

## **MVP: Latham's Justin T. Stolte**

By **Keith Goldberg**

*Law360 (December 9, 2025, 4:03 PM EST)* -- Justin T. Stolte of Latham & Watkins LLP helped companies around the globe broker multibillion-dollar energy and infrastructure deals, earning him a spot among the 2025 Law360 Energy MVPs.

### **Why he's an energy attorney:**

Stolte always wanted to be a lawyer, but he fell in love with energy when he got the chance to study engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. It was that undergraduate experience that was his entrance into the energy industry, he said.

"When I came out of the Colorado School of Mines and had the opportunity to work in the industry, that interest and love for the sector only grew," Stolte said. "In parallel, my passion to be a lawyer also remained in place."

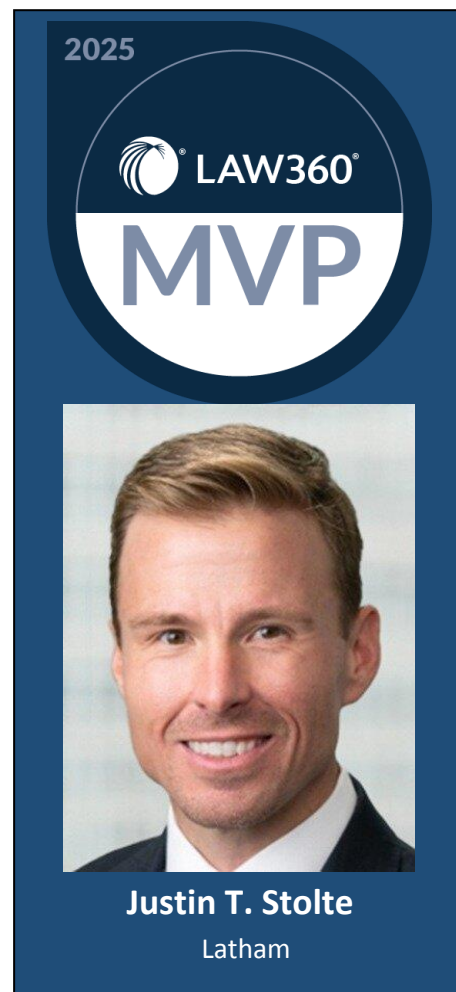
In addition to doing legal work for energy companies, Stolte previously worked as a petroleum engineer in Texas for Chevron, as well as in business development for oil and gas company Apache Corp. He said that breadth of industry experience has helped him appreciate the breadth of the energy sector itself.

"At almost every turn, you realize that you're working in an area that's constantly evolving, whether it be technology, regulation or geopolitics," Stolte said. "And everything we do in this area touches almost every part of our lives — not only on a national level but on a global level."

### **His biggest accomplishment over the past year:**

Stolte, who was also named a Law360 Energy MVP in 2022, said he's prouder of the diversity of energy deals he worked on over the past year more so than any particular deal he guided to the finish line.

Stolte leaned on his extensive oil and gas background in deals such as Kayne Anderson's November 2024 joint purchase of Uinta Basin assets in Utah. But he also represented Australia-based energy giant Woodside Energy in a \$2.35 billion acquisition of OCI Clean Ammonia Holding BV and its Texas low-carbon ammonia development project in August 2024.



"It is really rewarding to have clients all over the energy and infrastructure space call with challenging transactions," Stolte said.

He said he's worked hard over the last few years to diversify his practice and ensure he's a go-to lawyer for companies as they grapple with the global transition to lower-carbon energy.

"It didn't mean I was running away from oil and gas, but I recognized that I needed to do other things," Stolte said. "This year really demonstrated how that all could come together."

#### **Other deals he's worked on:**

Stolte was the lead partner representing the U.K.'s INEOS Energy in its \$2 billion acquisition of the Gulf of Mexico drilling business of the U.S. affiliate of China's CNOOC International Ltd. The deal was announced in December 2024 and closed in April.

Stolte also represented Encino Energy and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board in the \$5.6 billion sale of their Ohio oil and gas production business to EOG Resources Inc., announced in May. It was a full-circle moment for Stolte, as he had represented Encino in the 2018 purchase of Chesapeake Energy Corp.'s Utica Shale drilling business that was the foundational piece of the business sold to EOG.

"To see that team grow and then fast-forward several years later to a successful exit was really neat to see," Stolte said. "It felt very rewarding that they called me again to help them with their exit."

#### **His advice to younger attorneys:**

Stolte, who is the global chair of Latham's energy and infrastructure practice, said one of the most important traits younger attorneys can have is what he calls "patient impatience."

The patient part of the equation is realizing that being both a successful attorney and one who's comfortable with their practice are long-term goals, Stolte said. The impatient part is taking daily actions to ensure you're in a position to reach those goals, he said.

A lot of that work doesn't happen within billable hours, Stolte said. It can be something like reading a key article or industry publication, or studying how energy businesses are put together, he said.

"Nothing happens overnight when trying to learn how to be a lawyer in an effective way," Stolte said. "And nothing happens overnight when trying to learn the energy business. So you must be patient. But at the same time, you really have to be impatient with the daily progress you're making, and finding ways each day to get a little bit better."

*--As told to Keith Goldberg. Editing by Adam LoBelia.*

*Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.*