

Steven C. Sparling

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Steven Sparling is a partner in the firm's Energy Assets and Transactions practice group. He has a comprehensive understanding of the global renewable fuel, LNG, and oil industries—legal, operational, and commercial. He has represented clients in connection with the strategic assessment, project development, and optimization of over 50 projects in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Prior to practicing law, Steven served as an officer in the US Navy aboard the USS Barry (DDG 52).

In addition, he works proactively to advise on offshore wind projects, charterparties, marine operations, marine services agreements, tug services agreements, risk management and liability issues, safety and oil spill preparedness, as well as compliance matters involving Jones Act requirements.

His clients include national oil companies, international oil companies, oil and gas marketers, utilities, multinational power companies, financial institutions, project developers, project operators, and shipping companies.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Steven was a member of the energy and environmental practice group at a Washington, DC law firm. Prior to practicing law, he served as an officer in the US Navy aboard the USS Barry (DDG 52).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA:*
  - Offshore Energy, USA - Nationwide, 2026
  - Projects: LNG, USA - Nationwide, 2026
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Energy Law in Washington, DC, 2016-2027
- Named to The Lawdragon 500 Global Leaders in Energy, 2026
- Named to The Lawdragon 500 Leading Energy Lawyers list, 2024, 2025

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Association of International Energy Negotiators
- Member, Society of Petroleum Engineers

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, “A fireside chat on N American LNG development with K&L Gates,” GS Energy Series, Teleconference, 18 July 2022
- Speaker, “LNG and U.S. Trade Developments,” Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Teleconference, 20 April 2018
- Speaker, “Contracts and Offtake Agreements: A Legal View,” Bank of America Merrill Lynch U.S. LNG Prospects Conference, New York, 9 March 2018
- Speaker, “US Infrastructure Cooperation | US Energy / Infrastructure Investment Opportunities Analysis,” Beijing, 18 April 2017
- Speaker, “LNG Shipping & Spot Marketing,” New York, 22 June 2016
- Speaker, “Taming Price Review Clauses: Lessons from the Transactional and Arbitration Battlefields,” LNG18, 15 April 2016
- Speaker, “EPC Contracting Issues in the Oil & Gas Industry,” Houston, 2 November 2015
- Speaker and Moderator, International Oil and Gas Seminar, 21 October 2014
- Speaker, Workshop on Structuring, Negotiating and Managing LNG Projects, Tanzania, 13 October 2014
- Speaker, Seoul LNG Seminar, 25 March 2014
- Speaker, Tokyo LNG Seminar, 10 September 2013
- Speaker, “US LNG Exports – Impacts on Alaska and Beyond” K&L Gates Second Annual Alaska Oil & Gas Conference, 10 July 2013
- Speaker, “Europe at a Crossroads: What does the Future Hold for European LNG?” 13th Annual World LNG Summit, 27-30 November 2012
- Speaker, “Floating LNG: Commercial and Technical Drivers for Liquefaction and Regas Projects,” 12th Annual World LNG Summit, 14-17 November 2011
- Speaker, “New Directions in Liquefaction, from the LNG 'Hub' to Offshore Liquefaction,” 2011 Offshore Asia Conference, 29-31 March 2011
- Speaker, “Multiple User LNG Terminal Insights” CWC World LNG Summit, 29 November - 2 December 2010

- Chair, “Global LNG Suppliers Speak Out: Last Resort or Saving Grace? – Supply to the Americas Panel,” and Speaker, “Commercial and Operational Challenges of Floating Liquefaction and LNG Regasification Workshop,” LNG Americas Summit, 16-18 March 2010

EDUCATION

- J.D., George Mason University School of Law, 2000 *(magna cum laude)*
- B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1990

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of New York
- Bar of Texas

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 November 2025, European Union Adopts 19th Package of Sanctions Against Russia
- 15 July 2024, Energy Practitioners Publish Chapter on LNG Arbitration in Global Arbitration Review's Guide to Energy Arbitrations, 7th Edition
- 12 September 2023, LNG by Rail Rule Suspension
- June 2023, Arbitration World
- 10 December 2020, Takeaways for Liquid Hydrogen From the Global Liquefied Natural Gas Trade
- 2 December 2020, Takeaways for Liquid Hydrogen From the Global Liquefied Natural Gas Trade
- 9 July 2018, Do You Clearly See What's Coming?
- 14 September 2017, Japan's Competition Regulator Questions LNG Destination Clauses
- 5 August 2016, Regulation on Wholesale Energy Markets Integrity and Transparency - Are You REMIT Compliant?
- 26 February 2016, The European Commission Approves an Energy Security Package Emphasizing Infrastructure Development and LNG Imports
- 2 November 2015, EPC Contracting Issues in the Oil & Gas Industry
- 23 September 2013, LNG: A Global and U.S. Perspective

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Author, “LNG Project Challenges: Construction and Operational Disputes,” *Institute for Energy Law 76th Annual Energy Law Conference*, February 2025
- Contributor, "LNG Arbitrations" in “The Guide to Energy Arbitrations – Fifth Edition,” *Global Arbitration Review (GAR),* August 2022
- “The European Commission Approves an Energy Security Package Emphasizing Infrastructure Development and LNG Imports,” *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, May 2016
- “Taming Price Review Clauses: Lessons from the Transactional and Arbitration Battlefields,” *LNG18*, April 2016
- Ocean Tanker Transport in 8 Energy Law and Transactions ch. 86 (David J. Muchow & William A. Mogel eds.), 2014
- Co-author, “Marine CNG Opens Alternate Production, Delivery Options,” *Oil & Gas Journal, 23* February 2009
- Author, “LNG Firms Struggle With Investments in Volatile Market,” *Oil & Gas Journal,* 18 December 2008
- Co-author, “Successful European Terminal Projects Must Run Regulatory, Commercial Gauntlets,” *LNG Observer,* April/June 2007
- Co-author, “Criteria Regs Reduce NIMBY Safety Fears,” *Oil & Gas Journal,* 11 September 2006

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 21 December 2022, K&L Gates Adds Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources Partner in Washington, D.C.
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 24 May 2022, K&L Gates Adds Four-Partner, Multi-Office Premier Renewable Energy Team
- 25 April 2022, K&L Gates Adds Maritime Lawyer in Houston
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 24 June 2021, Legal 500 Recognizes K&L Gates' Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources Practice Among Leaders in the 2021 United States Guide
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates' Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources Practice, Lawyers Named Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 20 August 2020, U.S. Energy Storage Association Recognizes K&L Gates with Brad Roberts Outstanding Industry Achievement Award

- 10 July 2020, K&L Gates Energy, Infrastructure and Resources Practice Ranked by The Legal 500 United States 2020 Guide in Eight Categories with 28 Lawyers Recommended

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy Assets and Transactions
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Internal Investigations
- Maritime Compliance
- Maritime Transactions and Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Hydrogen
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Maritime
- Offshore Construction
- Offshore Wind Energy
- Oil and Gas
- Power
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Strategy

- Developing renewable fuel and LNG strategy options for oil and gas companies, project developers, and financial institutions.
- Analyzing and advising major concerns on the viability of renewable fuel and LNG projects in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe.
- Advising state and national government officers on LNG project development.

Project Development

- Advising a shipping company and a project developer on the renewable fuel projects in the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe.
- Advising oil and gas companies, financial institutions, utilities, shipping companies, and project developers on large and small scale LNG liquefaction projects in Africa, Australia, Europe, and North America.
- Counseling project developers, oil and gas companies, shipping companies, trading companies, and utilities on the development of onshore and offshore regasification terminal projects in the Americas and Europe, including site assessments, waterway suitability, environmental issues, regulatory processes, and commercial agreements.
- Counseling project developers on renewable fuel and LNG delivery systems and operations.
- Advising shipping companies, a cruise ship company, and a bunker fuel company on small-scale LNG and LNG bunkering projects, including regulatory requirements.
- Counseling major companies on LNG liquefaction and regasification terminal safety, security, and operations.
- Developing LNG stakeholder engagement strategies for major concerns.
- Advising project developers and terminal users on LNG liquefaction and regasification terminal services agreements.
- Advising project developers on US offshore wind projects.

Terminal Access

- Negotiating and drafting terminal use, refining and throughput agreements for European and North American LNG, LPG and oil terminals for IOCs, NOCs, shipping companies, trading companies, financial institutions, utilities, and project developers.
- Advising major concerns on interruptible and third-party access to LNG terminals in the Americas, Asia, and Europe.
- Counseling major concerns on rights and obligations under governing regulations, contracts, settlements, and terminal procedures.
- Advising major concerns on LPG, crude oil, and oil product terminal agreements.

Supply and Services Agreements

- Negotiating and drafting over 250 master, long-term and short-term green methanol, green ammonia, blue ammonia, CNG, LNG, LPG, oil and products sales, and purchase agreements for buyers and sellers.
- Acting as internal counsel for LNG trading groups at an integrated energy company and two trading companies.
- Leading workshops to train commercial teams at IOCs, NOCs, financial institutions, trading companies, utilities, and end-users on sale and purchase agreements.

- Negotiating and drafting onshore and offshore oil field, LNG, LPG, and wind services contracts for major concerns.
- Advising major concerns on LNG price review clauses and arbitrations.

Multiple Shipper

- Analyzing and modeling multiple-user terminal operations for major concerns.
- Negotiating and implementing complex intershipper agreements that address LNG vessel schedules, inventory management, as well as storage and send-out coordination.
- Developing multiple shipper vessel scheduling procedures.

Marine

- Drafting and negotiating bareboat, time and voyage charterparties for turbine installation vessels as well as LNG, LPG, crude oil, and product tankers.
- Advising master limited partnership on the acquisition of an inland marine business.
- Counseling major concerns about LNG, oil and products, lightering, and barging.
- Negotiating and drafting tug services and cost-sharing agreements at numerous LNG terminals.
- Drafting marine operations manuals at 5 LNG terminals for import and export operations.
- Advising major concerns on the coordination of shipping schedules and operations at Asian, European, and North American LNG terminals.

Emergency Response

- Acted as the lead counsel for the internal investigation team at an offshore drilling contractor regarding a 2010 oil spill in the US Gulf of Mexico.
- Advising a shipping company on a terminal oil spill and a marine spill, and serving as part of its emergency response team.
- Advising a global commodities trading company and serving as part of its emergency response team for several marine oil spills.
- Drafting emergency response plans for a national oil company, commodities traders, and a New England state for oil, oil products, LPG and LNG, stored and transported, both onshore and offshore.
- Preparing and executing tabletop exercises and day-long incident drills for oil companies, commodities traders, and ship operators.

Safety and Security

- Advising a New England governor and state agencies concerning LNG issues, including state emergency response plans, consequence assessments, FERC proceedings, and US Coast Guard evaluation of safety and security.

- Representing LNG terminal stakeholders in US Coast Guard procedures to develop safety and security plans for numerous US LNG terminals.