



## Utsarga Bhattarai

Associate

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**Utsarga creatively resolves tough disputes for energy and natural resources clients, handles administrative and civil appeals, and helps clients navigate ever-changing regulations.**

Utsarga focuses on energy and environmental law. He guides clients through regulations impacting energy projects and royalty payments, strategically intervenes in rulemaking process on behalf of clients, litigates agency enforcement actions and orders, defends project approvals and, when necessary, challenges agency decisions in courts. He does all this with an eye towards creative, compelling, and persuasive advocacy and with the client's long-term business goals in mind.

Clients benefit from Utsarga's past work experience involving strategic counseling and collaborative problem solving on complex national and global issues, including supply chain sustainability, disaster response and recovery, and climate change policies.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Utsarga served as a judicial clerk for Justice Monica M. Márquez of the Colorado Supreme Court. During law school, Utsarga was a member of the Civil Litigation Clinic and an extern at the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

### EXPERIENCE

Utsarga provides effective representation to clients in energy and natural resources industries, including:

- Permitting and regulatory compliance
- Oil and gas royalty disputes
- Development of renewable energy projects
- Defense of energy development permits
- Appellate advocacy

### PUBLICATIONS

"BLM Rules, Policies and Practices Affecting Royalty on Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases," *The Foundation Journal for Natural Resources and Energy Law* VOLUME 61, NUMBER 2, 2024, Co-Author, December 2024

"BLM Finalized New Waste Prevention Rule – What Does it Mean for

### PRACTICES

Environmental  
Environmental Litigation  
Federal Lands Permitting  
State Government Affairs

### INDUSTRIES

Conventional Power  
Energy and Resources  
Mining  
Oil and Gas  
Oil and Gas Litigation  
Renewable Energy and Storage

### EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 2018  
Order of the Coif  
*Transportation Law Journal*, Technical Editor

Colorado College, B.A., 2012  
*cum laude*

Biology with distinction. Secondary Emphasis: Economics and International Affairs.

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Industry? , " *Holland & Hart Federal Lands Update*, April 1, 2024

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

"Environmental Issues in Solar Energy Projects," *Panelist, Strafford CLE Webinar*, March 27, 2025

"BLM Rules, Policies, and Practices Affecting Royalty Reporting and Payment Obligations," *The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law*, Houston, TX, April 25, 2024

### **RECOGNITION**

- LCLD, Pathfinder Atlas Award, 2024

### **PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**

- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Pathfinder, 2024
- South Asian Bar Association, Member