

## Rising Star: King & Spalding's Peter Berg

By Grace Dixon

*Law360 (June 13, 2022, 2:02 PM EDT)* -- King & Spalding LLP senior associate Peter Berg navigated construction agreements for a hydro-power transmission line that will deliver clean energy to New York City, the first of its kind in the U.S., cementing his spot among the construction attorneys under 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### ***THE BIGGEST DEAL OF HIS CAREER:***

Blackstone Inc. portfolio company Transmission Developers Inc. tapped Berg as a primary adviser on construction and development agreements, for the construction of a more than 300-mile-long high voltage transmission line set to deliver 1,250 megawatts of clean, hydro-power from Quebec to New York City.

Berg navigated multibillion-dollar engineering, procurement and construction contracts for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project and navigated interface risk with the contractors and specialty equipment suppliers, railroads, the New York Department of Transportation and others.

"The transmission line is hundreds of miles long, going through places as densely occupied as New York City," Berg said. "So you can imagine the tremendous challenges and risks that creates for our clients that have to be mitigated against and managed appropriately."

The 100% renewable project is the first of its kind in the U.S. and is central to the state's goal to be powered by 70% renewable energy by 2030, Berg said.

"This project is one of the first real movements towards green energy to actually power Manhattan and the surrounding areas," Berg said. "It's a huge project for New York that's going to be important for that city for the next 50 years."

The project is slated for completion in 2025 and construction costs are expected to exceed \$5 billion, according to Berg.

2022



**Peter Berg**  
King & Spalding

**Age:** 33

**Home base:** Houston

**Position:** Senior Associate

**Law school:** Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law

**First job after law school:** Associate at Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter

#### ***HIS PROUDEST MOMENT AS AN ATTORNEY:***

While practicing on his own at the outset of his career — largely to avoid driving up legal fees — Berg represented J&G Demolition, a small, woman-owned company owed just under \$100,000 by a contractor.

"This \$100,000 meant the difference between her maintaining her business or going bankrupt," Berg said. "And the money was obviously owed, but nonetheless, the contractor fought her tooth and nail for over a year."

Eventually, the suit went to a jury trial for resolution, where a jury held in the small business' favor and awarded 100% of attorneys fees.

"It was probably the most rewarding experience I've had, to help someone directly that so desperately needed to see the legal system really work," Berg said.

#### ***OTHER NOTABLE DEALS HE'S WORKED ON:***

Berg rattled off a litany of highlights when asked by Law360 about other notable work bearing his name in recent memory. Among his tally is a nuclear project in the Middle East, the largest nuclear project in development across the globe currently, Berg attested.

Berg added that he's also working on a hydrogen and carbon capture project in the U.S., with significant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and other private sources.

"It's very viable and could very well be one of the first and largest hydrogen production facilities in the U.S. when it's built," Berg said. "So that's an exciting first of its kind project that's on the forefront of energy transition and hydrogen."

Berg is a primary advisor to multinational mining and petroleum company BHP in the multibillion-dollar development of the Trion oilfield off the shore of Mexico, which he said is fascinating because of the project's impressive water depth and its "huge" implications for Mexico's oil and gas industry.

Berg led BHP through the competitive procurement of the multimillion-dollar floating production unit, navigating negotiations with major contractors McDermott International Ltd. and Technip Energies. The project is currently in its front-end engineering and design phase.

#### ***WHY HE'S A CONSTRUCTION ATTORNEY:***

Berg's roots in construction go way back, he told Law360

"My dad worked in construction his whole life, and I remember being located on construction sites and just being wowed by all the cool things that my dad was working on," Berg said.

Growing up surrounded by construction, Berg said he developed his own fascination with the building process. Continuing to be a part of that process from a different vantage point has been a great motivator, he said.

#### ***HOW HE THINKS THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WILL CHANGE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS:***

Berg advised attorneys to pay attention to industries in which the construction industry finds itself working alongside. In particular, Berg told Law360 he anticipates the construction industry will find itself

tied to the energy industry, as a global transition from fossil fuels to lower-carbon energy sources takes flight

"I expect we're going to see significant progress on new energy type projects in the next decade," Berg said. "Whether it's hydrogen, carbon-capture solar, offshore wind, even nuclear projects, I think we're going to see a ton of development in the next 10 years."

— As told to Grace Dixon

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2022, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*