

TEXAS LAWYER

Bracewell Expands Global Energy Team With Big Law Partners, Former DOJ Lawyer

By Brenda Sapino Jeffreys

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What You Need to Know

- Bracewell hired six partners over the last week in the energy, finance and infrastructure practices.
- The Am Law 200 firm is focused on building a global energy team.
- The lawyers were hired in New York, Washington, D.C., and Dubai.

Over the last week, Bracewell has hired five Big Law lateral partners and a retired U.S. Department of Justice lawyer, with all working in the energy, finance and infrastructure sectors as the Houston-founded firm works on building a global energy team.

The hires reflect the Am Law 200 firm's strategy to focus growth at the intersection of energy, infrastructure, finance and technology, managing partner Greg Bopp said.

"That's just become our brand. It makes sense for us to continue to further develop those areas and those practices, because we are so dominant in that space," he said.

Bopp said "it's not a coincidence" the firm hired the six partners within a short stretch,



Courtesy photos

From top left (clockwise): Seth Barsky, Jason Lewis, Jared Joyce-Schleimer, Jeeseon Ahn, Patricia Tiller and Shailesh Sahay of Bracewell.

because the firm is focused on hiring in the broad energy sector.

On Monday, Seth Barsky joined as a partner in Washington, D.C., in the environment, lands and resources department, following more than 30 years at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked in several roles at the Environment and Natural Resources Division, most recently as deputy assistant attorney general.

In Dubai, global projects lawyer Patricia Tiller, who focuses on liquefied natural gas project development, joined as a partner in the

global energy practice, coming from Hunton Andrews Kurth, where she was head of the Dubai office.

In other recent hires, Bracewell added Baker Botts partner Shailesh “Shai” Sahay as a partner in Washington, D.C., in the environment, lands and resources department. He does environment and energy transition work.

Bracewell also expanded its global energy finance and infrastructure practices by adding three partners in New York — Jeeseon Ahn, Jared Joyce-Schleimer and Jason Lewis. Ahn came from McDermott, Will & Emery, Joyce-Schleimer from Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, and Lewis from Winston & Strawn. Bopp said they add depth to the project finance, power and commodities teams.

Barsky, who joined Bracewell on Monday, said it was not a difficult choice to move from government into private practice at Bracewell because of the firm’s strong environmental and natural resources practices, which provide him with a strong base to build a practice.

He left the DOJ at the end of January — the timing was long-planned, he said — and took a little time off before joining the firm, where he expects to do environmental, natural

resources and administrative law. He will work with clients who need assistance in navigating areas such as permitting, approvals for infrastructure projects and responding to inquiries.

Clients in the energy and infrastructure sectors need to interact with the federal government, he said, adding that he is “well-positioned with the Bracewell team that’s already very good with this.”

Tiller, the Dubai lawyer who joined the firm on Thursday, focuses her practice on liquified natural gas projects, and said Bracewell is a good fit, because of its network of offices and its experience in LNG. Having a U.S. LNG team will help her grow her practice, she said.

“Bracewell ticked all of the boxes,” she said.

A spokesperson for Baker Botts provided this comment on Sahay’s departure: “We wish Shai well with his future endeavors.” A spokesperson for Orrick provided this comment on Joyce-Schleimer’s departure: “We thank Jared for his contributions to our firm and wish him well.”

Spokespersons for the other firms where the new Bracewell partners worked previously did not immediately respond.