



Mining

Changing economic conditions are often felt at the mine mouth long before they appear on the balance sheet or the boardroom table. DLA Piper is responsive to our clients' needs as they adapt to the cyclical shifts in the global commodities markets. Our innovative solutions assist them to efficiently address these challenges and opportunities.

From startup to divestment or site closure, our mining legal team can provide a complete legal solution, covering everything from day-to-day operational issues to large scale international transactions and arbitrations.

Our commodities lawyers have detailed knowledge of local regulatory environments, key project drivers and the market. We understand how the many components of a project interact with one another. Our mining team takes a holistic approach to project development, which enables us to offer a balanced assessment in the best interests of the project as a whole. We can assist you to identify, analyze, negotiate and document project structures and to maintain efficiency when the project is operational.

DLA Piper is developing innovative solutions to some of the most complex and important issues facing the mining community today. These projects, while not only important in financial terms, are also breaking new legal ground in their treatment of difficult issues such as third party access to infrastructure and state agreements and concessions.

Mining is a truly global industry and we can provide the location-based assistance as well as the experience and skills that clients in this sector require.

We offer mining and minerals support in all of the major mining regions of the world, including emerging markets in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, as well as the more established markets in Australia, North America and Europe.

Our international reach means we have the local strength and knowledge to advise our clients on specific legal, cultural and political issues wherever they arise.

For those with projects across countries or continents, we can provide a single point of contact to help manage the delivery of legal services to all of your projects and your personnel.

Our multidisciplinary industry focus offers our clients responsive, cost-effective help. Whatever the nature of your legal requirement or business need, you can rely on our detailed knowledge, experience and understanding.

KEY CONTACTS

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- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Real Estate
- Environment, Health and Safety

A selection of our clients:

Miners

- Anglo American
- BC Iron
- China Coal
- Coeur Mining
- Ferrous Resources
- Fortescue Metals Group
- Newmont Mining Corporation
- Norilsk Nickel
- Rio Tinto
- Xstrata

Financiers / Investors

- Credit Suisse
- Macquarie

Operators / Buyers

- Baosteel
- Sinosteel
- Lafarge
- Mitsubishi
- Sibelco/Unimin
- Arcelor Mittal
- Tata Steel
- POSCO
- Marabani
- Sinopec

Suppliers

- POSCO E&C
- STX
- Bristow Helicopters

Government

- Government of Guinea
- State of Western Australia
- Government of Uganda
- Government of Kazakhstan

Case studies

- When the Indian Government's Department of Disinvestment and Coal India Limited (the world's largest coal miner) planned an initial public offering of shares, we were chosen following a formal government counsel selection process involving more than six international law firms. The deal raised US\$3.43 billion, making it the largest IPO in the history of Indian capital markets and the third largest IPO in the world during 2010.
- We are assisting the Australian Premium Iron Joint Venture in all aspects of the development of the West Pilbara Iron Ore Project, which involves the development of three new iron ore mines, 350km of heavy-haul railway and a new deep water port at Anketell Point.
- Our broad experience in the financing of mining operations came into play when we represented a major bank in the financing of the development, construction and operation of an iron ore concentrator facility in the USA. It was structured as a fully secured project financing and commodity hedges were an important part of the deal structure, the borrower being required to hedge against iron ore concentrate price fluctuations over a multiyear period to ensure that offtake revenues would be sufficient to cover debt service.
- A cross-border team from Paris, Perth, New York and Brussels are assisting the Government of Guinea in the review of mining rights

RELATED SECTORS

- Energy and Natural Resources

and conventions granted by the prior governments and on the renegotiation of concessions and conventions in accordance with the new Mining Code.

- We advised Lloyds Banking Group on the debt and equity restructuring of UK Coal plc (now renamed Coalfield Resources plc). An unsuccessful rescue bid would have resulted in company administration, closure of mines, the loss of 2,500 jobs and a tax payer bailout. Working closely with the Lloyds team, we helped achieve the desired outcome; the separation of the businesses of the Group into new divisions and the isolation of existing pension liabilities of £400 million.
- Following a mining failure in Indonesia, the reinsurers hired us to handle a US\$500 million claim. The case was eventually settled on very beneficial terms for the reinsurers.
- Representing the Republic of Guinea in consolidated, multi-billion dollar ICSID arbitrations brought by BSG Resources ("BSGR"), claiming expropriation of a mining concession and related rights in Guinea, in what is one of the most important and high-value mining disputes in the world.
- Acting for the Republic of Kenya in respect of an ICSID claim brought by the mining investor, Cortec. This claim is thought to be the highest value and most strategically important investment treaty claim Kenya has ever faced.

INSIGHTS

Publications

ISDA proposes Form of Amendment for nickel market disruption fallbacks: understanding the options

28 March 2022

Those who use nickel for their commodity reference price may find the Form of Amendment useful to avoid calculation uncertainty.

Canadian sanctions in response to Russian military actions against Ukraine

March 7, 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

The Government of Canada has recently announced a series of new economic sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of and continued military actions against Ukraine.

Conflict mineral reporting rules impact many public companies: *new supply chain requirements and new Form SD*

19 Sep 2012

Understanding the new reporting requirements.
