

Vera De Brito de Gyarfas

Partner

Corporate, Finance and Investments

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Vera de Gyarfas specializes in transactions involving energy projects in Latin America and Africa. A partner in our Corporate Finance and Investments practice, Vera represents companies engaged in all kinds of energy projects, handling negotiations of host government agreements as well as commercial agreements among companies in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Vera represents companies in upstream exploration and production, liquefied natural gas and other natural gas projects under all types of host government agreements, including production sharing agreements, concessions/licenses, and operating services agreements. She also advises companies with respect to power projects, generation, transmission and distribution facilities, and advises petrochemical companies in developing specialized plants.

With particular experience in LNG, Vera negotiates and drafts investment agreements for host governments and other parties, analyzes existing regulations and government negotiations, and completes agreements for LNG sales and purchases, gas supply, and terminal usage, among others.

Vera is currently advising Anadarko on the Mozambique LNG project which, given the huge gas reserves found, could transform Mozambique into a major natural gas-producing country in the world. Vera heads the negotiation and drafting of the enabling legislation, investment agreement and ancillary agreements. The initial two-train phase of the project has an estimated value of US\$15 billion.

Vera was recognized as a 2016 Women in Energy Honoree by *Texas Lawyer*, she is ranked in the Legal 500 2018 Powerlist as an expert in Mexico's energy sector and is ranked in the 2018 *Chambers Global* for Energy and Natural Resources as an expert in the U.S. for Venezuela. She was also recommended in the 2018 *Legal 500 Latin America*, and listed as a leading practitioner in the 2018 *International Who's Who of Oil and Gas Lawyers*.

A frequent author and speaker on energy topics, Vera is fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Matters

LNG

Represents **Anadarko** in the development of an LNG project in Mozambique focusing on the negotiation and drafting of the investment agreement, enabling legislation, and ancillary agreements, including concession agreements for the LNG marine terminal facilities. Initial first-phase investment is estimated at US\$15 billion.

Represents **MPL** in the development of an LNG project in Puerto Libertad in Mexico, the work involves the negotiation of natural gas supply agreements and structuring of the project.

Represents **CESPM** in the development of an LNG import terminal in the Dominican Republic.

Represents **Woodfibre** in the drafting and negotiation of an LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement.

Represented a **Japanese company** in the analysis and evaluation of the potential acquisition of an LNG to power project in Panama.

Represented **Gas Sayago** (a company organized by ANCAP and UTE) in the development of a regasification terminal, drafting and negotiation of LNG SPAs.

Represented **Petrobras** in its participation in an offshore natural gas project (LNG) with PDVSA, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions of association.

Represented **Shell** in its participation in an offshore natural gas project (LNG) with PDVSA Gas. This representation included analysis of constitution and legal provisions and drafting of the proposed association agreement.

E&P

Represents **Chevron** in the negotiation of a non-associated natural gas unitization unit and operating agreement of a trans-border straddling reservoir between Venezuela and Trinidad & Tobago.

Represents **Sierra Oil & Gas** in the sale of the entity to DEA. Sierra holds 6 blocks in Mexico.

Represents **PetroRio** in its acquisition of interest in the Frade field in Brazil.

Represents **Statoil** in the negotiation of a non-associated natural gas unitization and unit operating agreement of a trans-border straddling reservoir between Venezuela and Trinidad & Tobago.

Represented **Sierra Oil & Gas** in the negotiation of four joint operation agreements for offshore blocks awarded in the Mexican offshore tenders.

Represented **WoodMac** in the development of a benchmark study comparing upstream Mexican and US contracts.

Represented a **Japanese company** in the analysis for the potential acquisition of upstream interests in Vaca Muerta, Argentina.

Represented a **French company** in the projected acquisition of a minority participation in a Venezuelan mixed company with PDVSA.

Represented **Phillips Petroleum** in the negotiation, drafting, translation and implementation of the Hamaca Association Agreement with the Venezuelan National Oil Company — Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) for the establishment of an extra heavy crude oil project which included production of extra heavy crude oil and upgrading facilities. The representation also included acting for the project on the US\$3.5 billion financing. The work also involved the implementation of local guarantees, the negotiation, drafting and implementation of EPC agreements for construction of the

facilities, and utilities contracts and others necessary for the successful development of the projects.

Represented **Statoil** in the negotiation, drafting, translation and implementation of the Sincor Association Agreement with PDVSA for the establishment of an extra heavy crude oil project which included production of extra heavy crude oil and upgrading facilities. The representation also included acting for the project in the US\$1.2 billion financing and implementation of local guarantees, the negotiation, drafting and implementation of EPC agreements for construction of the facilities, and utilities contracts and others necessary for the successful development of the projects.

Represented **Mobil Corporation** in the negotiation, drafting, translation and implementation of the Cerro Negro Association Agreement with PDVSA for the establishment of an extra heavy crude oil project including project financing for US\$900 million.

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Represented **Statoil** in the migration of an extra heavy crude upgrading project into a joint venture (mixed company) project with PDVSA. This representation included analysis of protection of investments, possible international arbitration procedures, negotiation, and drafting of contractual and corporate documents to regulate the new JV.

Energy Infrastructure

Representing the **Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA)** in the analysis and drafting of contracts related to gas fired power plants and other service contracts.

Representing a **US company** in the development of a CGL project in Colombia.

Representing a **US company** in the development of a gas fired power plant project in Brazil.

Represented **FertiNitro**, (a JV between Pequiven, Koch, Snamprogetti and Empresas Polar) located in the Jose Petrochemical Complex in Venezuela, one of the world's largest nitrogen-based fertilizer plants, with nameplate daily production capacity of 3,600 metric tons of ammonia and 4,400 MT of urea with respect to all aspects of the business, including representing the project on the US\$810 million financing.

Represented **Pacific Infrastructure** (Colombian company) in the negotiation, drafting and implementation of a project regarding the development of a pipeline, crude storage facilities and a terminal.

Represented **Foster Wheeler Italiana** as part of a consortium that executed an EPSCm contract to expand the El Palito refinery in Venezuela. This representation involved the negotiation and drafting of the EPSCm Contract.

Represented **Empresas Y&V** (a Venezuelan company) in the negotiation with Pequiven (state-owned petrochemical company) and the drafting and implementation of an EPC contract for the development of two petrochemical plants for the production of urea and ammonia.

Represented **Braskem** (a Brazilian company) in the negotiation, drafting and development of a JV with Pequiven (state-owned petrochemical company) for the construction, ownership and operation of two petrochemical plants for the production of polypropylene and olefins.

Represented **LUBPVEN** (a Venezuelan company) in the negotiation and acquisition of the

CASTROL lubricant business in Venezuela. This representation included the incorporation of the Venezuelan company with 12 shareholders, plus the negotiation, drafting and implementation of all required contracts.

Represented **EIP**'s (a Portuguese electricity company) operations in Venezuela, including the development of EPC contracts for the construction of transmission lines and electricity substations.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Abogado, Universidad Catolica Andres Bello

ADMISSIONS

Texas Foreign Legal Consultant

ASSOCIATIONS

Colegio de Abogados del Distrito Capital, Venezuela

LANGUAGES

Portuguese

Spanish

Recognition

Vera was selected as a leading US-based lawyer with a specialist focus on Mexico
THE LEGAL 500 PRIVATE PRACTICE POWERLIST 2019

Insights

NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2019

Energy Newsletter – September 2019

August 8, 2019

Energy Newsletter - August 2019

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

September 17, 2019 • Source: Petroleum Economist

The Emerging Price Offerings From Second Wave U.S. LNG Projects: Perspectives From Sellers and Buyers

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

October 3, 2019

Vera De Brito de Gyarfas to Speak at Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation International Oil and Gas Law, Contracts and Negotiations Conference

September 16, 2019

Vera De Brito de Gyarfas to Speak at Petroleum Economist Event

September 6, 2019

Vera De Brito de Gyarfas to Speak at Instituto Mexicano de Mediacion

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News

IN THE NEWS

June 24, 2019 • Source: Latin America Advisor

Vera De Brito de Gyarfas comments on the development of infrastructure in Latin America

June 18, 2019 • Source: IJ Global, TXF, Bloomberg, Reuters and Petroleum Economist

K&S advises Anadarko on \$25B LNG project in Mozambique, the largest LNG project in Africa.

RECOGNITION

September 11, 2019

Legal 500 Latin America 2019 Ranks King & Spalding Among the Region's Top International Firms

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