

Wells Parker

Partner

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Wells helps clients acquire, finance, develop and operate mining and energy projects.

Wells represents mining and energy companies in domestic and international mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. His work includes the purchase and sale of public and private mining and energy companies and related projects, as well as earn-in and joint venture transactions, capital raising projects, finance, royalty and mineral streaming transactions, mineral and surface leasing, wind and solar leasing, and land transactions.

Wells represents energy developers negotiate, secure and review land leases, easements, crossing agreements and other related real property rights required in the development and operation of a solar, wind, energy storage and conventional energy projects. He works with developers in preparing and reviewing project development plans, surveys and title insurance commitments, and in performing title curative work in connection with financing and sale transactions. Wells has significant experience in the development of solar, wind and energy storage projects on public lands and in obtaining real property easements, leases and related real property interests on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and various state land management agencies.

Wells is nationally recognized by *Chambers*, a prestigious legal industry ranking service, with the highest ranking (Band 1) for Global USA in Energy, Mining & Metals (Transactional). Wells serves on Dorsey's Management Committee as a Business Group Head covering Dorsey's Energy, Natural Resources and Environmental practices.

Select Experience

Mergers & Acquisitions – Mining

- Represented Teck Resources Limited in a 50:50 joint venture agreement with PolyMet Mining Corporation (Glencore subsidiary) and formation of the NewRange

Education

- Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School (J.D., 2006)
 - Lead Articles Editor, *Brigham Young University International Law & Management Review*
- University of Utah (B.A., 2003)

Bar Admissions

- Utah

Copper Nickel joint venture to combine PolyMet's NorthMet Project and Teck's Mesaba Project.

- Represented Manara Minerals, a joint venture of Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma'aden) and the country's Public Investment Fund (PIF), in its acquisition of a 10% stake in Vale Base Metals Limited, the holding entity of Vale SA's energy transition metals business. The deal is valued at approximately \$3.4 billion.
- Represented Sprott Mining in the sale of the Jerritt Canyon Mine to First Majestic Silver Corporation for \$470 million.
- Represented GoldCorp as U.S. counsel in Newmont's \$10 billion merger acquisition of Goldcorp.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

Professional Affiliations

- Utah State Bar Association; Energy, Natural Resources and Environmental Law Section
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
 - Mining Chair for 2017 Annual Institute
 - Special Institutes Committee
 - Publications Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Program Committee, Special Institute on the Nuts and Bolts of Mineral Title Examination, February 2012
- Board Member, University of Utah Alumni Association, Young Alumni Board of Directors, 2014-2017

Accolades

- *Chambers Global*, Energy: Mining & Metals (Transactional), USA, 2023-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2021-2026
- *Chambers USA*
 - Natural Resources & Environment, Utah, 2022-2026
 - Energy: Mining & Metals (Transactional), National, 2022-2026
 - Environment, Natural Resources & Regulated Industries, 2019-2021
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers*®, 2025-2026
- *Best Lawyers*® *Lawyer of the Year*, Energy Regulatory Law, 2023, 2025
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers*®, "Rising Stars," 2016-2021
- Utah's Legal Elite by *Utah Business Magazine*, Energy & Natural Resources, 2015, 2018-2021
- "Up & Coming" by *Chambers USA* (Environment, Natural Resources & Regulated Industries), 2016-2017

Select Presentations

- "Trends and Opportunities in the U.S. Renewables Space," held in connection with

Solar Power International, September 2019

- “The Due Diligence Process and Its Impact on the Deal,” Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Special Institute on Due Diligence in Oil & Gas Transactions, Denver, CO, September 2018
- “U.S. Legal Issues in Cross-Border Mining M&A Transactions,” Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Workshop on Cross-Border Natural Resource Transactions, June 2017
- “Real Property Due Diligence in Mining Transactions”, American Exploration and Mining Association, Annual Conference, Reno, NV, December 2016
- “Mining on Federal Lands,” Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Special Institute on Public Land Law, Regulation, and Management, Santa Fe, NM, May 2014
- “Mining in Difficult Markets: A Discussion of U.S. Legal Issues for Mining Companies and Advisors,” Dorsey Canada Practice Group Webinar, September 2013
- “Ownership and Development Conflicts Between Oil & Gas and Other Minerals,” Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Special Institute on Horizontal Oil & Gas Development, Denver CO, November 2012
- “Acquisition and Exercise of Mineral Rights on Federal Lands,” Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Mining Law Short Course, Boulder CO, May 2010
- “Uranium Mining and Milling”, Energy Law, University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, April 2008

Insights

June 1, 2023

Utah 2023 Legal Elite

September 2018

"The Due Diligence Process and Its Impact on the Deal," *Due Diligence in Oil & Gas Transactions*, Paper No. 1 (Rocky Mt. Min. L. Fdn. 2018). Updated and republished, Co-Author

November 13, 2017

SRC Energy purchases DJ Basin Assets for \$608 million

June 2017

“U.S. Legal Issues in Cross-Border Mining M&A Transactions,” An Introduction to Cross-Border Natural Resource Transactions, Paper No. 2, (Rocky Mt. Min. L. Fdn. 2017)