

Manuel Vera

Partner, Foreign Legal Consultant

Houston
T: +1.713.221.1325
F: +1.713.437.5366
E: manuel.vera@bracewell.com

About Manuel

As a lawyer licensed in Mexico, Manuel Vera represents U.S. financial service institutions, energy companies and investment firms in acquisitions in Mexico and Latin America, also guiding them through cross-border project finance transactions and joint ventures. Manuel has worked with clients on projects in more than a dozen Latin American countries, with a special emphasis on Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Argentina, as well as Spain.

He is well versed in Mexican and international corporate and commercial law, particularly foreign investment, energy, project finance, banking, real estate transactions, labor, tax and regulatory issues affecting Mexican companies. Manuel's current client roster includes global *Fortune* 100 and *Fortune* 500 corporations.

Recent Notable Matters

Global Specialty Chemical Company — acquisition of a Mexican company with offices in Mexico City and an industrial plant in Toluca, Mexico including corporate and regulatory matters

Ion Geophysical Corporation — credit facility refinance, granting of collateral package and regulatory matters in Mexico

Southern Copper Corporation — derivative lawsuit in Delaware; corporate, securities and contract matters

Kinder Morgan, Inc. — corporate restructuring of its subsidiaries in Mexico

ASARCO — advised on all aspects of a ransomware attack response, including international regulatory reporting requirements and associated remediation efforts

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association — as lender, administrative agent and collateral agent in the successfully completed exit financing for Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. and certain affiliates. The exit financing included approximately $400 million in a revolving credit facility, $100 million in a term loan and over $85 million in privately placed notes.

Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank — as agent to the lenders in the $2.44 billion letter of credit facility and approximately $544 million in funded debt for McDermott International, Ltd in the successfully completed emergence from bankruptcy

Crédit Agricole — $2.8 billion financing facility in prepackaged Chapter 11 restructuring transaction for McDermott International, Ltd as agent to revolving debtor-in-possession (DIP) lenders

Eni S.p.A. — assist with the bidding process for the international public tender made by the government of Argentina for the granting of offshore oil exploration and extraction licenses

Cheiron Petroleum Group — The first upstream debt transaction for an independent oil and gas company in the newly deregulated Mexican market. With acquisition financing led by Natixis bank, the transaction closed after the company's successful bid for a 50 percent operated interest in the onshore Cardenas and Mora fields in partnership with Pemex, the Mexican state oil company

Crédit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank — as lead arranger, in the $4.65 billion financing of McDermott International, Inc.'s all-stock combination with Chicago Bridge & Iron Company N.V., consisting of a $2.26 billion senior secured term loan facility, a $1.0 billion senior secured revolving credit facility and a $1.39 billion senior secured letter of credit facility

Kinder Morgan, Inc. — cross-border natural gas pipeline and ownership of related assets for the transportation of gas in Mexico, including ongoing corporate work, regulation, tax, finance and labor issues, as well as the execution of several contracts related with its operation in Mexico

Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas, LLC — registration, preparation of all bid documents, prequalification and related matters for the First Bid (exploration and extraction oil contracts) and Second Bid (extraction oil contracts) of Round 1 for shallow water blocks, issued by the Mexican government as result of the new Energy regime in Mexico

Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas, LLC — corporate structure, formation process, ongoing corporate matters and related activity for the participation of oil exploration and extraction activities under Round 1 for shallow water blocks, issued by the Mexican government

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. — corporate, regulatory and miscellaneous advice to El Paso Marketing de Mexico

Leading U.S. pipeline and midstream company — joint venture and participation in a public bid issued by the Mexican Electricity Commission (CFE) and project finance for the construction and operation of a $2.1 billion underwater natural gas pipeline in Mexico

U.K. upstream oil and gas exploration and production company — general advice on the potential participation for the Fourth Bid for deep water blocks, issued by the Mexican government, as a result of the new Energy regime in Mexico

Company in joint venture formation to operate a gas marketing company in Mexico — formation of a joint venture in Mexico to operate a gas marketing company

Key Energy Services, Inc. — formation of a consortium to participate in a bid with Pemex for an oil field in Chicontepec, Mexico

Calpine Corporation — development, construction and operation of a 525 MW power plant in Mexico for the Comisión Federal de Electricidad and assistance with the sale of Calpine's interest in such power plant arrangements

Kinder Morgan, Inc. — sale of Kinder Morgan to management group and investment partners including Goldman Sachs, The Carlyle Group, AIG, and Riverstone Holdings in order to take Kinder Morgan private

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. — assignment from BNP Paribas to Wells Fargo of five oil and gas reserve based loans secured by companies in Colombia, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Island, Panama, the U.K., Spain and Peru

Key Energy Services, Inc. — sale of its Argentinean subsidiary

Kinder Morgan, Inc. — installation and operation of certain natural gas compression facilities in Mexico

MatlinPatterson Global Advisers — acquisition of nine Mexican companies

Publications and Speeches

"Mexican Energy Legislation, Investors monitor debate as results may impact after-tax return," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, September 10, 2014.

"Exploration and Production in Mexico, Overhaul of energy sector invites expanded opportunities for private investment," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, September 10, 2014.

"Energy Reform Package to Increase Competition and Private Sector Opportunities in the Mexican Power Industry," *Power Engineering*, September 2014.

"Important energy reform submitted by Mexico's President," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, August 20, 2013.

Education

Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City, J.D.
1994 – *with honors*

Noteworthy

The Legal 500 Latin America, International Firms – Projects and Energy, 2022

The Legal 500, Private Practice Powerlist: US-Mexico, 2018

Delinian Limited, *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, Highly Regarded: Banking, 2016 - 2023; Project Finance, 2016 - 2023; Energy and Infrastructure, 2018

Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC, *IFLR1000 Energy & Infrastructure Guide*, Latin America, Leading Lawyer, 2013 - 2016

Lawdragon Inc., *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Transactions, Especially Cross-Border, 2023 - 2024

Affiliations

State Bar of Texas

Mexican Bar Association

Houston Bar Association

Bar Admissions

Mexico
State Bar of Texas Foreign Legal Consultant

Languages

Spanish — fluent