



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

-- Development Consent Orders and Infrastructure

Juan has extensive experience of major infrastructure, and of DCO and TWAOs applications, which often combine with his related CPO and compensation, energy generation/supply and transportation, and highways work. He acts for a wide range of infrastructure and public bodies, energy suppliers and distribution network operators, as well as for objectors. Projects include renewables, and strategic road and rail improvement (including motorways, interchanges, station redevelopment, embankment, bridges and tunnels, accommodation works). He also speaks at major infrastructure and transportation seminars/forums, including on infrastructure delivery, the Northern Transport and Infrastructure Development Forum (reformulation of 'Northern Powerhouse' initiative in synchrony with the UK's transport growth strategy) and Network North. He also has particular experience of geotechnical and excavation methodologies, and trial pit and structural surveying, in connection with his construction work.

Infrastructure projects include:

- **Road and Rail:** M20; M25 junctions, links, and relief improvements (Silvertown; Uttoxeter bypass); Northants rail strategic interchange; railway bridge infrastructure, and station improvements (recently acting for Network Rail Infrastructure (15+ Orders) in Farnborough North, Hampshire TWAO); Acting for infrastructure bodies and objectors in relation to strategic road and rail transportation schemes (optioneering and upgrading, crossing closures, line speed restrictions and mitigation deliverability: s.120 HA 1980; statutory incompatibility and s.57 BTCA 1949; RCCA 1845; WCA 1981; appearing in landmark cases of *R (oao Ramblers Association) v SSEFRA*[2017] EWHC 716 (Admin) (statutory incompatibility; illegality; DMMOs) and *R (oao Network Rail) v SSEFRA*[2018] EWCA Civ 2069 (necessity for enabling development)).
- **Oil and Gas:** Advising on offshore consent revisions for North Sea drilling rig fields, considering EIA (Sch.1 and Sch.2, Regulations 2020; OPRED Guidance 2021) and FDPs with regard to phased infrastructure, consented baselines, production forecasting and cumulative assessment; GONPA.
- **Energy from waste facilities; Biomass; Incineration:** Advising on digestion processing, gas capture capacity, waste management and transfer processes, and coalescence, in respect of 10+ waste facilities across Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk, Devon, Cornwall; Waste4Fuel, Kent (EA injunctioned waste site: High Court final injunction trial).
- **Solar:** Econergy, Rutland; Wiltshire.
- **Wind:** Onshore wind (Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and East Riding) and offshore wind (Sheringham Shoal); *Mordue v SSCLG* [2015] EWHC 539 (Admin) (wind power).
- **Nuclear:** Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station. Advising objector on DCO conformity and transport assessment (public consultation and planning performance agreement stages: Examination Authority Q&As).
- **Mining/Quarries:** Highbarn opencast mine (Northumberland, Banks Group): co-promoting the then largest UK opencast mine (3Mt/yr), addressing Paris commitments, energy mix and security of supply, and operational management; Cragmill Quarry; Heidelberg Quarry; Hutch Bank Quarry.
- **Supporting infrastructure/Wayleaves:** Advising electricity companies, landowners and statutory parties (UKPN, EPN, SSE, EDF, RBKC) 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 (various sites).

- **Marine/Water:** Advising water utilities, developers and landowners on water/sewerage supply connections (various); mooring and slipway development (Ilse of Wight).

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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