

Vaughn H. Morrison

Partner

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Vaughn represents financing parties, utility companies, and sponsors in the development, construction, financing and operational management of, primarily, renewable energy projects. Having guided many projects through their life cycle, Vaughn offers clients uncommon foresight and acumen.

OVERVIEW

Vaughn's practice is divided into four categories:

- *Project Finance*: Representing financing parties and sponsors in the negotiation and documentation of construction, term, and tax equity financing of energy projects, including through the use of sale-leaseback, partnership flip, and joint venture structures.
- *Project Development*: Representing utility affiliates and sponsors in the development of energy projects, including the negotiation of supply, offtake, EPC, interconnection, O&M, and other project agreements.
- *Project M&A*: Representing utility affiliates and sponsors in the purchase and sale of energy projects, including the negotiation of membership interest purchase agreements and asset purchase agreements, and the management and documentation of construction, take-out, and back leverage financing.
- *Asset Management*: Representing financing party and utility affiliate clients in the management of operating assets, including the preparation of ISDA, NAESB, and EEI trading frameworks, and letters of credit, as well as the establishment and implementation of operational continuity programs.

Vaughn typically serves as the deal lead, managing the transaction process, negotiating key transaction documents, and overseeing the constellation of specialist counsel engaged on projects. In this capacity, he maintains fluency in every aspect of a transaction, ensuring cohesive representation across subject matter.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented a utility affiliate in connection with the acquisition of a series of solar generating facilities totaling in excess of 800MW nameplate capacity.
- Represented a financing party in connection with the tax equity financing of a 250MW solar generating facility.
- Represented a financing party in connection with the development, documentation and, ultimately, implementation of a novel operational continuity program across a large fund of operating energy assets.
- Represented a utility affiliate in the development of one of the first utility-scale 80MW energy storage projects in

the U.S.

- Represented a sponsor in connection with construction, term, and partnership flip financing facilities sized in each case in excess of \$200 million.
- Served in the capacity of a secondment to a utility affiliate client for the development of commodity trading forms and the negotiation of same with upward of 25 counterparties.

AWARDS

- *Legal 500 United States* for Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power (2024-2025); Finance: Project Finance (2024-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*: Energy Law (2026), Project Finance Law (2026)
- *Law360*: Rising Star award (2021)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Renewable Energy

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Energy
- Energy Storage
- Environmental, Social + Governance (ESG)
- Renewable Energy
- Tariff + Trade Task Force

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- New York University School of Law, J.D., 2013, editor-in-chief, *Journal of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law*
- Denison University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2010

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York
- Georgia

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Drafting Effective Arbitration Clauses Agreements," Troutman Pepper Locke International Arbitration Forum, May 14, 2026.
- Speaker, "Rewriting the Rules: 2026 Data Center Contracting & Risk Allocation for AI-Driven Facilities," Troutman Pepper Locke Webinar Series: Navigating the Data Center Boom: Rethinking Contracts, Risk, and Regulatory Strategy for 2026 and Beyond, March 31, 2026.
- Speaker, "Post-Apocalyptic Permitting: The Path Forward for Solar and Wind After the DOI Memo," Troutman

Pepper Locke Webinar, August 22, 2025.

- Speaker, “[The Rise in Greenwashing Claims](#),” *Energy Law Insights*, March 6, 2024.
- Moderator, “[Future of Merchant Power](#),” NPM Events: US Development & Finance Forum 2024, April 9, 2024.
- Moderator, “[Tax Equity Transferability Markets, Transactions & Negotiations](#),” Infocast Solar + Wind Financing & Investment Summit, March 12, 2024.
- Moderator, “[Project Finance Fireside Chat](#),” NPM DG Development & Finance Forum 2023, October 11, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Monetizing Opportunities in Energy Storage in a Post-IRA World](#),” *Energy Law Insights*, May 8, 2023.
- Speaker, “[The State of Energy Storage: What You Need to Know](#),” *Energy Law Insights*, May 8, 2023.
- Speaker, “[Offtake Strategies for Today’s World](#),” Infocast’s Projects & Money Conference, January 26, 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “[Power Couple: The Strengthening Bond Between Data Centres and Battery Storage](#),” *Tamarindo*, April 29, 2026.
- Podcast, “[Soaking Up the Sun](#),” *Battery + Storage Podcast*, April 15, 2026.
- Contributor, “[Off-Grid Data Centers: A Potential Power Solution For AI](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 17, 2026.
- Co-author, “[Federal and State Policymakers Target AI Data Centers as Electricity Costs and Grid Reliability Concerns Mount](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 25, 2026.
- Co-author, “[How are Geopolitical Trends Impacting Global Energy Storage Markets?](#)” *Tamarindo*, December 2, 2025.
- Author, “[Bruised but Buoyant: U.S. Energy Storage Sector Emerges From Turbulent Period of Regulatory Uncertainty](#),” *North American Clean Energy*, November 15, 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.
- Co-author, “[FEOC May Expand in Scope and Application for Inflation Reduction Act](#),” *POWER Magazine*, May 1, 2025.
- Co-author, “[Navigating the Solar Industry’s Path Through Tariffs and Growth](#),” *Troutman Pepper Locke*, February 10, 2025.
- Co-author, “[Transferable Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Tax Credits: Considerations for Tax Credit Bridge Lenders](#),” *Secured Lender Magazine*, January/February 2025.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, “[Iran War Disruption Could Spur Future Energy Dealmaking](#),” *Law360*, April 3, 2026
- Quoted, “[Grid-Forming, Hybrids and Alternative Chemistries in Wood Mackenzie’s 2026 Energy Storage Trend Predictions](#),” *Energy Storage News*, January 27, 2026.
- Quoted, “[How Concerned Should Investors Be About FEOC?](#),” *Infrastructure Investor*, December 2025/January 2026.
- Quoted, “[Storage, Hybrid Projects Emerging as Renewable Energy Post-OBBBA Winners: LevelTen Energy](#),” *Utility Dive*, November 25, 2025.
- Interviewed, “[Troutman Pepper Locke’s Vaughn Morrison on Opportunities and Challenges in the U.S. Energy Storage Sector](#),” *Institutional Investing in Infrastructure*, October 23, 2025.
- Quoted, “[Data Centre Loads and Domestic Content Policy Define US Battery Storage Market’s Future, Law Firm Says](#),” *Energy Storage News*, October 20, 2025.
- Quoted, “[A Surprising Trump Bump for One Big Law Practice: Clean Energy](#),” *Bloomberg Law*, March 13, 2025.

- Featured, "[Rising Star: Troutman Pepper's Vaughn Morrison](#)," *Law360*, June 24, 2021.