



Riley Nickel

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Riley helps developers secure the real estate and financing necessary for their energy portfolios to reach and maintain commercial operation.

Driven to work in a field where he could build tangible projects and see ideas reach fruition, Riley represents both small-scale and nationwide developers of wind, solar, and battery storage projects. Whether it be assisting with the financing of their portfolios and obtaining the site control necessary to reach interconnection thresholds or conducting due diligence to gear up for tax equity financing, Riley takes care to ensure that developers' portfolios are holistic, secure, and durable.

Riley's experience includes drafting and negotiating site control agreements, such as leases, easements, purchase options, and deeds; reviewing the financing documents necessary for clients to reach construction financing; analyzing and revising title policies and ALTA surveys; and researching and resolving state-specific legal issues. Clients rely on Riley to ensure that these crucial items are in place and financeable at the beginning of the project lifecycle, as well as throughout construction and tax equity financing, and trust him to resolve any issues that may arise.

Riley takes special pride in working on projects from the ground up, working hand in hand with developers and the Husch Blackwell team to bring a project from early siting and approval work all the way through to completed construction and generation. He understands the importance of these projects to both clients and the global community and has a reputation for providing clients with thorough and holistic representation. Riley's aim is to ensure he fully understands a client's

Industry

Energy & Natural Resources

Services

Corporate Real Estate

Energy Storage

Solar Energy

Wind Energy

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plans, needs, and goals, and he appreciates the importance of understanding the “why” behind a given solution: a solid grasp of a project’s context helps him provide fuller, truly actionable answers to the sometimes difficult and complex questions that can arise.

Experience

- Represented Swift Current Energy as project development counsel in the multi-year development and sale of the Steel River solar and storage project to Cypress Creek Renewables.
- Represented Swift Current Energy in closing a tax equity investment from Google for the Double Black Diamond Solar project, an 800 MWdc (593 MWac) facility in Illinois expected to be the largest solar project east of the Mississippi River and the second-largest single-phase solar project in the U.S.
- Assisted Arevon Energy in the closing of a \$500 million financing package for the 430 MW Kelso 1 & 2 Solar Projects in southeastern Missouri.
- Assisted Arevon Energy in the closing of financing for the 228 MW Posey Solar Project in Southern Indiana.

Education

- J.D., University of Kansas School of Law
 - Order of the Coif
 - Weigand Scholar
 - Kansas Law Review, Volume 69, Managing Editor
 - CALI Award: Federal Income Taxation, Conflict of Laws
- B.S., Kansas State University
 - Political Science