



Juan Lopez

Year of call: 2002

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"A driven and incisive advocate." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"Particularly thorough and forensic in his approach, he is highly focused, diligent, confident and concise, and gets right to the heart of the issues." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"...accessible and tenacious practitioner who has achieved some spectacular results." (The Legal 500 UK Bar)

"He understands the client's needs and is very thoughtful, considered and calm when in conference with clients" (Chambers and Partners UK Bar)

Juan is a specialist in all areas of infrastructure and planning, and in construction, environmental and related commercial claims, disputes, and regulation, with particular emphasis on the energy, transportation, building, waste/recycling and mining/extraction sectors. He has extensive experience across the full breadth of compulsory purchase and valuation/compensation law, minerals, land contamination, highways, and related property, as well as agriculture. He also advises on environmental taxes/levies, including in the areas of energy efficiency, landfill and climate change. Beyond his advocacy, he has a heavyweight litigation and advisory practice, and is instructed in international, high value multi-jurisdictional disputes, often working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, commonly for majors, operators, contractors, private clients and professional teams. He appears before the courts, in inquiries and arbitrations, and examinations. He is ranked as a Leading Junior by Legal 500 UK and Chambers and Partners UK. He also acts in commercial ADR and is an accredited mediator. He is a contributor to leading infrastructure, construction, energy and environmental legal practitioner texts.



Areas of expertise

Planning

- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensation

Energy and Natural Resources

Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes

Environment

Commercial

Property

Commercial

Juan has experience of a wide range of high value, domestic and international commercial litigation and disputes, particularly relating to major infrastructure, (onshore/offshore) energy generation and plant, termination and decommissioning liabilities and related warranty claims, mining extraction rights and restoration, prospecting, strategic flood and coastal/tidal risk development, major road and rail transportation, and marine and dredging rights. He appears in a wide range of tribunals and in arbitration. He is a contributor to leading infrastructure, construction, energy legal practitioner texts on (solar/wind) SPAs and EPCs, and breach of warranty and decommissioning liabilities.

Cases include:

- Advising JV energy-from-waste facilities (UK/other), recycling facilities and port operator on multilateral agreements (including Basel) and repatriation governing waste transfers to/from US, EU, Southeast Asia, UAE and Saudi Arabia, and West Africa; jurisdictional clauses.
- Advising a US materials recovery operator in connection with waste/non-waste status of recovered battery components/chemical intermediate in connection with high value EU-UK importation, recycling treatment and processing obligations (WFD and REACH classifications and US carrier controls); jurisdictional clauses.
- Advising on Free Zone Service Agreement (Sri Lanka) and AfCFTA in context of recycled materials transportation and logistical support; transition planning and termination.
- Mining/Quarries/Extraction: Highthorn opencast mine (Northumberland, Banks Group (3Mt/pa)); Cragmill Quarry; Heidelberg Quarry; Hutch Bank Quarry (extraction rights; restoration; decommissioning).
- Advising commercial waste collection operator on actionable contravention of 'polluter pays principle' with regard to levy duties and powers and overlaying competition law obligations ([2023] CAT 50 in connection with business loss caused by public sector-run waste services.
- Advising operator consortium on the commercial viability of HaaS modelling.
- Supporting infrastructure/Wayleaves: Advising landowners and statutory parties on wayleave solutions, electrical lines (cable undergrounding and overheads), supporting infrastructure and pylon replacement; digital fixed-line infrastructure wayleaves; related land valuation and compensation, and trespass.

Recommendations

Commentaries in The Legal 500 UK Bar and Chambers and Partners UK Bar, say:

- *"A driven and incisive advocate"*(The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"A junior with a forensic approach to cases."*(The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"Juan has an unfathomable ability to rapidly understand complex issues and provide a clear way forward, and is a pleasure to work with"*(The Legal 500 UK Bar [2024])
- *"He understands the client's needs and is very thoughtful, considered and calm when in conference with clients"*(Chambers and Partners UK Bar [2024])

- *"Particularly thorough and forensic in his approach, he is highly focused, diligent, confident and concise, and gets right to the heart of the issues."* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2023])
- *"Very professional and diligent. A highly skilled advocate and able to turn the tables from friendly to challenging cross-examination at a moment's notice. Uses his experience to open up unforeseen opportunities during cross-examination. A real future star QC."* (The Legal 500 UK Bar [2023])
- *"Robust. Well-organised. Great presentation."*
- *"...a force in matters concerning climate change, flood alleviation, coastal defence schemes and ecology."*
- *"...commercially aware...extremely professional and diligent."*
- *"...accessible and tenacious practitioner who has achieved some spectacular results."*
- *"Very knowledgeable, concise, proactive and user friendly."*
- *"...a tenacious advocate who really fights his corner."*

Memberships

- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- National Infrastructure Planning Association (NIPA)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)
- Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA)
- UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA)

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