

TRAILBLAZERS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

JEAN-PHILIPPE BRISSON LATHAM & WATKINS LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT After law school, Jean-Philippe Brisson was recruited by the World Bank, where he became the first lawyer at the financial institution to work on climate change. “They put the youngest guy on a new project, and it was me. And we were able to raise \$2 billion in two years for climate change projects, which helped shape the market for carbon credits.”

TRAILS BLAZED Brisson serves as global co-chair of Latham & Watkins’ Environment Regulation and Transitions practice, where he advises oil and gas, industrial and financial institution clients on energy and environmental matters, including carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and carbon neutrality. He represented community developer Five Point Holdings in the Newhall Ranch project in Los Angeles County, the first carbon-neutral “city” in North America, in developing a first-of-its-kind climate-neutral mitigation plan to reduce or mitigate all of the project’s greenhouse gas emissions. “Newhall Ranch set a precedent on how to do large-scale projects, and it’s now become the goal of a lot of new developers to do the same.” Brisson has also represented Occidental Petroleum in its joint venture with White Energy to capture, upgrade and transport CO₂ from ethanol production for enhanced oil recovery. “The number of CCS projects is increasing, and this is one of the first announced and an example of how we can push the decarbonization solution to achieve the targets that are outlined in the Paris Agreement climate treaty.”

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Brisson anticipates more major publicly traded companies agreeing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily. “We are already seeing this from Microsoft, Shell, BP and others. It’s a monumental shift in the industry with companies taking the lead rather than governments, and it will accelerate and change the discussion on climate change over the next decade.”