



Jean-Pierre Douglas-Henry

Partner

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Jean-Pierre (JP) Douglas-Henry is a heavyweight regulatory, compliance and disputes partner with over 30 years' experience advising clients in more than 45 countries around the world. He is the Managing Director for Sustainability & Resilience, sitting on the Executive Committee of the international firm, with responsibility for ESG, Innovation and Resilience.

JP has extensive experience advising on sustainability and ESG issues; his strong belief that lawyers need to do more than just provide traditional legal counsel – they need to innovate and think “outside the box” providing solutions to problems and leveraging opportunities; and his conviction that good governance is the foundation of resilience in a fast moving and ever-changing commercial, political and social context.

JP has decades of experience advising clients on governance, regulatory and compliance issues; representing them in high stakes disputes; and advising on risk management and strategic issues. He has acted for a number of banks, energy and natural resources companies, and a wide range of governments and SOEs, and specialises in the Financial Services and Energy & Natural Resources Sectors. He has particular expertise in complex cross-border matters and class actions or collective redress representation. JP co-chaired DLA Piper's Litigation & Regulatory Group for 5 five years, overseeing one of the world's largest compliance, regulatory and disputes practices. JP's current role as the Managing Director responsible for Sustainability & Resilience reflects the evolution of his practice to include a focus on Sustainability & ESG and oversight of the Firm's award-winning Radical Change programme which is focused on providing innovative legal and non-legal products and solutions for clients.

Over the years, JP has acted for a number of governments, often in a post-conflict zone context or following civil society engagement to bring about change to assist with their reform, recovery and reconstruction programmes. This includes the recovery of assets misappropriated by the Pinochet regime; the Government of the Maldives following the 2004 public uprising to recover misappropriated state assets and development bank loans; the Central Bank of Libya in relation to asset recovery and preservation issues following the Gaddafi revolution in 2011 pending free and democratic elections; and more recently the Afghan Government with regard to rule of law reform by the Ghani/Abdullah administration to provide a more stable foreign investment environment to facilitate the rebuilding of the Afghan economy after decades of civil war and revolution.

JP co-led the team which provided pro bono support to the UK Government as President of COP in DLA Piper's capacity as Legal Provider to COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 and is actively engaged in supporting the objectives of COP27.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Banking and Finance Litigation
- International Arbitration
- White Collar and Corporate Crime

EXPERIENCE

- Advising various clients on ESG strategies, net zero plans, and the concepts of financed and advised emissions; co-leading the team that provided pro bono advice as Legal Providers to COP26 in Glasgow in 2021; and actively involved in preparations for COP27.
- Advising an automotive manufacturer in relation to the defence of English High Court claims by 000's of car owners with respect to the alleged use of emissions "defeat devices" and claims foreshadowed in various European countries following the introduction of the Collective Redress Directive.
- Advising a transportation group in relation to GLO claims in the English High Court with respect to allegedly discriminatory ticket pricing practices in alleged breach of competition law.
- Advising in relation to the defence of English High Court claims with respect to supply chain issues for a FTSE100 retail group, including human rights and modern slavery claims, and associated investigation and remediation in relevant countries in Asia.
- Advising indigenous miners in Tanzania in relation to modern human slavery and environmental contamination and liability issues, and acting in associated legal proceedings in Tanzania and the UK.
- Advising a gold and copper mining group in Papua New Guinea on claims of environmental contamination of rivers and landslides caused by tailing collapses and the resulting publicly announced settlement involving community-based rebuilding and rehabilitation of affected lands and the provision of subsidised housing and vocational educational facilities.
- Advising a FTSE100 in the ENR sector in relation to parent company liability issues for the actions of its subsidiaries in the US and a number of other jurisdictions, including advice on related governance and behavioural issues.
- Advising an African Government on the review of its portfolio of projects to identify fraudulently procured contracts for the purpose of terminating and/or re-negotiating key contracts and pursuing associated recovery action across multiple jurisdictions.
- Advising a Government in Asia in relation to the termination of a USD5 billion oil field on the basis of force majeure events following an alleged civil insurgency and terrorist activity.
- Advising the Central Bank of Cyprus in relation to the special resolution of EUR2.5 billion FBME Bank following allegations of money-laundering and its inter-action with FinCEN, including associated proceedings in Cyprus, UK, Austria, Germany and the US.
- Advising the Australian Government in relation to the reform of its bank and building society licensing laws and with respect to the associated liquidation of various insolvent building societies and co-operatives.
- Advising an African Government in relation to the reform of its anti-bribery and corruption laws and the pursuit of targeted prosecutions and asset recovery actions against former Government officials.
- Advising a maritime and commodities trading group in relation to alleged fraud and conspiracy claims against their trading counterparty in Nigeria to recover GBP180 million involving the arrest of an oil tanker and associated cargo with multiple proceedings in England, Nigeria and Rotterdam.
- Advising investors in relation to the divestment of their interests in oil and gas and mining assets in Central Asia, and GBP350 million associated claims of fraud, breach of duty and conspiracy involving proceedings in the UK, Bahamas and BVI.
- Advising a former UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights to a ME country in relation to his successful application for political asylum in the UK and with respect to the establishment of a human rights think tank.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Australia

Recognitions

- JP is "highly recommended" (Leaders League 2022); a "great strategic thinker" (Legal 500, 2021) and is a "global leader in asset recovery" (Who's Who Legal, 2020).

Education

- Tasmania, Bachelor of Laws with Honours (1st class)
- Qualified Lawyers' Transfer Test, UK
- Solicitors' Higher Courts (Civil Proceedings) Qualification

Memberships

- Law Society of England and Wales
- London Solicitors' Litigation Association
- International Bar Association
- Lowtonian Society

INSIGHTS

Publications

The Glasgow Climate Pact: What does it mean for Business?

23 November 2021

In this article, members of our Sustainability and ESG Steering Committee share their thoughts on eight key themes emerging from COP26 and what they mean for business.

Events

Previous

Global Disputes Forecast: Climate Litigation

26 April 2022

Webinar

Global Disputes Forecast: 2021 - what does the future hold?

22 February 2021

Webinar

ESG priorities for banks: What are the focus areas now and next?

13 October 2020

Webinar

NEWS

DLA Piper launches dedicated dispute resolution service in Luxembourg

18 May 2021

DLA Piper is delighted to announce the launch of a dedicated dispute resolution service offering in Luxembourg for its clients.
