

# Energy efficient

The law firm Akin Gump hosts reception alongside 2019 World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi.

**O**n January 15, global law firm **Akin Gump** had the pleasure of organising and hosting a reception in Abu Dhabi on the occasion of the 2019 World Future Energy Summit.

The event, held at the Hyatt Andaz Capital Gate and supported by *the Oath*, a leading regional legal publication, brought together Akin Gump lawyers, clients and leaders throughout the renewable energy and finance industries to discuss important issues and trends and presented an opportunity for those in attendance to learn more about the firm's capabilities across its

21 offices worldwide.

Featuring two offices in the UAE — Abu Dhabi and Dubai — Akin Gump has long been recognised as a leading firm in the areas of energy and project finance. To that end, global project finance practice co-heads Daniel Sinaiko (Los Angeles) and John Marciano (Washington, D.C.), along with cross-border transactional counsel Nidal Daraiseh and Din Eshanov (Abu Dhabi), joined Abu Dhabi office co-head Chadi Salloum in welcoming guests to the event.

Akin Gump hosts discussed the firm's global project finance team, which includes 45 lawyers worldwide, supported by the networked knowledge and experience of more than 900 practitioners globally, working with clients on the development and financing of energy and infrastructure projects, with a particular focus on the renewable energy industry.

The firm and the practice have forged strong ties to the UAE, with representation of Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Company in connection with the tender, development and financing of the 1,177 MW Sweihan Photovoltaic Independent Power Project a much-lauded and significant highlight and still the largest photovoltaic project in the world. The recipient of numerous industry recognitions and awards, the Sweihan project spotlights the team's ability to assemble and execute complex marquee deals of significance.

"The GCC in general and the UAE in particular are very critical and exciting markets, particularly when it comes to innovation in the energy space," said Salloum. "And the level of activity at the Summit has been fantastic. We were very gratified to have the opportunity to host this reception."

Regarding the January 15 event, Sinaiko and Marciano added, "We have found that meeting people face to face and listening to their goals and concerns is the best way to





understand how we can bring our resources to bear in the most effective and efficient way. And the World Future Energy Summit also provided us with a great forum for us to organise meetings with exhibitors and attendees.”

Akin Gump’s global project finance practice works with clients wherever their need exists, advising them around the globe across a number of energy sectors, including solar – utility scale and distributed generations, wind, energy storage, hydroelectric, biomass and traditional energy.

The firm is consistently honored with recognition for its work by *the Oath*, *Project Finance International*, *Chambers Global and Legal 500*, among others, in the categories of Projects, and Renewables and Alternative Energy. In the last two years alone, lawyers in Akin Gump’s project finance and renewable energy practices have been recognised 40 times in industry-related publications.

“While speaking with attendees at the Summit, whether they’re based in the UAE or elsewhere, and learning about what their goals are, it’s great to be able to draw from our experience around the world in the financing and development of innovative energy projects,” said Salloum.

Sinaiko and Marciano added, “We’re a clear market leader in this space, and the depth of our experience really does provide

us with the knowledge and perspective to be able to say, ‘No matter where your project is located, no matter what it is you’re seeking to accomplish — we can help.’”

Akin Gump, founded in Dallas, Texas, in 1945, has built itself into one of the world’s largest and most prestigious law firms. 2018 marked the firm’s fifth consecutive recognition on The American Lawyer’s A-List of the top 20 law firms in the United States. The firm has earned its reputation through its collaborative approach, its comprehensiveness of offerings and its singular dedication to client service. In this latter regard, in December 2018, BTI Consulting Group named Akin Gump as one of the top 10 law firms offering best-in-class client service. The Abu Dhabi and Dubai offices of Akin Gump offer legal services and counsel to the states, enterprises and people of the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as to U.S. and international clients with interests in the region. The UAE offices provide assistance to clients across various industries and sectors and includes lawyers who have a wide breadth of experience in fields that range from traditional strengths to cutting edge practice areas, such as corporate, energy (conventional and renewable), projects, finance, international trade, dispute resolution, cybersecurity, investment funds, intellectual property, and technology, media and telecommunications. 



**CHADI SALLOUM**, co-managing partner Abu Dhabi, Akin Gump



**DANIEL SINAIKO**, co-leader global project finance practice, Akin Gump



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