

Rising Star: Kelley Drye's Wayne D'Angelo

By **Sean McLernon**

Law360, New York (April 14, 2014, 4:31 PM ET) -- Kelley Drye & Warren LLP special counsel Wayne D'Angelo led several major industry challenges to federal regulatory decisions, including a successful campaign blocking an endangered species listing in the Gulf of Mexico, securing a place among five young environmental lawyers recognized by Law360.

D'Angelo has established himself as an attorney who can make sure that industry views are heard loud and clear by lawmakers. He has headed high-profile efforts against major rulemakings eyed closely by the oil and gas industry, from the revised social cost of carbon estimate to proposed species protections.

When the federal government considered a petition to list the sperm whale as endangered in the Gulf of Mexico, D'Angelo worked with a coalition of 19 different trade associations. It meant that the 39-year-old D'Angelo had to deal with 19 different editors looking to add their own input.

With all those different voices expressing several distinct interests, D'Angelo worked with all parties to figure out the most important issues at stake as he developed comments to submit to the federal government, ultimately saving the industry from additional restrictions.

Building broad multi-industry coalitions means figuring out the core premises and the core critiques held by everyone, according to D'Angelo.

"It will always be the case that a multitude of different organizations have multiple interests, you just have to lay them out and figure out the intersection of the interests that are commonly held," D'Angelo said.

D'Angelo is well-suited to the task, having been at the other side of the table. As a former counsel to the American Petroleum Institute, he remembers what trade associations find desirable when they bring in outside counsel.

"Fundamentally, you need to make the client's life easier," D'Angelo said.

That means communicating well, getting your bills in when you are asked to and staying within established budgets — all in the service of delivering a positive result.

Those skills have led more and more industry groups to bring in D'Angelo to represent them during the rulemaking process. D'Angelo coordinates efforts from Kelley Drye's legal, government relations and

economic teams as well as other specialists to make sure the submissions resonate.

“What we do here better than most is we effectively integrate policy, law and science,” D'Angelo said. “For the sperm whale and a lot of these other species, I'm working with our fisheries practice and consultants that we use, formerly high-level appointees and personnel.”

This past year alone D'Angelo led an industry coalition challenging the Office of Management and Budget's social cost of carbon estimate and multiple advocacy efforts against proposed listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act, including an omnibus listing of 66 species of coral.

Currently, D'Angelo is working on petitions from industry coalitions in support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's proposal to delist the dunes sagebrush lizard and in opposition to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's proposal to lower exposure limits for silica used during the hydraulic fracturing process.

D'Angelo's ability to see the big picture has allowed him to stand out, according to Kelley Drye's environmental law practice chairman William M. Guerry Jr.

“He has been able to connect the dots and pull together multidimensional strategic approaches that are based in public policy and compelling science with well-supported arguments,” Guerry said.

Combining his affability and charm with an intense drive to succeed, D'Angelo finds a way to bring everybody to the table and make sure they are happy in the end.

“Wayne is relentless in his advocacy work,” Guerry said. “It never ends. He's determined to win at everything he does.”

--Editing by John Quinn.