

Troutman Pepper Pipeline Attys Join Bracewell In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (June 28, 2022, 2:44 PM EDT) -- Two attorneys who focus on pipeline and liquefied natural gas safety have joined Bracewell LLP's Washington, D.C., office as partners, the firm announced Monday.

Catherine D. Little and Annie Cook join Bracewell after two years and five years, respectively, at Troutman Pepper, according to their LinkedIn profiles. The firm said their focus would remain on advising oil and gas companies on pipeline infrastructure, regulatory compliance as it relates to those projects, enforcement defense and incident response.

Gregory M. Bopp, the firm's managing partner, said in a statement that the firm was excited to welcome the new partners to its energy regulatory practice.

"They are highly respected practitioners who bring additional expertise to our preeminent pipeline practice, further solidifying our position as the market leader in regulatory, transactional and enforcement matters involving oil and natural gas pipelines," he said.

Little, who earned her law degree from Tulane University Law School, was a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP for over 25 years and helped co-found its pipeline practice group, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In 2017 she joined Troutman Sanders LLP, which merged in 2020 with Pepper Hamilton LLP to become Troutman Pepper.

Cook, an Emory Law School graduate, spent almost 14 years with Hunton & Williams before joining Troutman Pepper, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In emailed joint statements to Law360 Wednesday, both Cook and Little said their move to the firm comes as the industry faces a transitional moment.

"Our move to Bracewell comes at a pivotal time for the industry, with the convergence of environmental, pipeline safety, and energy transition issues," they said. "Bracewell is perfectly poised to help clients manage these issues successfully, including transportation by pipeline of more carbon-neutral products such as hydrogen and CO2."



Catherine D. Little



Annie Cook

Both Cook and Little also expanded on how essential oil and gas infrastructure was to helping meet American demand, and how their expertise would be essential to facilitating more of that infrastructure.

"This country needs oil and gas infrastructure to meet demand in the US and globally," they said. "Whether it is new or old infrastructure, managing pipeline and LNG safety issues is essential to the operations and maintenance of those critical facilities to protect the public and the environment. Our timing in joining Bracewell could not be better for our clients, given the breadth and depth that we offer."

Mark K. Lewis, who manages the firm's Washington office, said in a statement that the attorneys were good additions to the firm's leading pipeline team.

"Pipeline and LNG safety is a growing practice, with increased federal oversight and compliance requirements, including those for oil, natural gas, carbon dioxide and pipelines that move other products such as hydrogen," he said. "With Catherine and Annie's arrival, Bracewell's pipeline practice has expanded our expertise into a growing area of increasing importance to our clients."

Little said in a statement Monday the two of them were looking forward to continuing to build their practice at Bracewell.

"Bracewell has one of the top pipeline practices in the country," she said. "Annie and I are excited to join this highly regarded team. With colleagues in key locations such as Houston and Washington, D.C., we will be able to better serve our clients, including across practice areas, while providing added pipeline and LNG safety expertise to existing Bracewell clients."

In January, the firm promoted four attorneys in four offices who represent energy clients.

--Additional reporting by Jessica Corso. Editing by Alyssa Miller.