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STIRLING
BUSINESS LAW

David Austin, Biography

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General Background

David Austin is a leading lawyer in British Columbia in the field of energy, and electricity in particular, and structuring private public partnership infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater plants.

David has appeared before regulatory bodies on energy matters and was the legal advisor to the developer of British Columbia's first private public partnership. He has extensive experience with energy project development, such as private transmission lines, corporate structures, project finance, intertie access and formation of government policy. David has also provided advice on the development of B.C.'s first independent power project and wind farm, and was an expert legal witness in a dispute under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In addition, David practiced law in London, England, advising on international capital market and banking transactions, including project finance, direct debt and debt/equity issues, commercial paper programs, swaps and equipment leasing. He very actively participated in the development of the first securitizations in the London market.

David is a speaker at numerous conferences in the U.S. and Canada and a regular contributor to various forms of media. He has also been awarded the Clean Energy Association of B.C. Life Time Achievement Award.

Representative Work

- Advising on energy projects involving First Nation developers, such as wind farms and run-of-river generating plants.
- Regularly appearing as counsel before the British Columbia Utilities Commission.
- Negotiation and settlement of First Nation impact benefits agreements and acting as an independent monitor of First Nations agreements concluded by others.
- Structuring private public infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater plants. Legal Advisor to the developer of B.C.'s first private public partnership.
- Active participation in the development of the first securitizations in the London, England market.

Memberships & Associations

- Member of the British Columbia Task Force on Electricity Market Reform
- Member of the Clean Energy Association of British Columbia
- Law Society of British Columbia (1979)
- Canadian Bar Association

Appointments

- Guest lecturer at the Faculty of Commerce, University of British Columbia
- Former Director of the Independent Power Association of British Columbia
- Former Chairman, Computer Law Subsection of the British Columbia branch of the Canadian Bar Association

In the News

- Vancouver Sun “Vaughn Palmer: Expect Horgan to approve reframed Site C in a few days” (December 2017)
- Business in Vancouver “Calculating the Costs of Pulling the Plug on Site C” (July 2017)
- Business in Vancouver “A Conversation on B.C. Energy Industry Controversy” (June 2017)

For more information contact David Austin
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