

J.D. Kesler is a trusted adviser to clients, guiding them through transactional and litigation matters related to infrastructure projects primarily in the energy, mining and real estate development industries. As a former in-house attorney, J.D. understands how to easily and effectively navigate the complexities of a client's project-related legal decisions and legal challenges to accomplish his client's goals.



J.D. Kesler

Shareholder | Salt Lake City

Biography

J.D. has extensive experience negotiating complex transactions in the energy industry including: acquisition, development, and financing of utility scale solar projects, pumped hydro storage, and wind; disposition of impaired or challenging natural resource assets; acquisition and disposition of oil and gas leases and mineral rights; negotiating joint venture agreements for developing energy and utility assets; negotiating surface rights related to exploration and production of oil and gas; hydrogen conversion and storage projects; helium projects; acquiring and selling real estate; obtaining land use entitlements; and financing energy infrastructure transactions, such as all of those listed above. J.D. is fully versed in all phases of pipeline and utility construction, including the acquisition of easements and other property rights (whether through negotiation or the use of eminent domain), obtaining land-use entitlements as well as reclamation and restoration upon completion of pipeline construction.

Prior to joining Parsons Behle & Latimer, J.D. spent nearly six years as in-house counsel at a natural gas company, with divisions focused on oil and gas exploration, local natural gas distribution and interstate pipelines.

Contact information

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Capabilities

Corporate
Mining
Oil & Gas
Environmental & Natural Resources
Renewables

Licensed/Admitted

Utah
Wyoming

Experience

Hydrogen Conversion and Storage Project

Represented the operator of a power plant in the negotiation and drafting of an agreement to develop and construct a hydrogen conversion plant and underground salt dome storage facility which is the first of its kind in the western United States.

Natural Gas Replacement Project

Representing Dominion Energy in multi-year, high-pressure natural gas pipeline replacement including eminent domain acquisition, workspace and staging areas, permitting and property rights.

International Mining Agreements

Represented international mining company in the negotiation and drafting of numerous “earn in” type option agreements for development of mines throughout the Americas, including Chile, Columbia, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

Sale of Copper Mine

Represented international mining company in the due diligence, negotiation and drafting of sale documents, and oversaw competitive sale process for a copper mine located in the southwestern United States.

Solar Energy Acquisition

Represented buyer in acquisition of multiple utility scale solar projects totaling over 350MW and involving private, state and BLM land. Since acquisition, finalized permitting, land acquisition, environmental, title, and tax issues.

Renewable Energy

Represented client in securing construction financing and in the sale of equity in multiple utility scale solar projects totaling more than 350MW, and private, state and BLM land.

Sale of One of the World's Largest Gold Companies to Junior Mining Company

Represented client in sale of a gold mine to a junior mining company. Structured the sale, negotiated/documentated all aspects of the transaction, including a private placement and the payment of a mine mortgage.

Transactions and Compliance for Multiple Solar Projects

Represented buyer in a transaction for the acquisition of multiple utility scale solar projects in varying stages of development, involving private, state and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Performed due diligence; contract and agreement work. Since acquisition, conducted permitting, land acquisition, environmental, title, tax and other work including securing bona fide prospective purchaser protections that involved Brownfields property; EPA support in obtaining a Ready for Reuse determination.

Accomplishments

Professional

Utah Legal Elite: 2011, 2018-2021

Academic

University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law (J.D., with honors)

University of Utah (B.S.)
Political Science

Presentations

The Eminent Domain Process, January 31, 2019
International Right of Way Association