

Power
PSC/PSAs
JOAs
Pipelines
Transmission
Expropriation/Investment
Disputes
Construction/EPC
Environmental
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Renewables

International Dispute Resolution: Energy Overview

As part of the “World’s Leading Energy Law Firm,” Vinson & Elkins’ International Dispute Resolution (IDR) lawyers have the experience and ability to handle the most complex energy disputes wherever they may arise.

Regarded as leaders in energy dispute resolution matters, our IDR lawyers have been involved in some of the largest and most complicated commercial and treaty claims ever brought in the international arena, advising prominent clients around the world in all segments of the energy industry in both litigation and arbitration.

We have handled international disputes along the entire energy chain from upstream exploration and extraction to downstream refining and marketing, power production, transportation, distribution and sales. Our work has also included the full range of energy-related infrastructure projects, from construction disputes through to tariff setting controversies. Additionally, our practice also encompasses disputes across the field of renewables, alternative and emerging power. V&E lawyers have handled disputes arising from the entire suite of related contracts involved in exploration, development and production projects. While advising on such matters, we have acted from the perspective of all those involved in the industry (representing owners, contractors, JV partners, engineers, sub-contractors and states) giving us the ideal platform from which to advise on future disputes.

V&E is often credited as being one of the inventors of the production sharing contract, which has given our team extensive experience in disputes that arise from concessions and other related agreements. Given the frequent involvement of states and state enterprises in such energy projects, we have developed extensive and deep experience in international investment law and treaty claims, advising clients in arbitrations under a range of treaties and investment laws, including numerous situations of “resource nationalism” and related nationalization attempts by states.

As a result of our firm’s outstanding energy and infrastructure knowledge, V&E’s dispute resolution energy team is fully familiar with the energy industry and the legal issues which arise from it, allowing us to effectively advise our clients in energy disputes from the very start on how to reach an appropriate solution in a commercial and cost effective manner. ►

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- **“World’s Leading Energy Law Firm”** – *Euromoney* 2010-2011
 - **“The world’s premier energy law firm”** – *Chambers UK* 2010
 - **“Awesome opponents”**
– *Law360* 2010
 - **Ranked as one of the top firms in International Arbitration**
– *Chambers Global* 2009
 - **“The firm continues to reinforce its position in arbitration and is amongst the strongest players in the market for energy disputes”**
– *Chambers Global* 2008
 - **“Strong track record in energy and infrastructure disputes”**
– *Legal 500 UK* 2009
 - **“Energy disputes are another area of strength for the firm”**
– *Chambers UK* 2010
 - **“Prominent energy arbitration specialists”** – *Chambers USA* 2008
 - **“Prowess in domestic and international dispute resolution”**
– *Legal 500 UK* 2008
 - **“Highly recommended, especially for energy and construction disputes”**
– *Legal 500 UK* 2008
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Representative Experience:

- Represented a group of U.S. company developers of Latin American natural gas and electric power project in ICC arbitration against the project's prime contractor regarding liquidated damages for delays in project completion, design and construction defects, and alleged change orders; the arbitration award in favor of the client was successfully enforced
- Obtained a take-nothing award in the defense of an AAA international arbitration of a US\$1.3 billion claim against our client arising out of the ownership and operation of an international gas and power trading and marketing company
- Represented the owner/operator of a South American gas transportation facility in multiple ICC arbitrations involving various claims for stabilization/change in law indemnities arising from changes in the tax laws and in official interpretation of the tax code and claims for construction costs, rate design, and gas quality
- Represented an exploration and production services company in an ICC Rules dispute concerning geophysical analysis of offshore oil concessions in Namibia
- Represented an international drilling company in its HKIAC arbitration proceeding over mining project in China heard by an arbitral tribunal (Hong Kong seat), which ruled unanimously in our client's favor
- Represented the claimant in an LCIA arbitration regarding the enforcement of an indemnity agreement, given in connection with the claimant's purchase of an interest in an offshore production block in a South American state, which was triggered when the state cancelled the production license on the block after the sale
- Represented the claimant parties in English High Court proceedings concerning the sale of hydrocarbon products into Guatemala
- Conducted ICSID arbitration proceedings on behalf of independent U.S. oil company against a Caribbean government in connection with an investment dispute regarding offshore oil and gas fields
- Secured a favorable award in an AAA-administered arbitration involving a dispute over a two million acre hydrocarbon exploration concession located on the eastern slope of the Andes in Peru
- Advised the operator and foreign participants in an offshore gas field in South East Asia in an UNCITRAL arbitration in Singapore in relation to claims brought against them by a national oil and gas company based upon the contention that the levels of a contaminant in the gas were excessive and were damaging the receiving and processing facilities as well as involving issues as to the passing of title and risk in relation to the gas and its transportation arrangements

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

For more information, please contact:



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