

Bracewell Gains Oil And Gas Partner In Houston

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (September 20, 2022, 11:18 AM EDT) -- Bracewell LLP has added a partner to its oil and gas practice in Houston who boasts years of experience as in-house counsel in the energy sector.

John P. Zabaneh advises clients engaged in exploration and production projects, midstream activities and oilfield services, the firm said in a statement announcing his arrival Monday. Zabaneh's background includes an extensive history as a deal lawyer representing a diverse client base, the firm said.



John P. Zabaneh

Zabaneh came aboard at Bracewell following more than a year as lead commercial counsel at Alcon Laboratories Inc., according to his LinkedIn profile. Before Alcon, Zabaneh served for nearly two years as associate in-house counsel at Gavilan Resources LLC, a Blackstone-backed portfolio company and for more than five years as lead transactional counsel responsible for U.S. mergers, acquisitions and divestitures with Noble Energy.

"Bracewell is an industry-leading platform in the energy space when it comes to depth of legal experience, technical knowledge and full-suite client service," Zabaneh told Law360 Pulse in an email Monday. "As in-house counsel, I had the privilege of working on a variety of matters with the firm and its lawyers, whom I always found highly skilled, professional and collegial. Given these strong ties, I was delighted by the opportunity to rejoin the ranks of private practice and contribute to Bracewell's continued success."

Zabaneh said Bracewell is well-positioned to advise the firm's clients on the complex issues today's market presents.

"In recent years, the energy industry has experienced a dramatic shift in capital flow, extreme commodity price volatility and sustained supply/demand imbalance; however, I believe these market dynamics will continue to create significant, long-term investment opportunities in both conventional energy and a lower carbon future," Zabaneh said.

Zabaneh began his legal career as an associate with Baker Botts LLP in Houston and has filled in-house roles at a variety of energy companies including Chesapeake Energy and Rosetta Resources, the firm said, noting that he provides guidance to clients across the "energy value chain" on day-to-day operations.

"We are thrilled to welcome John to the firm," said Bracewell managing partner Gregory M. Bopp. "He is a well-respected lawyer with a diverse background that complements the strengths of our market-leading oil and gas practice."

Zabaneh earned his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law and holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, the firm said.

"John is a highly accomplished lawyer who knows the upstream and midstream transactional space from all angles," James McAnelly III, co-chair of the firm's oil and gas practice, said in a statement. "His diverse experience enables him to advise clients on conventional energy projects, as well as renewables, carbon capture and other energy transition initiatives."

Bracewell bills itself as having one of the largest dedicated energy teams in the world with eight locations in the U.S. as well as in London and Dubai. The firm has four offices in Texas with locations in Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio and operates shops in Connecticut, New York, Washington and the District of Columbia, according to its website.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.