

Darren

Partner

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Darren Spalding is co-chair of the firm's oil and gas practice. He is a transactional and projects lawyer with more than two decades of experience in the energy and resources industry and is particularly noted for his work in the oil and gas sector, where he is recognized by *Who's Who Legal* as a global leader. Darren advises clients on energy and resources M&A transactions and projects, with a particular focus on cross-border matters, having worked on deals and projects in more than 40 jurisdictions. He has a wealth of experience in the structuring and development of energy and resources projects, including in relation to shareholder arrangements, and is also regularly called upon to advise on, and negotiate, key industry project documents, including production sharing contracts, joint operating agreements, sales and transportation agreements, and royalty and streaming arrangements.

Darren is widely lauded across the industry and is praised as a leading M&A lawyer by *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide* (2017-2023), ranked in *Chambers Global* (2024) and *Chambers UK* (2019-2024), and is also highly regarded by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* (2014-2021, 2024). Clients note that he is "extremely conscientious," provides "a full suite of support," has "deep contractual expertise" and "a fantastic understanding of extremely complicated issues."

Industries

[Energy](#)

Practices

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Renewable Energy](#)

[Midstream Transactions](#)

[Upstream Transactions](#)

[Hydrogen](#)

[Wind](#)

[Mining](#)

Credentials

Education

- Murdoch University, Perth, Australia, L.L.B., 2002, *with first class honours*
- Villanova University School of Law, B.Com., 1994

Bar Admissions

- Barrister and Solicitor in Western Australia, Australia
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Solicitor in New South Wales, Australia

Chambers Global

- UK – Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2024

Chambers UK

- Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2019 – 2025

The Legal 500 United Kingdom

- Projects – Energy and Natural Resources: Oil & Gas, 2014 – 2021, 2024
- Projects – Energy and Natural Resources: Power, 2024
- Energy and Infrastructure, 2021

The Legal 500 EMEA

- Regional Summary – Africa, 2017

Delinian Limited

- *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, Highly Regarded: M&A, 2017 – 2024

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC

- *IFLR1000 Energy & Infrastructure Guide*, Sub-Saharan Africa, 2016

Law Business Research Ltd.

- *Who's Who Legal*, Energy – Oil & Gas Global Leader, 2023 – 2024

Resources

CCS and the Role of Project Finance

Article

Re-shaping the UK Energy Regime in an Uncertain Political Landscape

Blog Post

A Challenging Year for African M&A

Article

Competing Considerations in Intercreditor Agreements for Project Finance, Mining Streams and Royalties

Article

2023 AIEN Model Form JOA Placing ESG Issues at Heart of Oil & Gas Operations

Blog Post

The UK National Security and Investment Act: Key Implications for the Energy Sector

Blog Post

Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill: Energy Security at the Forefront of the Government's Legislative Agenda

Blog Post

Protecting Energy Investments in Europe: UK Announces Withdrawal From the Energy Charter Treaty

Blog Post

Deals in Africa: 10 Things to Watch in 2024

Article

Hidden Gems: The Role of Critical Minerals in the Energy Transition

Article

Navigating the North Sea: NSTA Releases New Guidance to Streamline M&A Transactions

Blog Post

Unearthing Potential: Opportunities and Challenges for the Mining Industry in Emerging Markets

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "Unearthing Potential: Opportunities and Challenges for the Mining Industry in Emerging Markets," *Mining Magazine*, February 4, 2025.
- "Navigating the North Sea: NSTA Releases New Guidance to Streamline M&A Transactions," *LexisNexis*, January 2025.

- "Hidden Gems: The Role of Critical Minerals in the Energy Transition," *ICLG: Mining Law 2025*, September 2024.
- "Deals in Africa: 10 Things to Watch in 2024," *Energy Voice*, 19 January, 2024.
- "2023 AIEN Model Form JOA: Placing ESG Issues at Heart of Oil & Gas Operations," *LexisNexis*, March 2023.
- "Assessing African Upstream M&A Activity in 2022: The Majors Lead the Charge," *Energy Voice*, December 28, 2022.
- "Competing Considerations in Intercreditor Agreements for Project Finance, Mining Streams and Royalties," *ICLG: Mining Law*, 2023.
- "Re-shaping the UK Energy regime in an uncertain political landscape," *LexisPSL*, July 26, 2022.
- "CCS and the Role of Project Finance," *Project Finance International*, 6 April, 2022.
- "United Kingdom: Energy – Oil & Gas," *The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guide 2020*.
- "Asset Purchase Agreement (oil and gas)," *Practical Law Company*, September 2020.
- "A Bespoke Model: Bracewell reviews the new international AIPN oil and gas farm-out agreement and its impact on the Middle East," *The Oath*, September 2019.
- "Oil and Gas M&A: Q&A," *Practical Law Company*, February 2019.
- "The UK Oil and Gas Authority: A catalyst for change?" *International Law Office Energy & Natural Resources Newsletter*, March 2016.
- "'Kind words and guns' - Penalty clauses redefined by the English courts," *IFLR*, January 2016.
- "Challenges of Methane Hydrates," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, May 2014.
- "Government announces major North Sea tax cuts," *International Law Office Energy and Natural Resources Newsletter*, May 2015.
- "Underground Drilling Access for UK Shale Developers: The 300 Metre Question," *Natural Gas Europe*, June 2014.
- "The Future of the UK North Sea: A New Game with More Rules," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, March 2014.