Ben James
Partner

London
T: +44.(0).207.448.4208
F: +44.(0).207.657.3124
E: ben.james@bracewell.com

About Ben

Ben is an energy lawyer with a particular focus on the oil and gas sector. He has advised clients on the development, sale, purchase and financing of oil and gas assets across the value chain, from wellhead to market. Ben has particular experience in relation to African transactions, having advised on deals in more than 25 jurisdictions across the continent.

Recent Notable Matters

Savannah Energy PLC — all-share acquisition of Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Nigeria Limited, the holder of a 49 percent participating interest in the Stubb Creek Field, Nigeria

Impact Oil & Gas Ltd — farmout of its interests in Blocks 2912 and 2913B offshore Namibia, which contain the Venus discovery, to TotalEnergies EP Namibia B.V.

Savannah Energy PLC — $407 million acquisition of ExxonMobil's entire interest in the Doba oil fields in Chad and its stake in the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline

Savannah Energy PLC — sale and purchase agreement with PETRONAS International Corporation Limited to acquire its interest in three onshore blocks in South Sudan for up to $1.25 billion

Hillwood International Energy, LP — acquisition of Kerogen Investments No. 7 Limited's interest in HKN Energy, Ltd, the owner of a 62 percent operated interest in the Sarsang PSC in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and on its ongoing operations in-country

Storegga Ltd — foundation equity financing with Macquarie and subsequent equity financings with GIC, Mitsui, Macquarie, M&G and SNAM; acquisition of Pale Blue Dot Energy, the lead developer of the Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage Project at the St Fergus Gas Terminal in the UK; advising on the growth of its DAC business

Impact Oil & Gas Ltd — on its strategic options for the Venus discovery in Namibia; in South Africa on its farm-down of Tugela South block to Shell and farm-in to Area 2; the acquisition of upstream blocks in Gabon, Namibia, the Senegal-Guinea Bissau AGC; the farm-down of the AGC block to CNOOC and the Namibia block to Total

Hunt Oil Company — on matters across its international oil and gas portfolio, including in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia and Peru

Gran Tierra Energy Inc. — up to $150 million prepayment facility in Colombia with Trafigura as lender and crude oil offtaker

Genel Energy plc — in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on its farm-in to the Chevron operated Sarta and Qara Dagh blocks, the development and commercialization of its Miran and Bina Bawi gas discoveries for export to Turkey, the acquisition of OMV's interest in the Bina Bawi Block, the farm-down of the Chia Surkh block, crude transportation and marketing arrangements

Trafigura — on the redevelopment and financing of the Berbera oil terminal in Somaliland

Savannah Petroleum plc — material aspects of its takeover of the Seven Energy Nigerian business, including relating to the re-organisation of the Uquo onshore gas field and the Accugas gas processing facility and the re-listing of its shares on the stock exchange; on its gas sales agreements; on its exploration assets in Niger; on the divestment of its interest in Lekoil Cayman

Anglo Tunisian Oil & Gas Limited — acquisition of Medco Tunisia, a seven asset upstream oil and gas business in Tunisia, including the associated acquisition financing from Trafigura

Assala Energy UK Limited — on its long term crude sales agreement in Gabon

Ophir Energy plc — $2 billion floating LNG project offshore Equatorial Guinea, including host government arrangements, LNG sales agreements, chartering agreements, joint venture arrangements, project financing and construction

Anglo African Oil and Gas plc — Tilapia field operations in the Republic of Congo

Trident Energy Management Limited — acquisition financing to acquire, in partnership with Kosmos, Hess' business in Equatorial Guinea

GAIL (India) — LNG cargo swap transactions around the globe

Chevron — exit from Mauritania

Education

Oxford Institute of Legal Practice, Legal Practice Course
2002

University of Cambridge, England, B.A., Honours in Law
2001

University of Poitiers, France, Legal Diploma
2000

Noteworthy

Chambers Global, UK - Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2024

Chambers UK, Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2016 - 2024

The Legal 500 United Kingdom, Projects, Energy and Natural Resources – Oil & Gas, 2014, 2017 - 2019; 2022 - 2023

The Legal 500 EMEA, Regional Summary - Africa, 2016 - 2017

Delinian Limited, *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, Highly Regarded: Project Finance, 2017 - 2023; Project Development, 2018 - 2023; Energy and Infrastructure, 2018

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, *IFLR1000 Energy & Infrastructure Guide*, Sub-Saharan Africa, Leading Lawyer, 2016; Latin America, 2016

Bar Admissions

Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Languages

French