



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

Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes

Juan acts in all construction and engineering disputes, with an emphasis on defects, delay and disruption, and is fast-developing a specialist practice in project advice for (onshore/offshore) energy plant (including cabling and transformers), major road and rail transportation (management/maintenance), and strategic flood and coastal/tidal risk development. He advises on all main forms of contract, and accepts instructions in complex litigation before the courts and in arbitration, and at all stages of the adjudication process. He is particularly familiar with the technical aspects of infrastructure delivery, maintenance and decommissioning. He is a contributor to a leading construction text (energy and transportation litigation and disputes; emerging influence of energy efficiency and net zero sustainability).

Cases include:

- Acting for claimant in multi-party defects claim, and claim to enforce surety/bond/indemnity liabilities under s.38 HA 1980 arising from multiple design, as-built construction and materials failures (surface course, stabilisation, geogrids, capping and sub-base, levelling off, proof-rolling) within extensive road and footway network.
- Advising NEC 4 contractor undertaking major flood defence reinforcement works under a construction programme necessitating the mid-river use of crane and barge for piling and anchoring works.
- Solar: advising on SPA, EPC and decommissioning liabilities (indemnity) and design issues.
- Advising rail infrastructure body on liabilities arising from vibratory, geotechnical and wider dredging disturbance to a river bed, from underbridge reinforcement and embankment reconstruction; Crossrail disputes (see also: Compensation, above).
- Acting for licensee of iconic UK sport stadium, advising on consortium owners' contractual and guarantee-specific liabilities arising from the licensee's occupational exposure to part-buried and excavated asbestos sheeting, future bunding remediation and relocation works, in connection with separate liabilities under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.
- Advising engineer contractor on the scope of design obligations, warranty and contribution (CL(C)A 1978) under contract/negligence/common law duty, for failed jetty development.
- Advising a landowner and employer on defective ground investigation and flood drainage works, arising from land slippage and failed reinforcement, obstructing access to Cheddar Gorge.
- Advising a retail consortium and residents' group on defective coastal defence scheme, including land erosion implications, the geotechnical assessment of remedial optioneering, and wave action impact assessment.
- Advising a developer on pier stabilisation, and structural implications of adjacent coastal defence works.
- Advising a national bus operator on defective road junction design and modelling (network loading) in connection with PFI and highways safety auditing of over-capacity links.
- Advising a professional team on surveying and notification duties under CDM Regulations 2015 in preparation for a construction phase plan.
- Advising successful claimant on multi-party 'common costs' (TCC costs budgeting).

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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