

# TRAILBLAZERS

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

### JOHN L. SACHS

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

**PIONEER SPIRIT** John Sachs began his career in renewable energy, and he has done a bit of everything since then. “The Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act passed right when I graduated. There was a huge surge in solar, wind, geothermal and other projects.” He has represented many sponsors and developers with matters that span structure, permitting, environmental regulatory and financing.

**TRAILS BLAZED** Sachs has also done a great deal of international work. “I stumbled into an assignment around 1986 that took me to Pakistan for a 10-hour meeting.” After that, he began to advise the Pakistani government and the national electric utility on a series of projects, including the Hub power project. “It was the first private power project in an emerging market. It was huge, with \$1.3 billion owned by private parties. That project and the documents we negotiated were duplicated all around the world for the next 30 years.” Sachs went on to create similar programs in other countries. He was also involved with the first offshore wind farm in the United States, the Block Island Wind Farm. “There were none in the United States until this was financed last year.”

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** While energy sources will change, along with the places where it is needed, people will always need energy. “Renewables are here to stay and will be growing in the future. It is a political issue in most places.” There will be a mix of energy sources, including more nuclear energy. “There will be a need for continued innovation on the part of lawyers and other people.”

