



# Energy Transactions

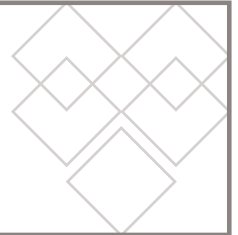
2026



PROFILED:

**SEAN O'NEILL**

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## Energy Transactions



### SEAN O'NEILL

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#### PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

**Sean O'Neill** is a partner in Milbank's project, energy and infrastructure finance group, based in New York. He represents project sponsors and financial institutions in some of the largest domestic and cross-border financings and investment transactions across industrial sectors, including oil & gas, liquid natural gas, power, energy transition projects, transportation and logistics infrastructure, water, digital infrastructure and mining. He earned his JD from Columbia, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and an editor for the Yearbook on International Investment Law & Policy, his MBA from Columbia Business School and his BA, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania.

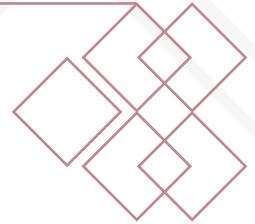
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## Q&amp;A WITH SEAN O'NEILL

**How do you stay ahead in your field? Are there any emerging trends or innovations you are particularly excited about in your area of expertise?**

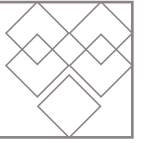
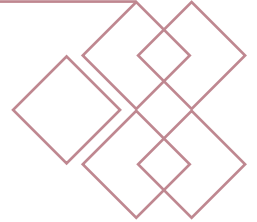
◆ Our clients are the most innovative in the market and many of the transactions we work with them on are 'first of a kind'. Because of this, I find that following what our clients are doing across sectors and deals is the best way to stay ahead. Digital infrastructure is one area that has exploded in recent years, and we are one of the top legal advisers advising on transactions across the entire value chain – but the growth has fuelled more than strictly digital assets; it is driving a demand for all types of power assets and required novel structures to meet the unique demands of these projects.

**What qualities and values do you believe are essential for building strong, trusting relationships with clients?**

◆ Being proactive and always being available to support clients are prerequisites, but understanding the goals of clients and their counterparts, so that you can take a commercial approach to solving their complex legal issues, is crucial. There will almost always be legal solutions if the commercial goals are clear and lawyers sufficiently creative. Showing that you are invested in and understand what your clients do will also always lead to stronger relationships.

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**What are your predictions for the future of your legal specialty? How do you see your vocation evolving over the next few years?**

◆ There continues to be a rise in increasingly complicated and novel structures, for both project development and debt and equity. A recent example of this is Blackstone Credit & Insurance's \$7bn investment to acquire a 49.9 percent minority interest in Sempra's Port Arthur LNG Phase 2, which we advised on. This underscores the need for lawyers to think commercially while being flexible and creative. Artificial intelligence (AI) will also make law firms more efficient, allowing those at the top of their respective markets to handle more deals while providing even deeper market insight to clients. There is a lot that is uncertain, but I am confident AI will increase our ability to provide the highest quality of advice and service to our clients. ■

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COMPLICATED AND NOVEL STRUCTURES, FOR BOTH PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT AND DEBT AND EQUITY."**

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**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Advised Apollo and Brookfield on the take-private acquisition of Air Lease for approximately \$7.4bn, or approximately \$28.2bn including debt obligations to be assumed or refinanced net of cash.
- ◆ Advised the lenders on Atlas Renewable Energy's \$3bn refinancing of its renewable energy portfolio – the largest-ever private financing for non-conventional renewable energy in Latin America.
- ◆ Advised the lenders on the financing of the Blackcomb Pipeline in Texas, designed to transport 2.5 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas.
- ◆ Advised Blackstone Credit & Insurance as leader of a \$7bn investment to acquire a 49.9 percent minority equity interest in Sempra's Port Arthur LNG Phase 2.
- ◆ Advised the lenders on Apex Clean Energy's \$1.05bn holdco financing.
- ◆ Advised JP Morgan on Chestnut Carbon's non-recourse project financing – a 'first of its kind' bank financing for a US voluntary carbon removal afforestation project.
- ◆ Advised the lenders on Brookfield's \$5bn strategic partnership with Bloom Energy to implement a reimagined future for AI infrastructure.

