

JESSICA MELMS

PROFESSIONAL:

Attorney – Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP, Sacramento (2021 - present)

Assists small and renewable electric generating facilities in transactional and interconnection matters, battery energy storage systems, and microgrids. Advise independent generators, multi-jurisdictional utilities, and electric service providers on administrative law matters before the California Public Utilities Commission, California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO).

Law Clerk – California Independent System Operator (2020)

Drafted transmittal letters and tariff revisions to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to implement CAISO policy enhancements. Drafted research memoranda on complex energy issues, including resource adequacy, corporate governance, energy storage, distributed energy resources, FERC waiver policy, generation imports, and the California Public Utilities Code. Summarized stakeholder comments on policy initiatives; drafted responses addressing those comments for FERC transmittal letters.

Law Clerk – Somach Simmons and Dunn (2021)

Assisted attorneys in areas of water rights law, water quality, and land use law. Conducted research involving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Law Clerk – Abbott & Kindermann, Inc. (2019-2020)

Advised clients on land use law matters, specifically CEQA, NEPA, local compliance, development agreements, vesting tentative maps, and the Subdivision Map Act.

Student Intern – Congressman Garamendi (2016-2017)

Prepared the Congressman's visits, communicated with constituents by phone and mail regarding various issues before the House, and prepared documents for filing casework for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Assisted congressional staff by attending community meetings on behalf of the office, prepared policy reports, and reviewed case files for Service Academy nominations.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING AND PUBLICATIONS:

Writer for the Bar Association – Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources – Publish monthly articles on energy technologies, energy finance, tax structures, toxins, and brownfield cases in EPA Region 9.

PROFESSIONAL AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS:

State Bar of California, Environmental Law Section – current

Conference of California Public Utility Counsel – current

Association of Women in Water, Energy, and the Environment – current

California Women in Energy – current

EDUCATION:**J.D. McGeorge School of Law 2021**

Chicago Bar Association and UCLA Cyber Security Moot Court Team,
2020-2021

President of the Environmental Law Society

B.S. University of California, Davis, 2018

Environmental Policy, Analysis, and Planning with an emphasis in Policy