

Project Finance & Infrastructure 2021



PROFILED:

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Mona Dajani is an engineer, MBA and dual qualified lawyer in the UK and US. She holds multiple leadership positions in the firm, including global co-leader of the energy and infrastructure team and leader of the renewable energy practice, hydrogen practice and sustainable finance practice. She focuses her international practice on project finance, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, portfolio acquisitions, tax equity, construction and restructuring for government and private clients involving energy and infrastructure projects. She has represented commercial and public institutions, sponsors, utilities, financial institutions, underwriters, energy and clean technology companies, private equity funds, investment banks and multilateral agencies.





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Q&A WITH MONA E. DAJANI

In what ways do you endeavour to support the career development of your colleagues rising through the ranks?

From a family of scientists and physicians, I was the first person in my family to become a lawyer. I did not see many lawyers while growing up, but I knew it would be vital for me to understand how to interact with them. I did not really have a mentor in law school but later on, after practicing law, I did and he often sent me thoughtful emails, inviting me to several networking events. I met numerous lawyers and judges at these events. Having a mentor has opened several doors for me, which ultimately led me to become an attorney-adviser with the US Department of Energy through the Attorney General's Honors Program and, later, as a big law partner. My mentor taught me the importance of having a mentor. As such, I have made it a prerogative to mentor associates and law students.

What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

♠ Many lawyers just appear to be good at what they do on the surface, but you can quickly realise the truth behind them. All lawyers must have certain skills in order to be a successful and, in turn, good lawyer. So, what differentiates a 'lawyer' from a 'good lawyer'? The top five qualities of a good lawyer are: responsiveness, analytical skills, creative, hard-working and tenacious and good communication skills.

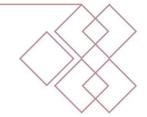




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Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?



♦ With the Biden administration taking shape and a cheerleader for renewable energy and a net zero economy, one theme is to love your planet, with companies focused on renewable energy, climate change and sustainability. My team is focused on cutting-edge trends in renewable energy, such as the exponential growth of electric vehicles and hybrid projects. ■

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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Represented CMS Energy in the acquisition of a majority stake in the Aviator Wind project, the largest single-phase and one-site onshore wind development in the US, with an anticipated 191 wind turbines and total energy output of around 525MW.
- Advised Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems America on multiple projects using renewable hydrogen and short-term lithiumion batteries to be used for energy storage to tackle long term intermittency issues.
- Represented Shikun & Binui (S&B) USA Energy in its purchase from Capital Dynamics of 108MW in California of a solar portfolio consisting of two projects, Beacon II and Beacon V.

