

Press Coverage | August 10, 2026

Troutman Pepper Locke Attorneys David Harrell and Deanna Markowitz Willson Named “Litigator of the Week” by Litigation Daily for Role in Winning Defense Team in Tenth Circuit Natural Gas Act Ruling Stemming from Winter Storm Uri

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[David E. Harrell](#) and [Deanna Markowitz Willson](#), partners in Troutman Pepper Locke’s [Business Litigation](#) Practice Group, were mentioned in the July 10, 2026, *Litigation Daily* article, “[Litigator of the Week Runners-Up and Shout-Outs.](#)”

Sticking with Winter Storm Uri for the moment, Susman Godfrey partner Beatrice Franklin argued on behalf of Macquarie Energy and a joint defense group of energy wholesalers and marketers at the Tenth Circuit in a case where Kansas residents alleged the defendants drove up energy costs during the storm. (Franklin handled arguments while seven months pregnant.) The court held this week that the Natural Gas Act preempted the plaintiffs’ state-law claims, affirming a ruling from the district court below. The Susman team included William Merrill and associates Alexandra Foulkes Grafton and Megan E. Griffith. The defense line-up included litigators from Dentons US, Wallace Saunders, Baker Botts, Hinkle Law Firm, Sullivan & Cromwell, Berkowitz Oliver, Bracewell LLP, Stinson LLP, White & Case, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, Triplett Woolf Garretson, Latham & Watkins, Sanders Warren & Russell, McDowell Hetherington, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, Klenda Austerman, Troutman Pepper Locke, Hunton Andrews Kurth and Shook, Hardy & Bacon.

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