



## J. Ashley Cooper

Partner, Charleston Office Development Partner

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t 843.727.2674



Ashley Cooper chairs Parker Poe's Energy Industry Team and represents companies with energy interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and state utility commissions. He counsels energy clients on compliance with government regulations relating to electric reliability rules, Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) administration, generator interconnection processes, market manipulation rules, and transmission planning. As a former chief compliance officer, he regularly works with companies to design, implement, and manage their regulatory compliance programs. Ashley prepares clients for and represents clients during government audits and investigations. He works on a range of energy transactional matters from project development (including obtaining regulatory approval) to sales and purchases of energy to transmission offerings. He practices before federal and state commissions on contested proceedings, including interconnection and transmission service disputes, contract disputes, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), demand response, and distributed energy resources.

Prior to joining Parker Poe, Ashley served as chief compliance officer and assistant general counsel for a Fortune 500 energy-based holding company. He also served as legislative director and counsel to former U.S. Senator Ernest F. Hollings. In this role, Ashley was the senior advisor on all legislative, policy, and political matters and was the main resource for all energy, judiciary, and financial issues.

### REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advised clients on compliance with federal statutes and regulations and FERC orders and policy.
- Worked with clients on smart grid, transmission planning, and renewable generation policy and issues.
- Assisted clients in developing corporate compliance programs and program training and improvement.
- Experienced with energy transactional matters, including power purchase agreements, interconnection agreements, and 203 regulatory approval.



### CHARLESTON OFFICE



### PRACTICE AREAS

- Electric & Gas Utilities
- Government & Public Policy
- Litigation
- Renewable Energy
- Governance, Risk & Compliance
- Government Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Environmental



### EDUCATION

- University of South Carolina  
JD, 1997
- Clemson University  
BA, 1994



### ADMISSIONS

- South Carolina, 1997
- District of Columbia, 2013



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### CLIENT ALERTS

- "American Wind Energy Association Seeks Revisions to Generator Interconnection Rules ," July 2015
- "FERC Approves NV Energy Request to Join California Energy Imbalance Market," May 2015

### PUBLICATIONS

- "New FERC Cyber Rules May Push Companies to Revise Plans," Bloomberg Environment, August 2019
- "Tips For Solar Power Operators Facing Reliability Audits," Law360, June 2018

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Energy Storage and the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA)," E4 Carolinas, Summer 2019
- "Top 10 Legal Considerations - South Carolina," Moderator, 2016 Clean Energy CLE: Policy in the Southeast, February 2016

### HONORS

- *The Best Lawyers in America* in Energy Law, 2017-2021; Energy Regulatory Law, 2016-2021
- *Charleston Business Magazine's* Top Attorney in Energy & Utilities, 2020; "Legal Elite" in Government, 2018-2019, Energy & Utilities, 2020
- University of South Carolina Moot Court Competition winner

### MEMBERSHIPS

- Rutland Institute for Ethics at Clemson University, Board of Advisors, 2011-present
- Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital Fund, Advisory Board of Directors, 2007-present



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- Communities In Schools of South Carolina, Inc., Board of Directors, 2006-2008

