

MVP: King & Spalding's Dan Feldman

By Anna Sanders

Law360 (December 8, 2025, 4:03 PM EST) -- Dan Feldman of King & Spalding LLP's energy infrastructure team is advising on what is thought to be one of the largest nonnuclear power transactions in Middle East history and led a group of attorneys working on Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.'s multibillion-dollar investment in a Texas ExxonMobil facility, earning him a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 Energy MVPs.

Why he's an energy attorney:

Feldman now leads King & Spalding's energy infrastructure team — but he didn't always work in the area. Feldman got his start as a construction lawyer and ended up working on a big chemicals project in the Middle East, discovering how varied and intellectually stimulating an energy practice can be.

"With energy projects, you're not just building a thing; you're building lots of different things that connect up together and have to then connect into all these other supply chains to deliver it," Feldman said. "I just intellectually find that quite interesting."

Being an energy attorney also means Feldman's work involves a variety of new and emerging technologies. "It's constantly changing," he said.

He added that energy projects can make a difference for the environment, noting his work may help drive new technology that supports local economies.

"You can see the results of the effort you put in actually impact the world," he said. "This is a more direct kind of thing than just buying and selling ... you're creating something."

His proudest moment this past year:

Feldman said that helping move forward low-carbon hydrogen and ammonia projects off the U.S. Gulf Coast is what makes him most proud as an energy attorney.



He led a team of attorneys in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East advising Abu Dhabi National Oil Co., known as ADNOC, in the acquisition of a 35% stake in ExxonMobil's \$7 billion hydrogen and ammonia facility in Baytown, Texas — a deal announced in September 2024. He also led the King & Spalding group advising JERA Co. Inc., the largest energy importer and power producer in Japan, on the company's investment in a \$4 billion low-carbon hydrogen and ammonia project in Louisiana.

Both projects support gas development in U.S. economies, Feldman said, and that gas is decarbonized so it can be shipped around the world, too. The technology helps reduce reliance on more traditional energy sources that cause carbon emissions, which are associated with increased temperatures and other impacts of climate change.

"Getting that stuff done is really important because it supports the decarbonization within these economies that want those fuels, but it also supports the U.S. gas industry at the same time," he said.

Feldman said he was also proud to work on a landmark deal that involves replacing 6 gigawatts of gas-fired power used to supply aluminum production plants in Abu Dhabi and Dubai with renewable energy, such as solar.

Representing one of the largest nonnuclear power transactions in Middle East history, the project will redirect power away from the smelter and makes aluminum products greener and more competitive for producers, Feldman said. He added that this will also be the first transaction involving utilities sectors of both Abu Dhabi and Dubai, requiring highly strategic guidance from Feldman and the rest of the team.

His biggest motivation:

Feldman said his biggest motivator in the last year has been his curiosity and a desire to work on interesting projects and deals around the world.

He has been particularly driven, he said, by global changes in the energy sector due to a rapid increase in artificial intelligence that has shifted the flow of capital and the kinds of projects that clients are involved in.

"What's really motivated me is that intellectual interest and really supporting clients as they try to figure out how to navigate what's become a really complex environment," Feldman said.

As someone who aims to learn and improve all the time, Feldman said, he's also motivated by helping teams work together to achieve goals that make people feel "intellectually satisfied." He said bringing together people from all over the world is another "really cool" bonus as someone who hails from suburban Melbourne, Australia.

"If I was just doing really local, small stuff," he said, "I think I would really struggle with that."

His biggest challenge:

Feldman said his biggest challenge has been adapting to the ever-changing energy sector.

"The environment we're in, from an energy transition perspective in particular, is very driven by policy and regulation that is evolving all the time," Feldman said.

Governments frequently adjust their approach to certain kinds of projects that often depend on public subsidies, investment or support. When governmental power shifts, Feldman said, he has to similarly change the project configuration to deal with the new dynamic. Plus, the definition of clean energy or low-carbon often changes, depending on where a project is located.

"You've got to keep track of that," he said, "because otherwise you'll design a project or a transaction in a way that's, frankly, like outdated."

His advice for younger attorneys:

Younger attorneys should always be open-minded to whatever crosses their desk, according to Feldman.

"You never know what is going to position you for the next chapter in your career," he said.

Feldman also recommended that young attorneys have multiple specialties, including areas where they excel and other topics of interest.

"Things can change, and it's good to have diversity in your capabilities," he said.

--As told to Anna Sanders. Editing by Amy French.

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