



## Public Lands & Resources

The fortunes of energy and infrastructure companies are closely entwined with the federal government, the largest landowner in the United States. The US Department of the Interior alone manages more than 2 billion acres of onshore and offshore federal lands, along with playing a substantial role in the management of tribal lands. Other federal agencies — such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, Department of State, Department of Commerce and Department of Agriculture — also manage lands and regulatory programs crucial to energy development and infrastructure projects. Many state governments have also created similar state agencies that are responsible for the oversight of state-owned lands and natural resources.

Bracewell has decades of experience advising clients engaged in the exploration, development and transportation of natural resources with access to public and tribal lands and minerals. Over the years, we have advised **Apache Corporation, Cabot Oil & Gas, Echo Energy, Eni, Equinor, Halliburton, Hilcorp Energy, Kinder Morgan, Noble Energy, NuStar Energy, Tesoro** and **Venoco** on various matters.

Our lawyers, who are highly ranked in *Chambers USA* and *Legal 500 US*, have advised clients on regulatory --> and policy requirements for land use and royalty obligations; litigation --> challenging federal land use decisions; investigations and enforcement actions; and corporate --> and financial transactions --> involving public lands and resources.

In commercial matters, we provide experienced guidance in the acquisition of oil and gas interests on public lands, unit agreements, unit operating agreements, plans of operation, permits to drill, access rights and the transfer of operating rights and record title ownership with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, among other agencies.

On the regulatory front, our team draws insights from years working at the highest levels of the Interior Department, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

In investigative and enforcement matters, we have advised clients on many of the most significant issues affecting public lands in recent years.

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## Key Contacts



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## Experience

### Regulatory, Policy and Investigative Matters

#### **Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation**

- in its defense against the Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue allegations of knowing or willful violations of the

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Federal Oil & Gas Royalty Management Act relating to the payment of royalties

## **Equinor Wind LLC**

- in federal leasing and permitting for commercial-scale wind development project offshore New York, as well as the defense of the lease auction results in federal court

## **Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.**

- in various investigations that arose from the Deepwater Horizon incident, including President Obama's Special Task Force, the US Congress and the Chemical Safety Board (CSB)

## **NuStar Energy, L.P.**

- on matters related to an application to the US Army Corps of Engineers for a permit and easement

## **Tesoro**

- in connection with a challenge brought by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in Washington State to block the shipment of Bakken crude by rail to Tesoro's refinery at Anacortes

## **Corporate & Finance Matters**

### **Apache Corporation**

- in the \$7 billion acquisition of BP's oil and gas operations, acreage and infrastructure in the Permian Basin of West Texas, Egypt's Western Desert and New Mexico, as well as BP's upstream natural gas business in western Alberta and British Columbia
- in the \$3.75 billion sale of Gulf of Mexico OCS assets to Fieldwood Energy LLC
- in the \$1.4 billion sale of its interests in the Lucius and Heidelberg deepwater Gulf of Mexico developments to Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc
- in the \$500 million acquisition of a privately held entity owning oil and gas assets located in onshore and offshore Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico

### **Echo Energy Partners I, LLC**

- in the sale of substantially all of its SCOOP/Stack assets to HPS Investment Partners LLC for approximately \$32.96 million out of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case, including the transfer and assignment of

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certain lands managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Commissioner's Land Office of Oklahoma

## **Eni Petroleum US LLC**

- in the \$4.83 billion acquisition of Dominion's OCS Gulf of Mexico assets
- in the acquisition of 70 percent and operatorship of the Oooguruk oil field in Alaska from Caelus Natural Resources Alaska, LLC, including the negotiation of the terms of the Oooguruk unit contraction
- in numerous shelf divestitures of federally managed leasehold and infrastructure to various undisclosed buyers

## **Eni Petroleum US LLC and Eni US Operating Co. Inc.**

- in the sale of certain Gulf of Mexico assets to GDF SUEZ NA E&P LLC

## **Equinor**

- in the \$1.1 billion sale of a 50 percent interest in two US offshore wind development projects to BP, including formation of a partnership to develop and operate the Empire Wind project offshore New York and Beacon Wind project offshore Massachusetts, which together could generate up to 4.4 GW

## **Harvest Midstream Company**

- in the \$1.125 billion acquisition from Williams Partners L.P. of certain federally managed oil and gas assets and infrastructure in the Four Corners area, including over 3,700 miles of pipeline, two gas processing plants and a CO<sub>2</sub> treating facility

## **Hilcorp Energy Company**

- in a joint exploration and development agreement with Otto Energy for the development of eight federally managed prospects onshore the Gulf of Mexico

## **Kinder Morgan, Inc.**

- in the \$7.15 billion sale of El Paso's exploration and production business unit which includes assets in the Eagle Ford Shale, Permian Basin, Haynesville Shale, Black Warrior Basin, Uintah Basin, Raton Basin, Powder River Basin, Gulf of Mexico, and in Egypt and Brazil

## **Noble Energy, Inc.**

- in the \$608 million sale of 30,200 net acres in the DJ Basin in Weld County, Colorado, to SRC Energy Inc.

## **Pioneer Natural Resources Company**

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- on the sale of assets in the Raton Basin in southeastern Colorado to Evergreen Natural Resources LLC

## **Plains Exploration & Production Company**

- in the \$560 million acquisition from Shell Offshore Inc. of 50 percent working interest in the Holstein Field, located in the Gulf of Mexico

## **Ursa Resources Group II**

- in the \$325 million acquisition of Antero Resources oil and gas assets in the Piceance Basin in Colorado

## **Venoco, LLC**

- in connection with oil and gas assets off the California coast on federal lands, including Chapter 11 proceedings to restructure their capital structure by obtaining confirmation of a plan of reorganization just four months after filing for bankruptcy — 2017 Energy Deal of the Year (Over \$100 Million to \$500 Million), 2017 Turnaround Awards
- Highly Commended, 2018 FT Innovative Lawyers North America Report

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## **Recognition**

Our team is recognized for excellence in handling complex energy and environmental matters.

### **Chambers Global**

- USA Oil & Gas Regulatory & Litigation (Band 1)
- USA Oil & Gas Transactional
- USA Projects

### **Chambers USA**

- Nationwide Electricity Regulatory & Litigation
- Nationwide Electricity Transactional
- Nationwide Environment
- Nationwide Oil & Gas Regulatory & Litigation (Band 1)
- Nationwide Oil & Gas Transactional
- Nationwide Projects: Oil & Gas
- Nationwide Projects: Power & Renewables: Transactional
- DC Environment

- Texas Environment (Band 1)

- **IFLR1000**

- US Project Development: Oil & Gas
- US Project Development: Power
- US Project Finance

## **Legal 500 US**

- Energy Litigation: Electric Power
- Energy Litigation: Oil & Gas
- Energy Regulation: Electric Power
- Energy Regulation: Oil & Gas (Tier 1)
- Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power
- Energy Transactions: Electric Power
- Energy Transactions: Oil & Gas
- Environment Litigation
- Environment Regulatory
- Environment Transactional
- Government Relations

## **U.S. News – Best Lawyers**

- National Energy Law (Tier 1)
- National Environmental Law (Tier 1)
- National Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)
- National Oil & Gas Law (Tier 1)
- National Project Finance Law (Tier 1)
- Austin Energy Law (Tier 1)
- Austin Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)
- Austin Water Law (Tier 1)
- Houston Energy Law (Tier 1)
- Houston Natural Resources Law (Tier 1)
- Houston Oil & Gas Law (Tier 1)
- Houston Project Finance Law (Tier 1)

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- New York Energy Law (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Corporate Compliance Law
- Washington, DC Criminal Defense: General Practice
- Washington, DC Energy Law (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Environmental Law (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Government Relations Practice
- Washington, DC Environmental Litigation (Tier 1)
- Washington, DC Oil & Gas Law (Tier 1)