

Danielle M. Varnell

Partner

danielle.varnell@bracewell.com

WASHINGTON, DC
+1.202.828.5835



Danielle Varnell, co-chair of the firm's power practice, has extensive experience in energy M&A including with respect to both development stage and operating projects, portfolio acquisitions and divestures, and complex multi-party joint ventures. In addition to her experience with fossil generation assets and onshore wind and solar assets, Danielle has significant experience in carbon capture and sequestration, battery storage and offshore wind.

Danielle also has extensive experience on all aspects of energy and infrastructure project development, including the negotiation and drafting of build transfer agreements, EPC contracts, operation and maintenance agreements, construction management agreements, asset management agreements, shared facilities agreements, build out agreements and equipment procurement and supply agreements (including gas and wind turbines, modules and transformers), as well as numerous other project development agreements.

She speaks and writes extensively on issues of importance in the energy sector, including both onshore and offshore wind, financing solutions for renewable energy projects and solar and storage development.

Ms. Varnell is currently recommended by *Chambers USA* in Projects: Power & Renewables – Transactional (2021-2025) and Offshore Energy (2023-2025), *The Legal 500 United States* in Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2017-2018, 2022-2025; Leading Partner, 2024-2025), Energy Transactions: Electric Power (2017-2019, 2021, 2023-2025; Leading Partner, 2023-2025) and Project Finance (2021). In addition, she was named “Energy, Natural Resources & Mining Lawyer of the Year” at the 2021 Women in Business Law America Awards and a “South Trailblazer” for 2022 by *The American Lawyer*.

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Infrastructure](#)

Practices

[Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage](#)

[Corporate & Securities](#)

[Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#)

[Infrastructure Development](#)

[Power](#)

[Renewable Energy](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Energy Storage](#)

Experience

Leading North American power generation and development company

- equity investment into renewables platform which includes a 4 GW pipeline of utility scale wind, solar and co-located battery storage projects
- acquisition of operating wind portfolio in the Northeast sale of its majority ownership stake in a 1250 MW thermal project located outside of Chicago, Illinois to multiple equity investors, which sale closed contemporaneously with the financing of the project. This deal was awarded numerous recognitions including 2020 “US Power Deal of the Year” by Project Finance International.

Leading North American energy company

- \$760 million sale to a private equity investor of its ownership interest in eight fossil generating facilities totaling approximately 5,000 MWs
- sale of renewables platform and equity interest in yieldco
- M&A counsel in its carbon capture and enhanced oil recovery project located southwest of Houston, Texas in which project was awarded Power Magazine’s 2017 Project of the Year award and a \$190 million US Department of Energy grant.

Leading US-based developer

- sale and development of a portfolio of solar plus battery storage projects to a consortium of utilities
- forming a consortium that secured one of six leases in the New York Bight offshore wind auction
- development and sale, through a build transfer agreement, of over 500 MW of solar generation
- build-transfer sale of a 300 MW wind project
- acquisition of a multistate wind and solar development portfolio

Credentials

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 1997, *cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*
- Ripon College, B.A., 1993, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Affiliations

- Law360, Energy Editorial Advisory Board, 2021 – 2022, 2024
-

Recognition

Chambers Global

- Projects: Power & Renewables (Transactional), 2022 – 2025

Chambers USA

- Nationwide Projects: Power & Renewables (Transactional), 2021 – 2025
- Nationwide Offshore Energy, 2023 – 2025

The Legal 500 United States

- Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power, 2017 – 2018, 2022 – 2025 (Leading Partner, 2024 – 2025)
- Energy Transactions: Electric Power, 2017 – 2018, 2021, 2023 – 2025 (Leading Partner, 2023 – 2025)
- Project Finance, 2021

Delinian Limited

- *IFLR1000 Financial & Corporate and M&A Guide*, Project Development: Energy, 2023 – 2024

Women in Business Law Americas Awards

- Energy, Natural Resources & Mining Lawyer of the Year, 2021

ALM Media Properties, LLC

- *The American Lawyer*, South Trailblazers, 2022
- *National Law Journal*, Energy & Environmental Trailblazers, 2018

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers in America*, Energy M&A, 2024 – 2025
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading US Energy Lawyers*, Energy Transactions, 2024 – 2025

Resources

A Bright Spot in the Solar Market: Commerce Rejects Anonymous Petitions Requesting Anti-Circumvention Investigation and Tariffs

Update

Commerce Unveils Preliminary Findings of Solar Tariff Probe

Update

Publications & Speeches

- "New Trends & Challenges in Development," Infocast Solar + Wind Finance & Investment Summit, March 17, 2025.