John K. Arnold

Partner

Houston

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John is a recognized leading gas, power, and energy infrastructure attorney in Texas. He represents energy companies in a broad range of state energy and infrastructure regulatory matters, from compliance and enforcement to project development and commercial transactions.

OVERVIEW

Well-versed in midstream oil and gas and electricity issues, John represents energy companies in matters before the Railroad Commission of Texas (the state's principal oil and gas regulatory authority), Public Utility Commission of Texas, ERCOT, and in testimony before the Texas legislature.

John represents producers, midstream companies, and natural gas local distribution companies, as well as companies involved in carbon dioxide and hydrogen energy transition issues. In electric matters, he represents electric utilities, retail electric providers, industrial customers, and power generators. John is also a former aide to the Texas attorney general and law clerk to a justice of the Supreme Court of Texas.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Midstream and Oil and Gas

- Represents multiple intrastate and interstate pipeline companies in the intrastate oil, gas, and NGL markets in permitting, compliance, tariff structuring, pipeline safety, and complaint matters.
- Represents natural gas utilities and pipelines in numerous rate proceedings and regulatory policy matters.
- Represents multiple natural gas storage facilities in permitting, compliance, and commercial matters.
- Represents producers and transporters of carbon dioxide in carbon capture, transportation, and sequestration matters.
- Counsels midstream companies and producers on gathering, treating, processing, storage, purchase, and transportation agreements.
- Counsels midstream transportation and storage facilities on project development and related transactions.
- Works with the state's fastest-growing investor-owned utility on pipeline development and gas delivery to industrial and residential customers.
- Conducts Texas midstream regulatory due diligence for financing and the development of numerous facilities.

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Electricity

- Represented the state's second-largest electric utility in regulatory matters before cities and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.
- Represented potential equity investors in a proposal to acquire the state's largest electric utility out of a bankruptcy proceeding.
- Represented a company in the process of building significant high-voltage electric transmission in Texas, and in subsequent rate matters.
- Represented multiple retail electric providers in litigation, compliance, and enforcement matters.
- Represent the largest exporter of LNG in electric regulatory matters associated with the acquisition of a power plant.
- Negotiates and executes facilities extension, interconnection, and power supply agreements.

AWARDS

- *Chambers USA*, Energy: State Regulatory and Litigation (Oil & Gas), Band 1, (2012-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Energy Law (2022-2027), Energy Regulatory Law (2022-2027)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Renewable Energy
- State Energy Regulation

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Government + Regulatory
- Oil + Gas
- Renewable Energy
- State Administrative + Business Solutions
- State Energy Regulation

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Planning committee, IEL 8th Midstream Oil & Gas Law Conference
- Member, Houston Bar Association Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section
- Member, State Bar of Texas Public Utility Law Section
- Member, Gulf Coast Power Association
- Member, Energy Bar Association
- Board of directors, Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center
- Past member, president's board of visitors, Trinity University

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1999, Order of the Coif; articles editor, *Southern Methodist University Law Review*; member of The Barristers; John Kennedy Post-Graduate Scholarship
- Trinity University, B.A., 1993, Presidential Scholarship

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Craig T. Enoch, Supreme Court of Texas, 1999-2000

LANGUAGES

- Spanish

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Moderator, "Fireside Chat with WTG," 23rd Annual Energy Infrastructure CEO & Investor Conference, May 19, 2026.
- Panelist, "Regulatory Panel," Enkon's 2026 Natural Gas Storage Forum, February 11, 2026.
- Panelist, "Legislative Review Panel," UT Law CLE 2023 Gas and Power Institute, October 27, 2023.
- Speaker, "Weatherization of Gas-Fired Generation Resources & Gas Supply in ERCOT," Gulf Coast Power Association Virtual Forum, March 1, 2023.
- Speaker, "Commercial Incentives and Challenges for Renewables and the Energy Transition," Locke Lord Implementing the Inflation Reduction Act Webinar Series, November 9, 2022.
- Speaker, "State Regulatory and Legislative Update," UT Law CLE 2021 Gas and Power Institute, October 14, 2021.
- Planning Committee, UT Law CLE 2021 Gas and Power Institute, October 14, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Governor Abbott Directs TCEQ to Halt All Data Center Permits Pending ERCOT/TWDB Audits," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, September 22, 2026.
- Co-author, "Texas Hits Pause on Data Center Grid Connections Amid Growing Oversight Push," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, August 4, 2026.
- Co-author, "Texas Receives Class VI Primacy: What CCS Developers Need to Know," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, November 18, 2025.
- Co-author, "Bills' Defeat Means Brighter Outlook for Texas Renewables," *Law360*, July 10, 2025.
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Co-author, “Well, Well: Outlook for CCUS Projects in Texas Improves as EPA Proposes to Delegate Permitting Authority and the Texas Supreme Court Clarifies Pore Space Ownership,” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, June 24, 2025.

- Co-author, “CISA’s Proposed Cyber Incident Reporting Rules Under CIRCIA,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, May 21, 2024.
- Co-author, “CCS in Focus: Texas on Deck for Class VI Well Permitting Primacy,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, February 27, 2024.
- Co-author, “Seeking Primacy – the Railroad Commission of Texas Seeks Primary Authority Over the Class VI Carbon Sequestration Program,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, September 19, 2022.
- Co-author, “Texas Oil and Gas Gathering Systems Should Not Cease Gathering Service Without Considering Railroad Commission Rule 73,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, January 26, 2021.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Cited, “Texas Data Center Backlash Is Deserved, Governor Abbott Says as Permit Freeze Bites,” *NewsAnyway*, September 30, 2026.
- Cited, “How Texas’s Data Centre Freeze Puts 20% of US Pipeline at Risk,” *Discovery Alert*, September 28, 2026.
- Cited, “Abbott’s Permit Freeze Reaches Data Centers That Build Their Own Power, Including a 5-Gigawatt Panhandle Plan,” *The Texas Dispatch*, September 23, 2026.
- Quoted, “Texas ‘AI Epicentre’ Pauses Data Center Connections as ERCOT Queue Tops 1,800 Projects and 474GW,” *International Business Times*, August 12, 2026.
- Quoted, “Data Center Backlash Widens as Texas Freezes 474 GW Grid Queue,” *Natural Gas Intelligence*, August 12, 2026.
- Quoted, “Texas Audit Could Delay 49.8 GW of Data Center Load, Cost Projects Up to $15 Billion, BNEF Warns ,” *Power Magazine*, August 6, 2026.
- Quoted, “NRG Nears 1.2-GW Hyperscaler Deal Amid Texas Data Center Pause,” *Utility Dive*, August 6, 2026.
- Quoted, “Texas’ 474GW Data Centre Ramp up in Doubt as Governor Pumps the Brakes,” *Recharge News*, August 5, 2026.
- Quoted, “Facing an Estimated 474 GW of Interconnection Requests, Texas Hits Pause on Data Centers,” *Utility Dive*, August 5, 2026.