



Leigh Hall

Consultant Solicitor

Jurisdiction: England & Wales

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Overview

Leigh is an experienced international lawyer. Having spent many years as a leader and partner in leading international law firms, as well as in-house, his client portfolio comprises governments, companies and high-net-worth individuals on matters involving international development and project finance, production supply ventures, and commercial and compliance issues. In addition to counselling companies and governments in the development and financing of large-scale projects involving infrastructure, power, oil and gas, and petrochemicals, he acts for a wide range of businesses in building relationships with foreign governments and quasi-governmental entities, with a focus on the Middle East, Africa and China regions and the trade and business relationships between such regions. He also advises companies and professions on roll-outs (and, where appropriate, retractions) in the Middle East and Africa.

Expertise

- Energy and Infrastructure
- Government relations, privatisations and regulatory compliance
- International project finance
- Mergers and acquisitions (M&As), JVs, partnerships and alliances
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Construction
- Litigation and arbitration

Cases

- At Sphere Petroleum QSC, acted in the capacity of Director, Shareholder and General Counsel, conducting detailed legal analysis of the risks, potential and obligations of its assets entailing exploration, development and production licences and production-sharing agreements throughout Africa.
- Negotiated the profitable sale, farm-out, (in some cases) forfeiture, and retention of the assets and interests throughout Africa (including Mauritania, Niger, Morocco, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Tanzania, Tunisia and Djibouti) on

renegotiated terms with a variety of African, Asian and European entities. Accomplished the objective of profitable and timely asset sale and restructuring such that the company is now effectively a holding company with remaining assets held on free carry with a view to sale in due course.

- Advised sponsors, developers, state utilities and international financial institutions on independent power projects in over 15 countries including Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Mauritania, Ireland, Thailand and Brazil on, inter alia, BO, BOT and PPP bases. Project fuels included solar, wind, biomass and other renewables together with gas, coal and hydro. Projects included Mesaieed A IPP, Ras Laffan B, Iskenderun BO IPP. Experience covered the full life cycle from planning, drafting and administering tendering process; parallel negotiations with shortlisted consortia (where acting for state); drafting/negotiating all bid, transactional and financial close documentation on behalf of state, sponsors or financiers (as the case may be) including concession, offtake, EPC, PCOA and state and sponsor support; together with ongoing contract administration to include variations and dispute resolution.
- Advised state entities and private-sector sponsors in relation to the development and financing of major infrastructure projects including rail (Deutsche Bahn), telecommunications (Vodafone), hotels (Accor), hospitals, schools, ports, electricity transmission/distribution networks and agricultural transactions (in particular, sugar refineries and water) together with privatisations in relation to the same.
- Steered multibillion-dollar project finance transactions/operations for premier international banks, investment institutions, export credit agencies (ECAs) and multilaterals, including as counsel for Qatargas 2, as well as acting as counsel for sponsors in major projects such as Qatargas 3 and Q-Chem 2/Qatofin. Also worked on several Islamic finance transactions such as Dolphin bridge financing (\$1 billion) and Al Waab City Murhaba bridge financing (\$225 million).
- Drafted and developed full suite of over 100 retail, corporate, project and treasury finance documents for major Middle Eastern banking group.
- Acted for Qatar Airways in the purchase of over 60 aircraft funded by \$9 billion asset finance programme and consisting of Islamic and conventional financing structures.
- Acted for governments, financial institutions and corporations in relation to certain capital market and listing programs, including acting for Qatar Ministry of Finance in various of its sovereign bond issues and Vodafone Qatar in its successful \$1 billion IPO and listing.
- Advised various high-profile sporting institutions including acting for the State of Qatar in its successful bid for the FIFA 2022 Football World Cup and for the Qatar Olympic Committee in its bid for the 2020 Olympic Games, and advising the owners of the Qatar International Boat Show.
- Worked for high-end international media organisation with offices in over 70 countries (confidential client) on a wide range of commercial agreements and media, public policy (lobbying) and litigation issues worldwide.
- Counselling government and private-sector institutions on resolving cross-border disputes in international forums including ICSID, UNCITRAL, ICC and LCIA.

Career

2017 **Keystone Law** | *Consultant Solicitor*

2012-present **Sphere Petroleum** | *Director and General Counsel of Holding Co*

2007-2012 **Dentons** | *Partner, Director on Global Board, Regional Head of Middle East Offices/Head of Doha Office*

2003-2007 **Patton Boggs LLP** | *Partner*

2000-2003 **Pillsbury Winthrop LLP** | *Partner*

1996-2000 **White & Case** | *Senior Associate*

1990-1996 **Stephenson Harwood** | *Associate*

1988-1990 **Buddle Findlay** | *Trainee*

1995 Qualified as a Solicitor in England and Wales

1988 Qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor in New Zealand