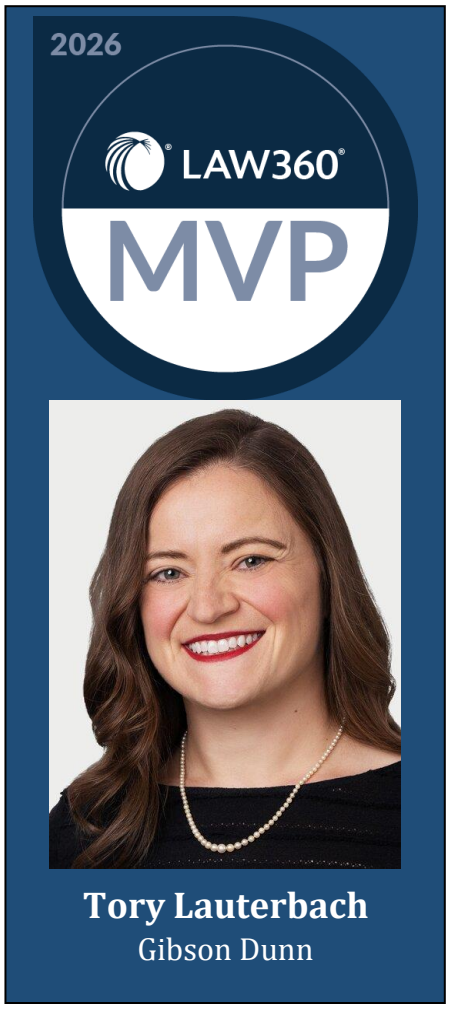
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MVP: Gibson Dunn's Tory Lauterbach

By **Keith Goldberg**



Law360 (November 19, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Tory Lauterbach of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP's energy regulatory work helped secure the needed electricity to power several large-scale data center projects, earning her a spot among the 2026 Law360 Energy MVPs.

Why she became an energy regulatory attorney:

A philosophy major in college, Lauterbach said she's always loved solving problems, which helped point her toward a career in law.

"I loved learning about how logical puzzles fit together, make sense, and help us solve all types of problems," Lauterbach said.

What attracted Lauterbach to energy law was the ability to solve legal problems related to building infrastructure that resolves global problems — namely, the need for more energy. She also wanted to live in Washington, D.C., which made energy regulation an ideal fit.

"I didn't necessarily want to be in the kind of field where I could be working on health insurance one day and then credit card fraud the next," Lauterbach said. "I kind of wanted to become an expert in a subject matter area, and it just seemed like energy was something I was really interested in, and it seemed to have real social importance to our economy and to the world."

What motivates her:

Lauterbach said she relishes every time a client calls her and says, "I want to do this big thing."

That client may have an idea of how to make their energy project happen from a commercial standpoint, but may be struggling with how to ensure that it's legally viable, and that's what drives Lauterbach in her work, she said.

"I do really get jazzed about that big problem-solving piece," Lauterbach said.

Lauterbach said that while she comes for the work of getting energy projects to the finish line, she stays for the people working on those projects. That includes her clients, their in-house legal departments, and her Gibson Dunn colleagues.

"You build camaraderie with the people that you are addressing these challenges with," Lauterbach said. "Then you work on it together, and then you're really jazzed to work on the next thing together."

Notable deals she's worked on:

Lauterbach served as the lead energy regulatory and development counsel for Vantage Data Centers, helping the data center developer secure more than 2 gigawatts of electricity generation to supply its $25 billion Frontier campus being built in Texas and its $15 billion Lighthouse campus in Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin and Texas have completely different regulatory regimes, and they also have different energy demands," Lauterbach said. "Being able to create a commercial energy solution that works in two wildly different jurisdictions was an honor, a privilege and a challenge."

Lauterbach also handled the energy regulatory work for ACS Group in its joint venture with Global Infrastructure Partners to develop 1.7 gigawatts of data center facilities in the U.S., Europe and Australia. And she represented Ardian in the nearly $1 billion sale of a gas-fired power plant in Pennsylvania to fellow private equity firm Blackstone in September 2025.

Her advice to younger attorneys:

Lauterbach, who co-chairs Gibson Dunn's energy regulation and litigation practice group, said because she decided to pursue energy law so early in her career, it's allowed her to do multiple things within that space, from litigating cases before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to negotiating power supply agreements, and even doing appellate work.

Younger attorneys need to be very thoughtful about what area of law they want to pursue, Lauterbach said. Once they choose the area, they need to find the mentors, colleagues and clients that share their enthusiasm, she said.

"There's a lot of different ways to have an exciting career," Lauterbach said. "But if you look for the thing that lights up your brain, and then really seek to do that thing with a team that is also excited about the work and that lifts up the work and that lifts you up, it's really a key to success."

--As told to Keith Goldberg. Editing by Amy Rowe.

Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 1,000 submissions.

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