

Rising Star: Latham's Lauren Anderson

By Jessica Corso

Law360 (June 8, 2022, 2:02 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP partner Lauren A. Anderson has guided some of the world's largest energy companies through transactions in both the traditional and alternative energy spaces, including a \$2 billion deal at a Louisiana chemical plant, earning her a spot among the energy attorneys under age 40 honored as a Law360 Rising Star.

WHY SHE'S AN ENERGY ATTORNEY:

Both the energy industry and the legal industry are in Anderson's blood. She said her father was a labor attorney who sat in on union negotiations for Chevron Corp. for most of his career.

She probably knew going into law school that she would carry on the tradition of representing energy companies, she said, though she didn't accept it right away.

"I think at the end of the day, there was always a bit of a pull toward that," she said. "It was certainly an industry that I understood or knew more about just because I grew up with a dad who was in it for 30, 40 years."

THE BIGGEST DEAL OF HER CAREER:

Anderson co-led the Latham team advising South African energy company Sasol on its \$2 billion sale to LyondellBasell Industries NV of a stake in a Louisiana chemical plant. The deal, which was announced in 2020, created a joint venture between the two companies for portions of the plant.

Anderson said it was the biggest she has worked on in her career so far because of the complexity of the deal. It was a nine-month transaction that "involved a little bit of everything I do, to some extent," she said.

It was a mergers and acquisitions deal because LyondellBasell was acquiring a piece of the facility, but it also was a carveout deal



Lauren Anderson
Latham & Watkins

Age: 36

Home base: Houston

Position: Partner

Law school: Tulane University
Law School

First job after law school:
Associate at Vinson & Elkins LLP

because the company wasn't acquiring the whole facility, she said. The joint venture created between the companies was another element thrown on top of an already complicated deal, she said.

"Take all the complexity you can have in a deal and that one pretty much had it," Anderson said.

OTHER NOTABLE TRANSACTIONS:

Anderson was lead counsel to Global Infrastructure Partners in its preferred equity investment, announced in September 2021, of up to \$245 million in midstream company Easton Energy Co. LLC.

The money was earmarked for the growth of Easton's assets, including liquid hydrocarbon salt cavern storage facilities in Texas and 450 miles of pipelines across key markets in Texas and the Louisiana Gulf Coast, according to Latham.

Following in her father's footsteps, she also represented Chevron as lead counsel for the energy company in its partnership with Microsoft, Schlumberger New Energy and Clean Energy Systems in a project announced in March 2021 to develop a carbon capture project in Mendota, California, using agricultural waste.

In June 2021, she helped close Partners Group's acquisition of Dimension Renewable Energy, a company focused on developing community solar and battery storage projects across the U.S. She co-led the team representing Partners Group on the transaction.

HER PROUDEST MOMENT AS AN ATTORNEY:

Like a lot of new parents, Anderson was concerned about returning to work following the birth of her first child.

She said she wasn't sure if she could maintain the work-life balance and that her proudest moment was realizing, after returning from maternity leave, that she could.

"You've got to come back from leave and hope for the best," Anderson said. "I think about six months after being back, I realized I could do this. For me, that was a really big moment."

THE FUTURE OF HER PRACTICE:

Anderson said she's seen a lot of change over the past five years of her practice in terms of the types of projects coming across her desk. She believes that trend is only going to continue well into the future.

Five years ago, she wasn't doing a lot of project finance work, but when she was, she often worked on petrochemical and refinery projects, she said.

That has since changed. Not only has there been an uptick in project development, but it has been increasingly geared toward cleaner energy projects, both carbon capture and renewable energy like wind and solar, she said.

Anderson doesn't believe traditional fossil fuel deals will dry up completely, however.

"I think it's going to become increasingly varied," she said. "It certainly has over the last several years."

— *As told to Jessica Corso*

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.

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