

Drinker Biddle



Christopher B. Berendt

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About

Christopher B. Berendt concentrates his practice in the design and operations of the energy and environmental markets. He counsels clients on matters ranging from regulatory development and market strategy to advanced commodity and service procurements (retail and wholesale) and project/portfolio developments and financings. He is focused on the rise of distribution level resources.

Working with clients at all stages of energy and sustainability project development, Chris counsels on screening, structuring, and developing and financing projects for hosts, developers and investors. He also assists clients undertaking advanced energy commodity, service and equipment procurements.

Chris has assisted with pioneering efforts in the pooled origination, financing and securitization of clean energy project portfolios and to employ smart grid and microgrid technologies as dynamically managed load and onsite generation is becoming an asset in the power markets. He is counsel to the Microgrid Resources Coalition (MRC) and represents leading microgrid development projects.

In recent years Chris has supported a number of leading clean tech deals, including a Project

Finance Magazine Deal of the Year for 2012 and a Bond Buyer Deal of the Year for 2013. Chris was named to the CleanTech 100 by LMG Clean Technology & Renewable Energy, the peer reviewed guide to the top 100 attorneys in the United States who practice in the clean technology and renewable energy space

Areas of Focus

Industries

- Energy

Services

- Corporate Transactions
- Environment and Energy
- Energy Policy, Regulations and Market Design
- Energy Customers
- Brownfields Development
- Environmental Litigation
- Environmental Regulatory and Compliance
- Environmental Transactions

Credentials

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Education

- Vermont Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*
- University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business, Executive Leadership Acceleration Program
- Kenyon College, B.A., Synoptic Major

Organizations

- American Bar Association (ABA)/Environmental Markets Association (EMA)/American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), Environmental and Energy Trading Working Group, Co-Chair

- ABA, Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
 - Energy Market and Finance Committee, Founding Vice Chair (Past Co-Chair)
 - Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Ecosystems Committee, Environmental Attributes and Renewable Markets (Past Vice Chair, Special Issues)
 - Renewable & Distributed Energy Resources Committee (Past Vice Chair)
- ACORE Climate Change Committee, Founding Co-Chair
- ACORE Leadership Council (Past Member)
- ACORE Smart Grid Working Group (Past Member)
- ACORE Power Generation & Infrastructure Advisory Committee (Past Member)
- EMA Market Oversight Committee (Past Member)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (Past Appointed Committee Member)

Experience

Energy Markets

Chris has more than 15 years of experience working in the energy and environmental markets. For example:

- Prior to returning to private practice, he served as Vice President at Pace Global Energy Services, LLC, a Siemens Company, in Fairfax, Virginia. He has helped lead development, offtake and financing for myriad clean energy projects, including wind, biomass, biofuel, landfill gas, natural gas, IGCC/CCS, cogeneration / combined heat and power as well as PV array generation. Further, he provided distributed energy resource / asset support to Pace's leading C&I and MUSH energy management programs.
- Counsels clients on the design of the electricity markets, including the latest developments of wholesale and retail power supply options, onsite generation and metering, microgrid and distributed generation frameworks, energy storage, demand response, the energy, ancillary service and capacity markets as well as emissions market positioning for energy assets.
- Assists clients in wholesale liquid fuel rack, wet-hosing and travel center transactions (including biofuels) as well as in the CNG/LCNG markets.

Climate Change

Chris counsels clients in the industrial, financial and energy sectors in the design and execution of carbon strategy, inventories, supply chain and product positioning, regulatory and legislative

positioning, voluntary frameworks development, green investments and complex compliance transactions and enforcement proceedings as well as green business development and integration.

For example:

- Developed complex GHG inventories and compliance cost recovery mechanisms for supply chains and distribution networks.
- Experienced in counseling carbon offset project developers, investors and offtakers on pre-compliance, compliance and voluntary market transactions for all US project categories, protocols and standards.
- Developed origination pipeline business models for clients and advised on the creation of some of the largest domestic landfill gas and forestry carbon project portfolios.
- Advised on projects and for companies that have won numerous awards for energy and climate innovation.

Renewable Energy

In the renewable energy markets, Chris has counseled clients on RPS, RES and CES regulatory positioning and design since the state and federal policy arenas began consideration of these frameworks. For example:

- Advised buyers and sellers on primary and secondary market REC transactions in every major state RPS in the country.
- Recognized for many years as an industry leader for his development of best practices as well chairing the drafting of standard agreements for the REC markets.
- Experienced as project counsel for renewable energy and clean energy developments of all types.

Capitol Hill

Chris worked on Capitol Hill in the early years of climate and clean energy framework development. For example:

- Helped draft the first pieces of market-based climate change legislation introduced as well as multiple clean energy focused bills.

- Experienced in advising transacting clients on legislative and regulatory strategies, structuring contracts to anticipate the design and development of future federal, state/regional and international energy and environmental regimes.

Insights & Events

Event | August 17, 2016

State Regulations in Support of Microgrid Adoption

News | August 06, 2015

Chris Berendt Hosts Hot Air Show Podcast on EPA's Clean Power Plan

Event | October 16, 2014

Grassroots Energy Summit: The Microgrid Future

Event | April 30, 2014

The Integration of Renewable Energy in the Power Markets

Event | December 10, 2013

Regulatory Strategies to Promote Clean Energy Project Finance

News | November 08, 2013

Bond Buyer Newspaper to Honor Poseidon Project as a "Deal of the Year"

Event | October 16, 2013

Opportunities, Challenges and Concerns. . . Democratizing the Grid

Event | October 10, 2013

Environmental Markets 2.0: The Evolving Use of Market-Based Mechanisms

Event | October 09, 2013

Community Scale Wind Projects with the Maryland Clean Energy Center

Event | September 06, 2013

Clean Energy States Alliance – National RPS Summit

Event | September 03, 2013

Clean Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Corporate Sustainability Event

Event | June 27, 2013

Grass Roots Energy Finance II – Impact Investing & Sustainability

Event | June 06, 2013

ACORE – Energy Communications Group

Event | April 22, 2013

Impact Investing and its Effect on Clean Energy

Event | April 03, 2013

New Carbon Roundtable

Event | February 21, 2013

Community Energy Aggregation Options

Event | February 20, 2013

Federal Regulatory Innovations Driving Enhanced Renewable Energy Integration

Event | October 24, 2012

Buying and Selling Power and Environmental Commodities under Dodd-Frank

Event | October 16, 2012

Workshop: Community Energy Finance: Evolving Private Capital Market Access - Panelist

Event | July 30, 2012

Innovative Financing Tools for Energy Efficient Buildings

News | July 19, 2012

Christopher Berendt Quoted in Environmental Finance

Event | June 26, 2012

Avoidance of Greenwashing in the Energy Sector

Event | June 05, 2012

Webinar on New Structures for Pooled Financings of Aggregated Renewable and Energy Efficiency Projects

Event | June 04, 2012

Innovative Financing for Aggregated Renewable Projects

Publication | June 01, 2012

Chinese Green Energy Products in the Crosshairs of the Obama Administration |
Customs & International Trade Alert

Event | March 19, 2012

On the Brink: Environmental Conflicts Along the Path Toward Sustainable Development

Event | January 18, 2012

REC/SREC Instruments and Market Outlook – How Will My Project Engage the Environmental Markets?

Event | September 22, 2011

RETECH 2011

Event | September 14, 2011

American Council On Renewable Energy

Event | June 16, 2011

Municipal Sustainability Utilities: A User's Primer

Event | June 14, 2011

Due Diligence for Solar PV Projects Seminar

Publication | June 01, 2011

The Nature of the Thing | Environmental Finance

Event | April 20, 2011

Strafford Publications

Event | April 10, 2011

CBS/Platts Energy Week

News | March 29, 2011

Drinker Biddle Enhances Energy Practice With Addition of Christopher B. Berendt

Event | April 01, 2010

ACORE/ABA Renewable Energy Teleconference Series

Event | March 01, 2010

Environmental Finance International Webinar

Event | February 01, 2010

The Renewable Energy Technology Conference (RETECH)

Event | January 01, 2010

EUCI Bridging Carbon Conference

Event | December 01, 2009

The Houston CCS Summit

Event | December 01, 2009

“Carbon Balance Investor Briefing” Wall Street

Event | November 01, 2009

ACORE Member’s Day Presentation

Event | November 01, 2009

ABA/ACORE Teleconference

Event | October 01, 2009

EUCI Webinar

Event | April 01, 2009

AICHE Annual Conference

Event | December 01, 2008

ACOREs Washington D.C. Phase II Summit

Event | October 01, 2008

Environmental Market Developments: The Modern Energy Investors Forum

Event | October 01, 2008

The Ballard Spahr Wall Street Harvard Club Energy Finance Summit

Event | October 01, 2008

The Federal Bar Association’s Strategic Issues Conference

Event | July 01, 2008

ABA ACORE Teleconference

Event | June 01, 2008

Pace Webinar

Event | June 01, 2008

Carbon Project Reduction Development and Finance Conference

Event | May 01, 2008

Key Note, ABA Senate Clean Energy Finance Briefing

Event | May 01, 2008

Duke Energy Summit

Event | March 01, 2008

Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC)

Event | February 01, 2008

Environment and Energy Utilities Conference (EUEC)

Event | November 15, 2007

Hearing on America's Climate Security Act (the Lieberman Warner Boxer Bill)

Event | November 01, 2007

The Carbon Reduction Project Development & Finance Conference

Event | November 01, 2007

The Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON) Carbon Strategic Conference

Event | November 01, 2007

Environmental Markets Association's Annual Western Markets Conference

Event | October 01, 2007

Pace Webinar

Event | October 01, 2007

Carbon Based Empowerment of Green Building Deployment

Event | October 01, 2007

VMI Environment and Sustainability Conference

Event | October 01, 2007

The Ballard Spahr Wall Street Harvard Club Energy Finance Summit

Event | August 01, 2007

Industrial Environmental Professionals Forum

Event | July 01, 2007

Pace Webinar

Event | June 01, 2007

California Municipal Utilities Association Carbon Strategic Conference

Event | June 01, 2007

Troutman & Sanders Washington Executive Energy Summit

Event | May 01, 2007

Environmental Markets Association's Annual Conference

Event | April 01, 2007

National Coal Transportation Association's Annual Conference

Event | March 01, 2007

Houston Energy Market Forum

Event | February 01, 2007

Recognitions

Cleantech 100 | LMG Clean Technology & Renewable Energy

Awards Methodology (www.drinkerbiddle.com/content/awards)