as in administrative appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals.
- Counseling on emerging upstream energy development issues such as the development of transboundary hydrocarbon resources, incorporating climate change information into NEPA analyses, and hydraulic fracturing on federal lands.

Prior to joining the firm, John served as an Attorney-Advisor at the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI's) Office of the Solicitor, after joining the Department as a Presidential Management Fellow. While at the Solicitor's Office, he was lead counsel for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) offshore renewable energy program, and also counseled the BOEM Directorate and agency

staff on legal issues related to the leasing, development, and regulation of offshore oil and gas resources, with particular emphasis on emerging issues such as oil and gas development in the Arctic and instituting reforms in the wake of the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

Prior to joining the Solicitor's Office, John served as the advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) energy and land use issues. He also served in the BLM's Division of Land Use, Planning, and NEPA, where he worked on projects of national significance such as the expansion of oil and gas leasing in the Western States, and the establishment of the West-Wide energy transmission corridors.

During his DOI tenure, John received the Secretary's Commendation for Outstanding Service for his role in implementing the U.S. offshore renewable energy leasing program. He also received the Solicitor's Excellence Award in 2011 for outstanding contributions in the wake of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

John is a former art dealer.

Education

- Syracuse University (B.F.A., 1996)
- American University (J.D., 2007)

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- New York

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Marine Resources Committee, Vice Chair
- American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
- New York State Bar Association, Environmental Law Section

Publications

February 5, 2019

Offshore Wind Advances, BOEM Extends Comment Deadline for Vineyard Wind

Beveridge & Diamond

August 31, 2018

Interior Department Reorganizes into 12 “Unified Regions” – To What Effect On The Ground?

Beveridge & Diamond

May 24, 2018

Major Offshore Wind Projects Advance in Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Beveridge & Diamond

May 16, 2017

Maryland Takes Key Step for Offshore Wind

Beveridge & Diamond

May 2, 2017

Executive Order Charts New Path For Offshore Energy Development

Beveridge & Diamond

March 29, 2017

Interior Secretary Immediately Implements President’s Executive Order on Energy and Climate

Beveridge & Diamond

December 13, 2016

First-Ever Legal Challenge Filed Against Proposed Federal Offshore Wind Lease Auction

Beveridge & Diamond

September 26, 2016

DOT/PHMSA Proposes to Harmonize US Lithium Battery Transport Requirements With International Standards

Beveridge & Diamond

January 25, 2016

BLM Proposes to Restrict Methane Releases from Oil and Gas Leases

Beveridge & Diamond

October 26, 2015

National Park Service Proposes Sweeping Changes to Oil and Gas Regulations

Beveridge & Diamond

September 21, 2015

Prudence Prevails: Fifth Circuit Supports Narrow Reading of Liability under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Beveridge & Diamond

September 1, 2015

Following the Yellow Brick Road – A Peek Behind the Curtain

Federal Agency Rulemaking

June 1, 2015

Speak Loudly and Carry a Small (Memory) Stick: Capitalizing on Public Comments in an Era of Significant Agency Rulemakings

Natural Resources & Environment

March 26, 2015

Ohio Wind Developer and FWS Successfully Defend Incidental Take Permit for Endangered Indiana Bat

Beveridge & Diamond

January 27, 2015

Interior Department Proposes to Open Offshore Atlantic Region to Oil and Gas Leasing

Beveridge & Diamond

January 5, 2015

Greenhouse Gases “Rise” in Importance for NEPA Reviews

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