

Texas Powerhouse: Bracewell

By **Spencer Brewer**

Law360 (September 5, 2025, 4:00 PM EDT) -- Bracewell LLP charted another growth year by continuing to focus on core practices including energy, finance and infrastructure, attributing its success in part to a focus on deep expertise in some of the Lone Star State's most prosperous sectors.

With 306 attorneys firmwide — including 191 in Texas — the law firm handled several high-profile energy-related deals over the past year. Among those transactions were Houston-based Phillips 66's nearly \$1.28 billion sale of its stake in Rockies Express Pipeline, and TC Energy's sale of its interest in the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System for \$1.14 billion. Those deals helped Bracewell earn a spot on Law360's Regional Powerhouses of 2025.

"We're known as being a firm of choice across energy, finance and infrastructure, and that attracts not only talent to the firm, but it also attracts clients and opportunities," said Greg Bopp, firmwide managing partner for Bracewell.

The firm's Texas presence was a huge part of its success over the past year, he said. Bracewell has Texas offices in Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. Founded in 1945 in Houston, the firm celebrates its 80th anniversary this year.

Texas has the eighth-largest economy globally, and is the energy capital of the world, Bopp said. The state also leads the nation in oil and gas production, as well as energy generation from renewables like wind and solar, he said.

"We feel very fortunate to have a large footprint here in Texas," Bopp said.

Additional deals the firm took part in include APA Corp.'s \$950 million sale of its noncore conventional assets in the Permian Basin to Hilcorp Energy. The transaction closed in the fourth quarter of 2024, and included properties in the Central Basin Platform, the Texas and New Mexico Shelf, and the Northwest Shelf, all of which are areas in Texas and New Mexico.

Those properties have an estimated net production of 21,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Bracewell helped steer the company through corporate hurdles, including crafting the purchase and sale agreement and navigating multiple jurisdictions.



In addition to helping TC Energy navigate its sale of interest in the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System, Bracewell also advised TC through a late-emerging regulatory hurdle after state regulators unexpectedly insisted on jurisdictional oversight, even though the Portland Natural Gas Transmission System is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Bracewell's team worked with local counsel to navigate the issue in two states. The firm ultimately secured a favorable ruling in one and negotiated a settlement in the other.

Additionally, Bracewell's Texas litigation team won a complete dismissal of all claims against its clients in CirclesX Recovery LLC v. BP et al., a bellwether case in a lawsuit stemming from Winter Storm Uri. The August 2024 ruling in the Harris County multidistrict litigation threw out claims brought by CirclesX asserting market manipulation against a number of prominent oil and gas companies, including clients represented by Bracewell such as Chevron USA, Apache, PetroChina International (America) Inc. and Tenaska Marketing Ventures.

The plaintiffs alleged that the natural gas industry withheld supplies to boost prices during Winter Storm Uri. The dismissal of the claims helped several of Bracewell's clients avoid similar litigation.

The Lone Star State's economy has continued to grow significantly, Bopp said. The need for capital deployment across the energy and infrastructure sectors drives a lot of business in Texas, he said, and that in turn creates a need for high-end legal services.

In Dallas, the firm focuses on healthcare, public finance and real estate, said Brock Bailey, managing partner for Bracewell's office in the city. Bracewell recently acquired a healthcare regulatory, litigation and transactional practice through a group that joined the firm laterally, he said.

The firm has a robust public finance group, he said, which has both a healthcare and real estate component. Bracewell represents clients such as municipalities, school districts, airports and other entities that require public finance, Bailey said.

"The thing that is unique to Bracewell is our 'One Bracewell' culture," he said. "We actually like one another. We enjoy practicing with one another. I think that shines through in client pitches."

Bracewell recruited 16 attorneys laterally in 2024, Bopp said, and has already brought on several additional lawyers through lateral moves this year. Texas has several outstanding law schools, he said, and they supply a steady stream of talented new attorneys.

"From a talent perspective, we do view ourselves as a destination firm for talent," Bopp said. "We recruit excellent attorneys at all levels, whether they be entry-level attorneys or more experienced partners."

--Editing by Melissa Treolo.