



Dino Barajas

Partner

CHAIR, US RENEWABLE ENERGY
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Dino Barajas focuses his practice on domestic and international project development and finance, with emphasis on Latin American infrastructure projects, debt financings and mergers and acquisitions. He regularly represents lenders, investors and developers in a wide range of domestic and international project financings in the energy, power, infrastructure and commercial sectors, as well as in traditional banking, structured finance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, asset finance, joint ventures and venture capital transactions.

Dino's clients include commercial lenders, institutional investors, investment funds, project sponsors, and public and private companies. He has worked on transactions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guam, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the US, Yemen and elsewhere.

Dino has spearheaded several large project finance projects within Latin America and has accumulated numerous individual accolades and Deals of the Year throughout his career. He is recognized as one of the leading project finance and Latin America practitioners by various industry rankings.

RELATED SERVICES

- Finance
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes

RELATED SECTORS

- Energy and Natural Resources

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English Spanish

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- English
- Spanish

EXPERIENCE

US

- A developer, owner and operator of privately-owned power generating assets in the US in:
 - its acquisition of an energy management and trading subsidiary of a large America energy company
 - its acquisition and financing of equity interest in the 925 MW Westmoreland Power Project in Pennsylvania
 - its acquisition and financing of equity interest in the 720 MW Valley Power Project in New York
 - the sale of its equity interests in the 885 MW Alabama II Project in Alabama
- An American multinational investment bank in its acquisition of the 318 MW Pio Pico natural gas fired power project in California
- A developer, owner and operator of privately-owned power generating assets in the US in its proposed acquisition of equity interest in a 134 MW power plant in California
- A solar energy company in its development of 360 MW of solar facilities within the San Antonio area, which is one of the largest solar developments undertaken in the US
- A global financial services firm in its acquisition of a 25 percent ownership interest in the 800 MW Sentinel gas-fired power generation facility. With overall project costs of approximately US\$900 million, the project is one of the largest peaker power plants developed on the US
- Lender in its participation in the US\$650 million portfolio project financing which included the Alta Wind VII project
- A developer, owner and operator of privately-owned power generating assets in the US in:
 - its acquisition of a 25 percent ownership interest in the Sentinel 800 MW gas-fired power generation facility
 - its acquisition of an additional 25 percent ownership interest in the Sentinel 800 MW gas-fired power generation facility (distinct from transaction listed above)
 - its acquisition of an ownership interest in a gas-fired power generation facility
- Lender in its participation in the US\$630 million project financings of the Alta Wind VI and Alta Wind VIII projects
- Lender in its participation in the US\$1 billion project financing of the Astoria II 500 MW power plant in Queens, New York
- A leader in operating clean, sustainable geothermal energy projects and its worldwide subsidiaries in:
 - a US\$50 million corporate lending facility secured by its domestic and international assets
 - a US\$12 million corporate lending facility secured by its domestic and international assets
- A wind energy company in the US\$376 million financing of the Milford I wind farm power project, which is the largest construction financing of an individual wind farm power project in the US to date
- A developer, owner and operator of privately-owned power generating assets in the US in its proposed acquisition of an ownership interest in a gas-fired power generation facility
- An energy company in its sale of various power generation assets valued at US\$1.5 billion
- Lenders in the US\$98.6 million financing of the 120 MW Midway power project near Fresno, California
- An independent investment manager focused on power and energy infrastructure assets in its proposed bid for gas-fired power generation and transmission assets in California
- A prospective lender in a proposed debtor-in-possession US\$2.2 billion credit facility for a large generator of electricity from natural gas and geothermal resources
- A syndicate of commercial banks and institutional investors in the US\$475 million financing of the 781 MW Channelview power project
- Client in connection with the development and construction of the Path-15 500-kV transmission line project in California
- Lenders in connection with the restructuring and refinancing of the 600 MW combined-cycle project in Texas
- A power company in the proposed sale of various generation assets in the Northwest region of the US
- A distributor of natural gas in the proposed purchase of an asset portfolio consisting of various generation assets in the US
- A leading financial services company in providing various letters of credit to support bond issuances for its various projects in Arkansas for US\$51 million and Minnesota for US\$35 million
- A wind energy company in the proposed development of a 21 MW wind farm in Wyoming

- A wind energy company in the proposed development of a 50 MW wind farm in Kiowa County, Kansas
- Lender in providing a US\$29.3 million letter of credit facility to a major airline

Mexico

- A global energy provider in the development, financing and sale of the Aguascalientes solar project. The Aguascalientes project represents one of Mexico's largest solar project developments to date
- A developer of wind energy projects in:
 - the acquisition and development of the 400 MW Tres Mesas wind energy project
 - the negotiation of numerous private offtake self-supply power purchase agreements
- A developer in connection with the Los Cardones, formerly named Concordia, gold project near La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Current gold reserves at the Los Cardones project are 1.3 million ounces
- A mining company with respect to the Boleo mine located near Santa Rosalia in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The Boleo mine is a copper-cobalt-zinc- manganese mining project
- The trustee in the US\$681 million financing of the Manzanillo LNG storage and regasification terminal. The project costs involved in this project were approximately US\$875 million
- A producer and distributor of gas and electricity in the proposed development of a 500 MW wind farm in Baja California
- Lenders in the US\$52.5 million financing of the Atexcaco Hydroelectric Power Project
- Client in the US\$90 million financing of the Government Plaza in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, a project developed under a Public-private Partnership structure
- Client in the sale of its interests in the 495 MW Altamira II project. The sale is part of a larger dispossession of Mexican power generation and pipeline assets valued at US\$1.5 billion. The transaction represents Latin America's largest energy M&A deal in 2007
- Clients in the development and financing of the 495 MW Tuxpan V project. The project costs involved in this project were approximately US\$300 million. The financing of the project involved a complicated array of credit facilities. The Tuxpan V financing holds the record for the fastest project financing of any Mexican IPP (3 ½ months)
- Clients in the development and financing of the 495 MW Altamira II project. The project costs involved in this project are approximately US\$300 million. The financing of the project involved a complicated array of credit facilities
- Clients in the development and financing of the 495 MW Tuxpan II project. The project costs involved in this project were approximately US\$325 million. The financing of the project involved a complicated array of credit facilities and commercial banks providing both senior and subordinated facilities
- Trustee in the financing of the 700 MW Pacifico coal-fired power project. The project costs involved in this project were approximately US\$611 million
- A property management company in the acquisition and financing of numerous resort hotels located throughout Mexico. The acquisition represents the largest resort hotel portfolio acquisition ever closed in Mexico
- A lender participating in a proposed US\$400 million senior debt refinancing for power generation assets exceeding 1,000 MW in generating capacity
- Client in the proposed development of a US\$1 billion aqueduct and power project in Baja California
- A wind energy company in the proposed development of a wind farm in Oaxaca, Mexico
- Clients in the development of the Altamira Project, a 106-MW cogeneration project located in Altamira, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The Altamira Project is Mexico's first inside-the-fence power project with a long-term transmission agreement with CFE under Mexico's new energy laws
- Client in the proposed development of the Ennerey Project, a 110-MW cogeneration project that will be located in Monterrey, Mexico
- An electric company in its bid for the development of the Rio Bravo and Hermosillo combined cycle power plants in northern Mexico
- Clients in the negotiation with a state-owned electric utility of the power purchase agreement and the fuel agreement relating to the Mérida III Project, a 484-MW combined cycle power project located in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. The Mérida III Project was Mexico's first independent power project under Mexico's new energy laws

- An electric company in the proposed development of a hydroelectric power plant with various government municipalities as energy off-takers
- Lender in the financing of a submarine transmission line pursuant to a BLT arrangement with CFE
- Client in the development with a state-owned electric utility of a proposed transmission line from the US into Mexico

Brazil

- A global energy provider in the development of the Pirapora solar projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 191 MW. The Pirapora projects represent one of Brazil's largest solar project developments to date
- Lender in its involvement in a US\$810 million financing of two semi-submersible oil drilling rigs
- A consortium of bidders with their bid to acquire an interest valued at US\$1 billion in an electric services company
- A developer and operator of electric generating facilities in a bid to acquire an interest valued at US\$1.2 billion in a Brazilian electric generation company which was privatized
- A developer and operator of electric generating facilities in a bid to acquire a controlling interest in a Brazilian electric generation company which was privatized
- A developer and operator of electric generating facilities in a bid to acquire an interest in an electric distribution company in the southern region of Brazil
- Clients in the development of a 240 MW gas-fired power plant in the State of Ceara, Brazil
- Client in the proposed development of a wind farm power project
- A developer and operator of electric generating facilities in a bid in the privatization of the Cachoeira Dourada hydroelectric plan

Central America

- A developer of renewable energy projects in the Caribbean and Latin America in the acquisition of a solar project in Guatemala
- A developer and operator of renewable energy projects in Latin America in the development and financing of the 72 MW San Jacinto-Tizate Geothermal Power Project located in Nicaragua. The combined financing of Phase I and Phase II is in excess of US\$230 million and represents the largest project financing ever closed in Nicaragua and the largest geothermal project financing closed in Central America to date
- A leading wind energy company in the development of a 100 MW wind farm in Honduras
- EMCE in the development and financing of the Xacbal Power Project, a 94-MW hydroelectric power project located in Guatemala. The development of Xacbal Power Project is currently the largest privately developed and financed greenfield hydroelectric power project in Central America
- Grupo Saret in the financing of the Rio General Power Project located in Costa Rica
- Client in the development and financing of the Choloma III Power Project, a 246-MW generation project located in Honduras. The financing of Choloma III is the largest single asset project financing of an energy asset in Honduras. The Choloma III financing also holds the record for one of the fastest project financings of any type in Central America (3 months)
- An electric company in connection with the development and financing of a 120 MW thermal power project, the San Jose project, in Guatemala
- A wind energy company in the proposed development of a wind farm in Honduras
- A wind company in the proposed development of a wind farm in Honduras
- A wind company in the proposed development of a wind farm in Costa Rica
- A wind company in the proposed development of a wind farm in Nicaragua

Chile

- Lender in its involvement in a US\$1 billion financing of the Angamos coal fired power project
- Client in the proposed development of a wind farm in Chile
- A financial services holding company in connection with its proposed investment portfolio with the leading source of development finance in Chile

Colombia

- An asset management firm in the acquisition and financing by of various oil and gas assets
- The financial advisor and lender in the development and financing of a 199 MW thermal power project (the Termovalle project)
- A developer and operator of electric generating facilities in the development and financing of a 352 MW thermal power project (the TermoRio project)
- Institutional lenders in connection with the development and financing of fuel bullets

Argentina

- A global energy provider in the development and financing of the Cafayate solar project. The Cafayate project represents one of Argentina's largest solar project developments to date

Peru

- An asset management firm in the acquisition and financing by an independent petroleum company of various oil and gas assets in Peru

Caribbean

- A developer of renewable energy projects in the Caribbean and Latin America in the proposed acquisition of development rights in a power plant in the Dominican Republic
- Client in the disposition of Curacao's largest power plant
- A state-owned company of Trinidad and Tobago in the issuance of US\$400 million of 144A/Reg. S project bonds to finance the development and construction of the Government Campus Plaza project, a complex totaling 1.154 million square feet. The bond financing represents the largest financing made by the government of Trinidad and Tobago to date
- A state-owned company of Trinidad and Tobago in the issuance of US\$73.1 million of Reg. D project bonds to finance the development and construction of the Ministry of Education office, a 16-story office tower
- Lenders in the proposed Reg. D US\$122.75 million financing of a calcium chloride and caustic soda processing facility in Trinidad

Middle East

- A power company in the development of a 400 MW power plant in the Republic of Yemen

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California

Recognitions

- *Chambers Global*
 - Project Finance – Latin America (2010, 2011, 2013-2020)
 - Project Finance – USA (2010 and 2011, 2019-2020)
 - Energy & Natural Resources – Latin America (2020)
 - Mergers and Acquisitions – Latin America (2009-2011)
 - Banking and Finance – Latin America (2009-2010)
 - Foreign Expertise in Latin America-wide of Projects in US (2013-2019)
 - Mergers and Acquisitions, Project Finance, and Banking and Finance – Latin America Focus (2011)
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Project Finance (2019)

- US Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2019)
- The Legal 500 Latin America
 - Latin America Projects and Energy (2014-2019)
- The Legal 500 GC Powerlist
 - Private Practice Powerlist: US-Mexico (2018, 2019)
- *Chambers Latin America*:
 - Project Finance (2010, 2011, 2012, 2015-2018)
 - Energy and Natural Resources (2015-2018)
 - Mergers and Acquisitions (2009-2011)
 - Banking and Finance (2010)
 - *Chambers US*: Project Finance – Nationwide (2006-2010)
- *Latinvex*: one of the top 100 Latin American Lawyers (2014- 2020)
- *The Recorder*: California Trailblazer (2019)
- *Latino Leaders Magazine*: one of the Top Latino Lawyers (2016, 2018-2019)
- *MCCA's Diversity and the Bar*: one of sixteen National Law Firm Rainmakers (2011)
- *Financial Times*: one of ten Innovative Lawyers in the US (2010)
- Recognized in *A Word About Winds* Top 100 Legal Power List (2017-2018)
- Recognized in *Global Who's Who Legal – Recommended List Project Finance Lawyers* (2019)
- Recognized in *Hispanic Business Magazine's* 100 Most Influential Hispanics (2008, 2012)
- Expert Guides: *The Legal Media Group Guide to the World's Leading Project Finance Lawyers* (2007)
- Super Lawyer for lending, energy and natural resources work in Southern California (2005-2010)

Education

- J.D., Harvard Law School

Memberships

- California Bar Association
- Los Angeles Bar Association

INSIGHTS

Publications

Assessing ESG factors in the energy sector

27 October 2020
ESG Handbooks and Guides

A reference tool for energy companies as they discuss and refine their ESG programs.

Update on the Executive Order prohibiting import and installation of bulk power system equipment sourced from a foreign adversary: DOE FAQs

8 June 2020

For those developing energy infrastructure projects in the US, addressing the uncertainties about the scope and expected implementation of the EO.

NEWS

Dino Barajas joins DLA Piper's Finance practice as co-chair of US Projects and Infrastructure and Latin American Corporate and Finance practices

24 March 2020

DLA Piper announced today that Dino Barajas has joined the firm's Finance practice as a partner in Los Angeles.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "Renewables Could Drive Recovery in Latin America," *POWER Magazine*, September 30, 2020