

John J. Leonti

Partner

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John guides clients through transformative transactions in the electric power sector, offering strategic direction and delivering innovative solutions.

OVERVIEW

John is recognized as one of the most innovative and well-respected electric power project finance attorneys in the U.S. and is at the forefront of advising clients on complex and groundbreaking financial transactions in the energy sector, having structured several novel deal structures and milestone “firsts” in the industry. He works with a wide range of assets, including solar, storage, gas, wind, and emerging technologies, ensuring that clients can navigate and succeed in the evolving renewable energy landscape. John counsels independent power producers, private equity and hedge funds, major utilities and their competitive subsidiaries, financial institutions, and power marketers.

John’s practice focuses on structuring, negotiating, documenting, and executing complex deals, including tax equity, pref equity and tax credit transfer transactions. He advises on debt transactions, ranging from construction financing to long-term commercial and institutional debt arrangements. Additionally, John is skilled in structured commodity transactions, covering both physical and financial electric power and gas hedges.

John is nationally ranked by *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500* and frequently shares his insights at conferences across the nation, solidifying his role as a thought leader in renewable energy. He contributes to the firm’s strategic direction as a member of the Executive Committee and serves as chair of the Energy Department.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented a grid scale storage developer and operator in financing an 800 MWh energy storage project in Texas, structuring tax credit sales and negotiating financial and operational agreements.
- Represented a renewable energy project developer in debt and tax equity financing for a 150 MWac utility scale battery energy storage system in Brazoria County, Texas, including negotiating and closing the offtake agreement.
- Represented a lender and financial solutions provider as preferred equity investor in a 200.7 MWDC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility and an approximately 237 MWh battery storage facility located in Lamar County, Texas.
- Represented an electric and renewable energy project developer in the negotiation of tax equity financing and

tax credit transfer agreement of a 178.9 MW solar project in Garrett County, Maryland.

- Represented a leading developer, owner, and operator of clean energy projects in a tax equity portfolio financing for a 100 MW solar project under construction in DeSoto County, Mississippi, a 100 MW solar project in Twin Falls County, Idaho, and a 140 MW solar project in Las Animas County, Colorado, coordinating both PTC and ITC projects with debt financing.
- Represented a developer, owner, and operator of large-scale solar, wind, and energy storage projects on the negotiation of a hybrid tax equity and tax credit transfer financing of three utility-scale solar photovoltaic projects under development, including a 100 MW solar project in Polk County, Wisconsin, a 117 MW solar project in Crawford County, Ohio, and a 125 MW solar project in Jackson County, Michigan.
- Represented a global energy company in the tax credit sale of six battery energy storage systems with an aggregate capacity of approximately 865 MWh located in Pecos County, Texas.
- Represented Sabanci Renewables in the acquisition and tax equity and debt financing of its first U.S. utility-scale solar project – a 270MW PV solar project located in ERCOT.
- Represented National Grid Renewables, as sponsor, in connection with the negotiation of the tax equity financing investment in an approximately 275MW (AC) ground-mounted solar photovoltaic power generation facility and an approximately 125MW (AC) battery energy storage system located in Denton County, Texas.
- Represented J. Aron, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., through their first hedge agreement for a standalone battery storage project.
- Represented Omega Energia, the largest renewable energy company in Latin America, in its first construction debt, tax equity financing, and back-leverage debt for the 531MW Goodnight 1 facility.

AWARDS

- *Legal 500 United States* for Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2021-2025); Finance: Project Finance (2021-2025); Energy Transactions: Electric Power (2023-2025)
- *Chambers Global USA*, Projects: Renewables & Alternative Energy, Nationwide (2025-2026)
- *Chambers USA*: Projects: Renewables & Alternative Energy, USA Nationwide (2018-2025)
- *Tamarindo*: Legal Power List (2026)
- *IFLR1000*, Project Development: Energy (2024)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Energy Storage
- Private Equity
- Renewable Energy

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Energy Storage
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- Private Equity
- Renewable Energy

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- International Swaps and Derivatives Association—member of the Global Energy, Commodities & Developing Products Committees
- New York State Bar Association—member of the Derivatives and Structured Products Committee

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, J.D., 2001
- Villanova University, B.S., 1998, business administration, Business Administration

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York
- California

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Moderator, “[CEO Fireside Chat](#),” 2026 Global Power Markets Conference, April 13, 2026.
- Speaker, “[Shaping Bankable Storage: Market-Tested Insights](#),” Energy Storage Summit 2026, February 24-25, 2026
- Speaker, “[The Energy Storage Evolution: Future Finance, Development and Optimisation Trends](#),” Tamarindo’s Financing Energy Transition 2025, October 1, 2025.
- Speaker, “[Post-Apocalyptic Permitting: The Path Forward for Solar and Wind After the DOI Memo](#),” Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar, August 22, 2025.
- Moderator, “[Hybrid Tax Equity Financing: Evolving Deal Structures](#),” American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) Finance Forum, June 4, 2025.
- Speaker, “[Navigating Tax Equity: Financing Pathways for the Evolving Power Market](#),” 2025 Global Power Markets Conference, April 15, 2025.
- Speaker, “[Understanding Today’s Storage Financing](#),” 2025 Infocast Solar + Wind Finance & Investment Summit, March 18, 2025.
- Speaker, “[Investors’ Outlook – 2024 and Beyond](#),” Tamarindo Financing Energy Transition, May 23, 2024.
- Speaker, “[Tax Equity Perspectives on Storage](#),” 2024 Infocast Energy Storage Finance and Investment Summit, May 29, 2024.
- Speaker, “[Future Horizons In Power Markets](#),” 2024 Platts Global Power Markets Conference, April 17, 2024.
- Speaker, “[Analyzing the Current State of the Tax Equity Market and Introducing Tax Credit Transferability](#),” REFF Wall Street, September 20, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Storage in TX: New Tax Credits, New Use Cases, New Revenue Streams](#),” Texas Clean Energy Summit, August 30, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Troutman Pepper’s Guide to Tax Credit Transferability](#),” Troutman Pepper webinar, July 18, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Monetizing Opportunities in Energy Storage in a Post-IRA World](#),” *Energy Law Insights*, May 8, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Optimizing Investments in Energy Storage](#),” *Energy Law Insights*, May 8, 2023.
- Moderator, “[Equity Market: Current and Future Direction](#),” Financing Wind North America 2022, November 2, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

- Contributor, “[Off-Grid Data Centers: A Potential Power Solution For AI](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 17, 2026.
- Co-author, “[How are Geopolitical Trends Impacting Global Energy Storage Markets?](#)” *Tamarindo*, December 2, 2025.
- Co-author, “[Brave New World: What’s Next for US Energy Storage Amid Heightened Regulatory and Tariff Risk?](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, September 23, 2025.
- Podcast, “[Creating Solid-State Solutions: Todd Crescenzo, Clear Creek Investments and Jorge Diaz Schneider, ION Storage Systems](#),” *Battery + Storage* Podcast, September 10, 2025.
- Co-author, “[Top Five Private Equity Investment Trends in US Energy](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, June 10, 2025.
- Podcast, “[Analyzing the Impact of the IRA on Energy Storage](#),” *Battery + Storage* Podcast, December 21, 2023.
- Co-author, “[Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act on US Battery Developers](#),” *New Energy World*, May 31, 2023.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, “[The BESS Winners and Losers of the Second Trumpian Era](#),” *pv magazine*, May 20, 2025.
- Quoted, “[No Shortage of Action for Energy Deal-Makers in 2023](#),” *Law360*, December 8, 2023.
- Interviewed, “[A Year on From the IRA: A Lawyer’s View From Past to Future](#),” *Energy Storage News*, September 12, 2023.
- Quoted, “[Battery Storage in Europe](#),” *Tamarindo*, June 30, 2023.
- Quoted, “[Six Energy Project Finance Trends to Watch in 2022](#),” *Law360*, January 3, 2022.