

Former Nuclear Commission GC Joins Morgan Lewis In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (September 15, 2025, 2:42 PM EDT) -- The former general counsel of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who spent nearly her entire career there in roles at the intersection of nuclear law and policy, has joined Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's Washington, D.C., office, the firm said Monday.

Brooke Poole Clark joined Morgan Lewis' energy and project development practice as a partner, the firm said in a statement, bringing with her almost 30 years of nuclear energy law and federal regulatory strategy experience. Clark's career at the NRC has included a number of leadership roles, including director of the Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication.



Brooke Poole Clark

At Morgan Lewis, Clark will focus on advising clients on regulatory compliance, strategic risk and administrative law matters. She's the second former NRC member to move this month, with K&L Gates LLP announcing last week it had hired Tison Campbell, who spent more than 19 years at the agency and most recently was assistant general counsel for legislation, ethics and administrative law.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse Monday, Clark said she's seen in the course of her career at the NRC how the "legal and regulatory constructs work together, and how they have to adapt to meet the pace of innovation and energy demand."

"We're at a very interesting moment for nuclear energy," Clark said. "I've known the team here at Morgan Lewis for a long time. It's an exceptional team. I look forward to leveraging my experience as we move forward."

As director of the NRC's appellate adjudication office, Clark advised on over 175 adjudicatory decisions and helped guide the agency through medical radioisotope facility applications, and mandatory reactor license hearings, the firm said.

Expediting that and other NRC processes has been a focus for the Trump administration, with President Donald Trump signing several executive orders months earlier, intended to drive change in the U.S. nuclear energy industry.

Those and other executive orders issued by the president look to rescind and attach expiration dates to

energy regulations "to the extent permitted by law."

"The president has set a very ambitious nuclear energy agenda, and it's a very exciting time for nuclear, in new licensing, work going on with the operating fleet to power data centers, and commercial and industrial uses," Clark said. "It's just the best time to come here and be able to support that effort in a new way."

The NRC is currently developing a direct final rule that could potentially speed up that sunset process, which it is aiming to issue by the Sept. 30 deadline set in an April executive order.

"I am confident that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its exceptional staff are going to meet the moment," Clark said.

Simultaneously, Trump has taken a direct hand in shaping the leadership at several independent agencies, including the NRC — firing leaders from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Federal Labor Relations Authority, who have responded with lawsuits challenging that executive authority.

Christopher Hanson, former NRC chairman and commissioner, said in June that Trump fired him illegally. Hanson was notified via email that White House officials were terminating his employment immediately. His departure left the NRC split evenly between two Republican members and two Democratic members until Commissioner Annie Caputo, a Republican, resigned in July.

In August, Democratic members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, in a letter to Energy Secretary Chris Wright, expressed concern that Energy Department members had been pushing for senior NRC staff to leave their positions, including the general counsel.

Clark declined to comment on whether she'd been pressured to leave her post, saying she was more focused on looking forward to "an exciting next chapter" in her new role.

Clark joined the NRC as a counsel to then-Chairman Nils Diaz in 2004, and the firm noted she also worked as a counsel to former Chair Dale Klein. Before that, she was a Winston & Strawn LLP associate.

A graduate of George Washington University Law School, Clark worked on a number of high profile issues, including spent nuclear fuel storage and transportation, according to her LinkedIn profile. She also helped guide the NRC's COVID-19 task force, the firm said.

For Clark, her nearly three decades with the NRC were a way to continue doing the interesting work she's dedicated her entire career to. That included working on exciting developments in reactors, and with types of subsequent license renewals — a relatively new issue when Clark first started, she said.

"It's an exciting time now, because I think the regulatory and legal landscape is very interesting," she said. "You're always, always learning in nuclear, and there is no better place to continue that learning than here, I think, because Morgan Lewis has a premier energy practice that covers the whole spectrum."

Jami McKeon, the firm's chair, said in a statement that Clark's addition is part of the firm's strategy to enhance its bench, "as the nuclear sector regains global momentum."

"Brooke's command of NRC processes, depth of experience, and ability to navigate regulatory complexity will be critical assets as companies pursue emerging opportunities in nuclear energy, data centers, and other transformative infrastructure projects," McKeon said in a statement.

Elizabeth Hanigan, who leads the firm's energy and project development practice, said Clark's "institutional knowledge, strategic mindset, and industry credibility will strengthen a practice that is distinctive among firms of our size, enhancing how we partner with clients on complex regulatory and transactional matters, especially as the sector enters a new phase of innovation and investment."

--Additional reporting by Juan-Carlos Rodriguez, Craig Clough and Keith Goldberg. Editing by Robert Rudinger.