



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

Energy and Natural Resources

Juan's energy law and natural resources practice encompasses high-value commercial energy disputes (power generation, supply and distribution), compensation, infrastructure consenting and all aspects of regulation and licensing. He acts in proceedings before a broad range of tribunals and in arbitration.

He advises majors, suppliers and distribution operators in renewables, oil and gas, and electricity, and in respect of power purchase agreements, transportation networks, infrastructure wayleave and network connection agreements, decommissioning arrangements, transmission-above-ground installations, RHI Scheme, HaaS modelling, network code rights, NGESO decision-making, and enforcement generally under the Gas and Electricity Acts. He has advised Ofgem (in Competition and Markets Authority proceedings) on their Opex Escalator condition modifications of National Grid's Electricity Transmission Licence (EA 1989).

He is commonly instructed by energy from waste and recycling operators, including as part of US, EU, Southeast Asia, UAE and Saudi Arabia, and West Africa litigation, engaging multiple international environmental regulators. He is familiar with UK/international energy strategies for promoting renewables and cleaner energy growth, mix, decarbonisation and security of supply.

Cases include:

- 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.
- Advising Ofgem (in Competition and Markets Authority proceedings) on Opex Escalator condition modifications of National Grid's Electricity Transmission Licence (EA 1989).
- Advising operator consortium on the commercial viability of HaaS modelling.
- Advising operator on Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and certification requirements.
- Advising UK energy from waste, recycling and incineration plant operators (Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk, Devon) on facility capacity for gas capture and digestion processing and decommissioning/breach of warranty.
- Advising JV energy-from-waste facilities (UK/other), recycling facilities and port operator in multi-jurisdictional dispute (multilateral agreements, including Basel) 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 recycled battery/waste imports/transfers via UK; jurisdictional clauses.
- Advising energy from waste operator on continued permitting of renewable gas/anaerobic digester; quantification of 'green energy' outputs (slurry, food waste).
- Mining/Quarries: Highthorn opencast mine (Northumberland, Banks Group; former largest UK opencast mine (3Mt/pa); Cragmill Quarry; Heidelberg Quarry; Hutch Bank Quarry (extraction rights; restoration).
- Advising a major agricultural hub on agricultural biomass-to-pharmaceutical processing.
- Acting for applicants and objectors in wayleave applications, in conjunction with schedule 4 Electricity Act 1989; electricity distribution licensing; Engineering Recommendation P2/7; electricity circuit diversion; the Electricity Safety, and Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

- Advising DNO on Capacity Market NGESO regulation.

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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