

Laura Prather in The Intercept

December 20, 2022 Laura Prather

PRACTICES Media Entertainment and Sports, Anti-SLAPP and First Amendment Rights, Media and Entertainment Litigation

Haynes Boone Partner [Laura Prather](#) was featured in an article in *The Intercept*. Below is an excerpt:

Around 2012, Greenpeace and other environmental groups launched a protest campaign against Resolute Forest Products, accusing the forestry company of destroying boreal forests in Canada. Several years later, Greenpeace and others began another campaign targeting Energy Transfer Partners (now part of Energy Transfer LP), the company behind the Dakota Access pipeline. This campaign charged, among other things, that the company was threatening Indigenous communities' water supply and sacred sites. Greenpeace and its allies rallied their members, drove media coverage, and urged the companies' business partners to sever ties unless the companies changed course.

The two companies filed RICO charges against Greenpeace and the other groups in 2016 and 2017. ...

Laura Lee Prather, a partner at Haynes Boone who specializes in First Amendment law, said civil RICO claims often lead to extended litigation because they depend heavily on the facts of the case. Defamation charges can be thrown out if the defendant can affirmatively show their statements were true. By contrast, a civil RICO claim usually requires a more complex defense.

"Civil RICO is much more difficult to have a court feel comfortable dismissing at any early stage," Prather said.

Excerpted from *The Intercept*. To read the full article, [click here](#).