



Giji John

Partner

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Giji's practice focuses on the development and finance of domestic and international energy projects.

Practice Areas

- Corporate
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Renewable Energy
- Latin America
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Fintech
- Automotive Technology & Mobility

Honors

- Named to *A Word About Wind's* Top 100 Legal Power List (2020)
- *Acritas Star Lawyer* (2020)
- *Chambers Global*: Leading Lawyer for USA Projects (2019-2020)
- *Chambers USA*: Leading Lawyer for Nationwide Projects: Renewables & Alternative Energy (2016-2020)
- *Law360*: Project Finance MVP (2015)
- *The US Legal 500*: Renewables and Alternative Energy Leading Lawyer and Project Finance Leading Lawyer (2014-2015)
- Leadership Council on

He has extensive experience representing project sponsors through development (including through the negotiation and drafting of power purchase agreements and other long-term offtake agreements, physical and financial swaps, engineering, procurement and construction contracts, operation and maintenance agreements, management services agreements and site services agreements), acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures and financings. His representation has included transactions involving LNG facilities, methanol facilities, petrochemical refineries, carbon capture and sequestration facilities, natural gas processing and storage facilities, natural gas and CO2 pipelines, wind energy, solar energy, natural gas-fired peaking and combined-cycle power plants, thermal and battery energy storage, transportation, aviation and ports.

His prior experiences include a two year secondment to International Finance Corporation's Office of General Counsel where he worked on multi-currency corporate financings, project financings and equity investments in infrastructure projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Turkey.

Giji is currently ranked as a Projects Leading Lawyer in *Chambers Global* and *Chambers USA*, and has been recognized for excellence by numerous leading industry and legal publications, including being named one of 34 "Groundbreaking lawyers" by *Public Utilities Fortnightly*.

Representative Engagements

Financings

Giji has represented sponsors and lenders in some of the largest and most complex energy project financing transactions in recent years. Recent highlights include the following.

Represented the **project company** in more than \$14 billion in debt financing related to the Sabine Pass LNG Liquefaction Project, including:

- the approximately \$3.6 billion construction and term loan financing of its first two export liquefaction trains—named *Project Finance International's* 2012 "Americas Deal of the Year" and *Project Finance's* 2012 North American Deal of the Year;
- the upsizing to a \$5.9 billion construction and term loan financing

Legal Diversity: Fellow
(2015)

Education

- J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2001
- B.A., Northwestern University, 1996

Memberships

- Planning Committee, Gas and Power Institute (2014, 2015)
- *Project Finance 360* Editorial Advisory Board (2015)

to include its first four export liquefaction trains, comprising \$4.4 billion of commercial bank debt and \$1.5 billion of debt issued or covered by The Export-Import Bank of Korea and Korea Trade Insurance Corporation—named 2013 “Americas Deal of the Year” by *Project Finance International*, 2013 “North American Midstream Oil and Gas Deal of the Year” by *Project Finance* and 2013 “Trade Finance Deal of the Year” by *Euromoney’s* Trade Finance Magazine;

- the approximately \$325 million letter of credit facility for working capital needs of its first four export liquefaction trains;
- the \$4.6 billion construction and term loan financing of its fifth export liquefaction train; and
- the \$1.2 billion revolving and letters of credit facility for its five export liquefaction trains.

Represented a **multilateral financing institution** in an approximately \$56 million political risk insurance policy relating to the development of three solar projects in Honduras.

Represented **the project companies** in the approximately \$448 million construction and term loan financing of Phases I and II of the Los Vientos wind farm in South Texas.

Represented a **multilateral financing institution** in the \$97.5 million A/B credit facility to a Costa Rican bank.

Represented a **retail natural gas provider** in a \$150 million revolving credit facility.

Joint Ventures

Giji actively represents sponsors in the formation of joint venture transactions, including the negotiation of shareholders’ agreements. Highlights include the following.

- Represented a **wind developer** in the 50/50 joint venture with Algonquin Power and Utilities for the approximately \$300 million Deerfield wind project in Michigan.
- Represented a **natural gas company** in the 50/50 joint venture for construction of a natural gas pipeline.
- Represented a **midstream oil and gas company** in the 50/50 joint venture for the 150 MMcf/d Delaware Gas Basin cryogenic gas processing facility.
- Represented a **wind developer** in the formation of a joint venture for the El Arrayan wind project in Chile.

Acquisitions and Dispositions

Giji represents both sellers and purchasers in a variety of energy-based acquisitions and developments, whether through the purchase and sale of assets or membership interests. He regularly represents clients in conventional and renewable energy electricity transactions as well as midstream natural gas transactions. Recent highlights include the following.

- Represented **the acquirer** in the acquisition of the 102 MW Coram wind farm in California.
- Represented **the acquirer** in the acquisition of two 20 MW battery storage facilities in Illinois.
- Represented **the seller** in the disposition of the approximately 150 MW Origin wind farm in Oklahoma.

- Represented **the seller** in the disposition of the approximately 200 MW Longhorn North wind farm in Texas.
- Represented **the acquirer** in the acquisition of Phases III and IV of the Los Vientos wind farm in South Texas.
- Represented **two equity investors** in the acquisition of 80% of the cash equity interests in the Spearville 3 wind farm in Kansas.
- Represented **the acquirer** in the acquisition of an approximately 333 MW natural gas-fired, single-cycle peaking plant and relocation of that plant to Texas.

Power Purchase Agreements and Hedge Transactions

Giji has a wealth of experience in power purchase agreements (PPAs), fixed volume hedges, and other swap-based structures of over 10 GW of renewable energy projects. In the latter category, Giji has developed and negotiated hedge-based PPAs, settled physically and financially; with firming and shaping components; and in the WECC, CAISO, and ERCOT. He is experienced in working with the ISDA, WSPP and EEI forms in electricity and NAESB in natural gas. Recent highlights include the following.

- Represented **the developer** in the power purchase agreement for the 200 MW Bluestem wind farm in Oklahoma with a technology company offtaker.
- Represented **the developer** in the power purchase agreement for the 114 MW Deerfield wind farm in Michigan with a utility offtaker.
- Represented **the developer** in the power purchase agreement for the 110 MW Keechi wind farm in Texas with a technology company offtaker.
- Represented **the developer** in the power purchase agreement for the approximately 150 MW Origin wind farm in Oklahoma with a utility offtaker.

Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contracts

Giji has represented owners and construction contractors in engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contracts, balance of plant (BOP) contracts, equipment supply agreements, front end engineering and design agreements. His construction contacts experience includes wind power facilities, solar power facilities, petrochemical facilities, pipelines and carbon capture and sequestration facilities. Recent highlights include the following.

- Represented **the owner** in the turnkey EPC Contract for a post-combustion carbon capture and sequestration facility in Texas and related construction contract for an approximately 80 mile CO2 pipeline for enhanced oil recovery.
- Represented **the owner** in the turnkey EPC Contract for a 50 MW wind farm in Guatemala.
- Represented **the owner** in the cost-plus EPC Contract for a methanol facility in Texas.

Publications

- Author, "New PPAs: De-Risk Solution," *Project Finance International Yearbook* (2019)
- Author, "Proxy Generation PPAs: The Next Evolution of PPA for the Corporate & Industrial Buyer" (2018)
- Author, "Corporate PPAs, Market Trends and Opportunities,"

(2016)

- Author, “Developing Project Financeable Carbon Capture Projects,” presented to 13th Annual Gas and Power Institute (2014)
- Co-author, “Transmission and Interconnection Issues Relating to Renewable Energy Projects,” *Energy and Environmental Project Finance Law and Taxation: New Investment Techniques*, (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Speeches and Programs

- Moderator, “Industry Leaders Panel: The Future of Natural Gas Fueling” (Natural Gas for Off-Road Applications USA, Jun. 2015)
- Presenter/Panelist, “Liquefied Natural Gas: Defining the Regulatory Framework for US Exports” (ABA Section of International Law, Fall 2014)
- Presenter, “Carbon Capture and Sequestration” (UT Law Gas and Power Institute, Sept. 2014)
- Presenter, “LNG Project Finance” (U.S.-Pakistan Consultations on Liquefied Natural Gas: The Fundamentals of Structuring LNG Projects, Mar. 2014)
- Moderator, “Traditional PPAs vs. Hedge PPAs” (or Contract for Differences) (UT Law CLE Renewable Energy Law, Jan. 2014)
- Presenter, “LNG Project Finance: Overview and Recent Issues” (LNG 360° Latin America & Caribbean Forum, Feb. 2013)

Admissions

- Texas