



Ben James
Partner

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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 – acquisition of Exxon and Petronas’ entire interests in the Doba oil field in Chad and their shareholding in the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline and Floating, Storage and Offloading vessel for a total consideration of up to \$676 million

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

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

Storegga Geotechnologies 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

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

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

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

Impact Oil & Gas Ltd – 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 and Guinea Bissau; the farm-down of the AGC block to CNOOC and the Namibia block to Total

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

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

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

Gran Tierra Energy, Inc. – crude sales and marketing arrangements in Colombia and Ecuador

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 UK, Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2016 - 2022

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

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

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, Highly Regarded: Project Finance, 2017 - 2022; Project Development, 2018 - 2022; 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

Bracewell LLP