JENNA MONTESANO BURNS

Stahl, Sewell, Chavarria, Friend & Cohen, LLP
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Licensed to practice law in Texas, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

PRACTICE AREAS: Natural Resources & the Environment, Real Estate, Renewable Energy, Energy Storage

EXPERIENCE

Stahl, Sewell, Chavarria, Friend & Cohen, LLP | Renewable Energy Attorney (October 2023-present)

- Assist renewable energy clients with the real estate, regulatory, and permitting aspects of projects.
- Draft and negotiate site control documents including lease and easement agreements, purchase and sale agreements, and option agreements, and review title, survey, and other diligence review items.
- Guide clients through the regulatory process for renewable energy projects.
- Act as local counsel to renewable energy developer clients in loan and equity tax investment transactions, including issuing opinions letters and advising on transaction documents.

Jupiter Power | Senior Manager of Permitting & Legal Affairs (November 2020-April 2023)

- Developer and permitting specialist for a portfolio of energy storage projects from inception to pre-construction activities.
- Lead discretionary permitting strategy, including local-and state-level zoning and siting permits.
- Negotiated purchase and lease contracts, easements, license agreements, and tax agreements.
- Managed contract administration, survey, title review, Environmental Site Assessments, fatal flaw analyses, wetland delineations, and other site diligence activities across multiple projects.

City of New Haven, Connecticut | Deputy Director of Zoning (March 2019-November 2020)

- Responsible for zoning code administration and assisting the public and developers with zoning matters.
- Leading staff member to the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Planned legal and legislative programming to modernize the zoning ordinance in a manner consistent with the comprehensive plan, and authored several zoning text amendments.

Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP | Associate Attorney (August 2018-March 2019)

- Assisted developers and landowners in complex local permit applications such as zone changes, zoning text amendments, and signage and use variances.
- Represented lenders in real estate financing transactions and developers in commercial real estate transactions.

Shipman & Goodwin LLP | Associate Attorney (September 2016-August 2018)

- Represented corporate and real estate clients in purchase and lease transactions, and loan, refinancing, and recapitalization transactions.

EDUCATION

University of Connecticut School of Law, Juris Doctor with honors (May 2016)

- Terry J. Tondro Student Prize for Excellence in the Study of Land Use
- CONNECTICUT JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, VOL. 31, Managing Editor
- Guardian ad litem, The Children's Law Center of Hartford, Connecticut (Spring 2016)

Dickinson College, B.A. in Political Science (May 2012)