

Robert H. George

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Robert George is a partner and a member of the firm's Corporate practice area. He focuses his US and cross-border transactional practice on: (1) development and financing of energy and infrastructure projects; (2) trading of financial products (including claims) and commodities; (3) mergers, acquisitions and divestitures; and (4) structured finance projects, prepayments and securitizations of financial and other income generating assets. Robert has substantial experience in structuring and negotiating cross-border projects and transactions in emerging markets, with particular knowledge on projects in Mexico, South America, and Central America.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Robert was corporate and finance partner and served as managing partner for the Houston office of an international law firm where he advised public, private and state-owned clients on a variety of complex legal issues. He started his career as outside counsel to some of the largest banks with exposure to the troubled real estate and energy sectors in the late 80's and, as a result, has extensive experience in advising parties in distressed situations, both in and out of bankruptcy. He then accepted an opportunity to move abroad to advise his clients in the energy sector on the legal issues related to several billion dollars in international and domestic assets, primarily in Brazil and other parts of South America. After returning to the U.S., he spent five years as the chief legal officer for an internal investment business managing a portfolio of commodities, derivatives, securities and other financial assets for Koch Industries, Inc., one of the largest private companies in the United States. There, among other things, he supervised the trading of commodities and financial products, the creation and operation of a $300 million privately-placed derivatives product company, including the negotiations with both S&P and Moody's to obtain the required AAA/Aaa ratings, the creation of a $1.2 billion special purpose vehicle to hold financial investments and a private placement of over $1 billion in rated debt to third parties. He subsequently took his experience gained as in-house counsel and returned to private practice where he uses that experience to provide his current clients with practical advice on legal issues impacting their domestic and international businesses.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Securitization and Structured Finance Law in Houston, 2023-2024
- Recognized by Latin Lawyer as among the best 250 for international Energy practice, 2018 and several prior years
- Recognized for work on one of the largest Mexican infrastructure projects in recent history, which was awarded the Project Finance Project of the Year by Latin Lawyer, 2014

LANGUAGES

Extensive experience reviewing and negotiating contracts executed in both Spanish and Portuguese.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce
- AIPN - Association of International Petroleum Negotiators

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Presenter, “The Changing Face of National Oil Companies: Trends and Issues Unique to this Segment of the Energy Sector,” International Upstream Energy Transactions, UT Law CLE, Houston, January 2011
- Moderator/Presenter, “Energy & Renewable Energy,” Latin American Trade and Investment Association's Latin American Investment Forum, London, March 2011

EDUCATION

- B.A., The University of Texas at Austin
- J.D., The University of Texas School of Law

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Texas
- Foreign Legal Consultant, São Paulo, Brazilian Bar Association
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

LANGUAGES

- Portuguese
- Spanish

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Texas Power Report Falls Short On Winter Risks, Other Issues," *Law360*, 7 December 2022

NEWS & EVENTS

- 5 March 2026, K&L Gates Advises Peoria Resources in Acquisition of Oil and Gas Hedge Portfolio
- 1 April 2025, K&L Gates Represents JAPEX in Equity Investment in E&P Peoria
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 17 August 2020, K&L Gates Advises Tokyo Gas America on Two Acquisitions
- 2 July 2018, K&L Gates Boosts Power Practice with Two-Lawyer Houston Addition

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, "Matrix Renewables signs purchase agreement with Hyundai Motor Group for Texas solar project," *BIC Magazine*, 1 May 2024

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy Assets and Transactions
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Project Funding
- Energy Disputes
- Energy Finance
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Restructuring and Insolvency

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

- Hydrogen
- Offshore Construction
- Offshore Wind Energy
- Oil and Gas
- Power
- Power Generation and Transmission
- Utilities

EMERGING ISSUES

- Data Centers and Energy Intensive Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Assisting a private equity fund investing in commercial real estate projects in various locations throughout Latin America.
- Advising a recognized US hospital network in connection with a proposed co-branded cancer program in Brazil.
- Representing an Irish insurance company to provide equity and debt capital to a new insurance business in the US.
- Negotiating and documenting the purchase of several hundred million in debt issued by an electricity distribution company at a discount as part of an overall balance sheet restructuring.
- Overseeing a trading business with several billion in assets under management and trading in a variety of financial and physical assets.
- Providing legal oversight related to the creation and issuance of a CDO holding more than a $1 billion in synthetic assets.
- Advising a US multinational conglomerate as the first non-bank to create and operate a $300 million privately-placed derivatives product company.
- Representing a foreign-owned oil refiner with the redemption and conversion of over US$500 million in outstanding bonds in connection with a US$2 billion re-financing.
- Advising a bond issuer in connection with a tender offer for approximately US$350 million in bonds secured by certain assets of a large US refiner and the eventual conversion of these bonds.

- Advising US-based national product retailer and other clients in connection with the preparation and implementation of the Dodd-Frank requirements and various internal policies associated with these requirements.
- Advising trading funds and commodity business in commodity swaps and hedges and the documentation of these trades.
- Advising an investment fund in the acquisition of claims against an American exploration and production company arising under an indenture which required the payment of a prepayment premium which the exploration and production company contested all the way to the US Supreme Court.
- Advising New York-based structured finance group in the acquisition of several million in claims held by banks in the bankruptcy of GTAT Inc.
- Advising a group of financial institutions and investment funds in the acquisition of the bankruptcy claims from Apple, Inc. secured by assets located in the US and abroad.
- Advising a multi-jurisdictional bank regarding various regulatory requirements for lending to businesses engaged in the gambling industry.
- Negotiating and documenting three commercial jet leases on behalf of a regional air carrier based in Mexico.
- Representing a chemical trading business to document a prepayment agreement with a distressed commodity supplier secured by assets located outside of the US.
- Negotiating and documenting a secured loan of over $100 million from a Brazilian bank group to a Brazil based manufacturer with operations and collateral in the US.
- Representing a multi-jurisdictional bank in connection with credit extensions in a local currency to a US owned business doing business in Latin America with the borrower providing credit support in the US.
- Advising a multi-jurisdictional bank with respect to letters of credit issued in support of Latin American based customers doing business internationally.
- Advising the bankruptcy estate of Lehman Brothers in the enforcement and eventual sale of its subordinated debt holdings in a real estate portfolio securing the subordinated debt.
- Negotiating and documenting a $40 million credit facility provided by affiliates of a multinational commodity trading and mining company to a bankrupt owner of a refinery which produced aluminum oxide from bauxite ore.
- Representing a financial institution in the enforcement of its rights as the owner of credit-linked notes secured by a credit default swap initially covering a portfolio of loans of more than €2.9 billion to Italian, German, and Spanish borrowers.
- Advising a non-profit loan fund restructuring an existing loan facility and extending secured loans in the US and Brazil, including a facility for the construction of new facilities in Brazil.

- Advising a multi-jurisdictional bank on its participation in a new fintech platform for the purchase and sale of receivables.
- Negotiating shareholder, joint venture, shared control, or management agreements for several billion in assets domestically and abroad.
- Advising on the purchase of a controlling stake in a large electricity distribution business for in excess of $1 billion.
- Advising on the purchase of large ownership stakes in several gas distribution businesses, including controlling and non-controlling stakes.
- Providing legal support in the merger of a public electricity distributor into a privately held business as part of a restructuring of the company's debt and equity, including the regulatory approvals for the transaction.
- Advising on a public tender for the outstanding equity interests of a large electricity distributor involving several hundred million dollars.
- Advising on the divestitures of international energy assets worth several billion dollars to numerous parties.
- Negotiating and documenting the sale of a large gas-fired power plant to a domestic industrial competitor.
- Advising the client on the development, construction, IADB financing, and eventual two-part sale of a power plant while under construction and the regulatory approvals related to the project.
- Representing an international natural gas major in the acquisition of deep-water drilling rigs auctioned by the rig construction companies after payment defaults by the drilling contractor on the construction contracts.
- Advising a global producer and marketer of bio-based chemicals and specialty polymers in connection with the attempted purchase of styrene production assets located inside the fence of an existing chemical plant owned by a joint venture between two other.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational commodity trading and mining company in connection with a purchase of a commodity refining business with an estimated enterprise value of $1 billion.
- Representing an international power generator in the expansion of an existing power cogeneration facility in Mexico, including the negotiation of a US law governed construction contract.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational commodity trading and mining company in connection with a tolling agreement for the production of refined products and a related terminalling agreement.
- Representing the owners of several crude oil refineries in the attempted sale of the holding company to a host of different private and state-owned parties.
- Representing a project sponsor in connection with the issuance of letters of credit to back-up environmental obligations associated with a refining and storage project.
- Advising a foreign regulatory agency in its review and responses to bid qualification documents submitted by some of the largest oil companies in the world competing to bid on deep water exploration rights.

- Preparing a form of offshore drilling services contract for a large exploration and production company.
- Assisting a chemical trading business to negotiate and document chemical purchase and supply agreements with industry majors.
- Providing legal advice for the purchase of a commodity trading business by an oil brokerage business.
- Assisting a client in its bid for research funding of clean power technologies for power generation, usage, and storage offered by state and local agencies.
- Advising a private equity fund on a bid for several troubled electricity distribution companies in Brazil needing capital injections to comply with regulatory obligations.
- Representing a client in the dispositions of several billion dollars in oil and gas properties and their related businesses in Latin America.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational gas and power company on a cogeneration expansion project at existing facilities and the construction contracts related to the expansion of these power and steam projects.
- Advising a foreign regulator in connection with the restructuring of its gas supply agreements with a US oil major and the negotiation and execution of a gas asset management agreement.
- Assisting a foreign country to prepare regulations governing the role of the private sector in the countries slowly developing gas sector.
- Advising a client on construction contracts for a multi-billion dollar refinery expansion in Latin America.
- Negotiating and documenting hydrocarbon and other commodity prepayment agreements and lending agreements secured by energy assets, including power plants, refineries, and other industrial assets.
- Advising on bids to provide heat, steam, and power service agreements as part of public private partnerships proposed throughout the US.
- Negotiating and documenting energy commodity purchase agreements, including power, oil, and gas, contracted under customized agreements and/or using industry forms such as ISDA and NAESB.
- Representing affiliates of a multinational gas and power company in the development, construction, and finance of a $1 billion pipeline project, which was eventually designated as a project finance award winner by the industry press.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational gas and power company on several different bids involving over 2,000 MWs of gas-fired electricity generation assets within a two-year period.
- Representing the sole independent director in his dealings with the owner and operator of a coal-fired power facility generating more than 2,000 MWs and the owner's affiliates.
- Preparing for clients forms of gas supply agreements using both NAESB and ISDA master agreements, as well as custom tailored agreements.

- Negotiating and documenting gas supply, gas transportation agreements, and gas asset management agreements for clients in the gas industry in the US and Mexico.
- Advising a Mexico-based client on its regulatory obligations in connection with the export of hydrocarbons from the US to Mexico.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational gas and power company in the acquisition and implementation of a $1 billion power and utility management agreement as part of a public-private partnership between Ohio State University and a joint venture managed by the client.
- Advising affiliates of a multinational gas and power company in the acquisition of utility district assets supplying services to five hospitals and the Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health under a long-term contract.
- Representation of Direct Energy in connection with the negotiation and documentation of ISDA master agreements, and energy and fuel management agreements related to power generation assets with a capacity of over 1700 MWs, and protecting the client's credit risk on a first lien basis together with $900 million in purchase money loans.