

MVP: Milbank's Jenna McGrath

By **Keith Goldberg**

Law360 (December 10, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Jenna McGrath of Milbank LLP took the regulatory lead in getting major transactions in the power sector to the finish line, earning her a spot among the 2025 Law360 Energy MVPs.

Why she's an energy attorney:

McGrath didn't originally plan on a career in energy law, but a stint at an energy law boutique between college and law school set her on that path. Tackling tough, highly technical topics to help clients build major pieces of energy infrastructure is fascinating work, she said.

"I don't just use my law degree," McGrath said. "I love that I get to interact and learn a ton about this dynamic and evolving industry, and also work not just with lawyers but with economists ... engineers and system planners."

And the energy and infrastructure projects she's working on have only grown in size and complexity, she noted.

"If you told me five years ago about the magnitude, in terms of dollars and megawatts, of some of the projects I'm touching, it would have seemed outrageous," McGrath said.

Her biggest challenge in the past year:

McGrath served as lead regulatory counsel for Switch Inc. as the data center developer, in September 2024, secured \$4.5 billion in project debt financing that will be used to support the development of a fully leased hyperscale facility in Nevada.

McGrath said a hyperscale facility like the one Switch is developing is an enormous project, with multiple buildings and tenants, and has multiple grid connections and power lines.

"Working through the complexities of financing in a situation where you have that much shared power infrastructure was really challenging," McGrath said. "Every party to the transaction had their own interest, and we were able to work through that."

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Jenna McGrath

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That wasn't the only major artificial intelligence-related deal McGrath helped guide to completion. She also served as lead regulatory counsel for superannuation fund AustralianSuper in its \$1.5 billion investment in U.S. data center developer DataBank, a deal announced in October 2024.

Handling the growing size and speed of data center deals is daunting, McGrath said.

"It's chasing a moving target, because the state and federal regulators are trying to keep up with the problem of getting AI infrastructure on the grid and keeping the grid resilient for the rest of us who are using it," McGrath said.

Her proudest moment of the past year:

McGrath served as lead regulatory counsel for Missouri electricity cooperative Citizens Electric Corp. in the multiyear restructuring of its long-term power supply agreements and acquisition of \$200 million worth of transmission assets. That required conducting litigation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission while negotiating settlement agreements at the same time. The settlements were sewn up in December 2024.

"Even though I enjoy the challenge of litigation, oftentimes a settled result is a better result," McGrath said. "You can get results in settlements that you can't get in a litigated posture."

Her advice to younger attorneys:

Finding good mentors who are invested in your professional development and have the patience to walk you through subjects is a must for any junior attorney, McGrath said. But developing a successful energy practice requires plenty of individual work as well, and a willingness to learn new things, she said.

"There's a lot of self-learning that goes along with getting expert in this field," McGrath said. "It's a lot of piecing technical concepts and legal concepts together."

McGrath said younger energy attorneys need to be patient with themselves and have the persistence to master subject materials that are frequently esoteric.

"It can be very challenging, and even boring at first, just learning all the terminology," McGrath said. "But once you hit a certain learning curve, things get really, really interesting."

--As told to Keith Goldberg. Editing by Dave Trumbore.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.