

## Jenner & Block Launches Climate Solutions Practice

By Rachel Rippetoe

*Law360 (July 28, 2022, 1:35 PM EDT)* -- Jenner & Block LLP launched an energy and climate solutions practice on Thursday, bringing in a former Duke University director to help lead the team.

The firm has built out a cross-discipline law practice called Transitions in Energy and Climate Solutions, or TECS, aimed at tackling climate change and helping clients with their environmental and sustainability goals.

To kick off the practice group, Jenner & Block hired a special counsel as co-chair, Tatjana "Tanja" Vujic, who was the president of biogas, climate and environmental consultancy WasteNot Strategies LLC in Durham, North Carolina.



Tanja Vujic

Vujic — who has also served as Duke University's director of biogas strategy — has joined the TECS leadership team along with existing partners Tom O'Neill and Suedeem Kelly, who are also co-chairs of the energy practice, and partner Gay Sigel.

Vujic said in a statement that the practice will help clients achieve climate and clean energy goals by developing new approaches and policies and embarking on new business ventures and models.

"Our competitive advantage is not only addressing immediate challenges, but drawing on our collective knowledge and experiences to anticipate and meet clients' long-term needs," Vujic said.

The new team will work on emission reduction commitments, renewable options, from natural gas to carbon offsets and sustainable purchasing, according to the firm. The lawyers in the practice will also be well-versed in the regulatory trends and changing legal requirements.

"Rules are being rewritten, and long-standing paradigms disrupted as we race towards a more sustainable future," O'Neill said in a statement.

The firm said the practice group had already completed projects before its official launch, including advising a major utility company on the development of electric vehicle enablement tariffs, negotiating green tariffs with regional electricity providers on behalf of a green power technology company and helping with a deal to build a transmission line for renewable energy across tribal land.

"We have a track record of success in writing and defending changes in energy policy," O'Neill said.

"With Tanja's addition, and the integration of our environmental, tax, and corporate practices, the TECS practice offers clients a unique legal service — all-in-one, innovative, and strategic counsel from lawyers with trailblazing experience in and around the energy sector."

While Vujic was at Duke, she was the founding director of the Duke Carbon Offsets Initiative. She began working at the university as director of Duke's carbon reductions program, which involved leading the first North Carolina swine waste-to-energy system, partnering with Google. She also created and led the Energy Access Project, a Duke program focused on bringing energy access to impoverished rural areas across the U.S.

Back in 2015 and 2016, Vujic also served as the director of southeast clean energy for the Environmental Defense Fund. And from 2004 to 2005, she served as an attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working in enforcement for the Clean Air Act.

O'Neill returned to Jenner & Block at the beginning of 2021, after stepping down as general counsel for Exelon Corp., where he served as senior vice president and general counsel for 19 years.

Kelly spent six years as the commissioner for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, before she entered private practice. She was also a partner and co-chair of the energy practice at both Patton Boggs LLP and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

"The TECS practice is already producing tangible and strategically-oriented business results," Jenner & Block co-managing partner and energy practice co-chair Randy Mehrberg said in a statement. "And just as importantly, this work aligns with our firm values."

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.