

Michael S. Heard Snow

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Michael Heard Snow is an associate in the firm's Policy and Regulatory practice focusing on how people interact with, and power activities in extreme environments and areas beyond national jurisdiction such as the Arctic, the high seas, deep sea, and outer space. His practice includes advising clients on all aspects of permitting, regulatory, and environmental requirements for activities in these areas including, novel space technologies, nuclear maritime shipping, Bering Sea fishing, geoengineering, and coastal zone management.

Before joining the firm, Michael worked as an attorney-advisor for the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), completing rotations in the Enforcement, Oceans and Coasts, and Environmental Review and Coordination Sections of NOAA General Counsel. In this position, he served as the staff lead on environmental issues to the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office (CRSRA), participated in a complete overhaul of NOAA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, and implemented NOAA General Counsel's delegated authority as a NOAA civil prosecutor. Before joining NOAA, Michael served as a project manager in the Maritime Administration's Deepwater Ports office, where he was responsible for advising on large-scale deepwater infrastructure projects.

Michael began his legal career as a John A. Knauss Sea Grant College Fellow placed with the US Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS), a Cabinet-level interagency coordinating committee chaired by the Secretary of Transportation. He subsequently served as a Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the CMTS where he led cross-government teams developing policy on offshore energy, Arctic marine transportation, and innovative science and technology. His teams developed the first national guidance on responding to offshore munitions and explosives of concern, helped finalize the 10-year National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR), and regularly engaged with Congress, industry, and the public in order to improve federal policies that impact the marine transportation system.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

In addition to being 2022 alumnus of the Rhodes Academy of Ocean Law and Policy, Michael was classically trained as a marine biologist. Michael has worked in oceans around the world, including fisheries management in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, performing coral reef surveys in the Indian Ocean, studying marine protected

areas in the North Sea, and serving as a member of the first interdisciplinary oceanographic expedition to Phoenix Islands Archipelago in the Republic of Kiribati.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Board of Directors, D.C. LGBTQ+ Bar Association

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “What you need to know: National Guidance for Responding to Munitions and Explosives of Concern in Federal Waters,” International Partnering Forum, April 2024

EDUCATION

- J.D., William and Mary School of Law, 2021
- M.Sc., University of Edinburgh, 2016 *(Derek and Maureen Moss Scholar)*
- B.S., Northeastern University, 2015

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of New Mexico

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- October 2026, Recent Developments in New York's Nuclear Power Industry, *Environmental Law in New York*
- 21 September 2026, United States Opens a New Chapter in Civil Nuclear Cooperation With the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 26 August 2026, Navigating Nuclear: From Atoms for Peace to a New Course for Commercial Nuclear Shipping Under ATLAS
- 24 August 2026, Office of Space Commerce Opens Pilot for Novel Space Mission Authorizations
- 18 August 2026, There Is "Reasonable Potential" To See PFAS in Your Next NPDES Permit
- 27 July 2026, Navigating Nuclear: Streamlined NEPA Proposed Rules Add Complexity for Near Term Reactor Developer Applicants
- 7 July 2026 , Navigating Nuclear: A Leading Light for Nuclear Maritime Applications
- 22 June 2026, Navigating Nuclear: Updates in New York

- 15 June 2026, Navigating Nuclear: New York and New Jersey
- 8 May 2026, Navigating Nuclear: New Nuclear Regulations Expand Opportunities for Foreign Ownership and Investment
- 16 April 2026, Navigating Nuclear: White House Launches National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power
- 15 April 2026, Navigating Nuclear: Historic Funding Opportunities in Texas
- 9 April 2026, The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request: A Historic Investment in US Maritime Dominance
- 31 March 2026, Navigating Nuclear: Highlights From NRC's 2026 Regulatory Information Conference
- 27 March 2026, Office of Space Commerce Releases Updated Mission Authorization Proposal for Novel Space Activities
- 24 March 2026 , Foreign Vessels Operating Under the Jones Act Waiver Should Consider What Other US Laws May Apply
- 9 March 2026, Pressure to succeed: Small modular (nuclear) reactor approvals on the horizon?, *American Bar Association*
- 25 February 2026, White House Releases Plan to "Restore America's Maritime Dominance"
- 24 February 2026, Paradigm Shift in Environmental Review of Deepwater Ports 50 Years in the Making
- 9 January 2026, Race for Space Superiority: Trump Administration Continues Sweeping Space Policy Changes
- 10 December 2025, Office of Space Commerce Seeks Industry Input on Revolutionizing the US Mission Authorization Process
- 8 December 2025, "Waters of the United States" Once Again in Flux
- 13 October 2025, Litigation Minute: A Year After Loper Bright Part II: States Follow Suit
- 1 October 2025, First-Ever Fisheries Subsidies Agreement Enters Into Force at the World Trade Organization
- 17 September 2025, "Enhancing American Greatness in Space": President Trump Signs Executive Order to Expand the Domestic Commercial Space Industry
- 2 September 2025, Angling for New Ideas: NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on Boosting American Seafood Competitiveness
- 25 August 2025, Department of the Interior Issues Flurry of Actions Targeting Wind and Solar Energy Projects

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Too Little, Too Late: Congress' Attempt to Regulate Forever Chemicals Through Military Appropriations,” W*illiam & Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review*, 2020

- "An Emerging Contaminant of (Legal) Concern: PFAS Legal Issues at the State and Federal Level," *Virginia Coastal Policy Center*, 2020
- "Planning for Managed Retreat: Moving in a New Direction," *Virginia Coastal Policy Center*, 2020

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environment and Energy
- Administrative and Regulatory Law
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Maritime Compliance
- Maritime Regulatory

INDUSTRIES

- Critical Minerals
- Energy
- Maritime
- Mining, Minerals, and Metals
- Nuclear Energy
- Offshore Construction
- Offshore Wind Energy
- Power
- Renewables
- Transportation and Logistics