

The American Lawyer

lauds Dentons climate change work

December 2014

The American Lawyer presented Dentons with its highest honor, the Global Citizenship Award - Grand Prize 2014 at its Global Legal Awards gala held on September 15, 2014 in New York City.

The award recognizes the Firm's exceptional cross-border legal work to help the nation of Cambodia monetize sustainable environmental practices. The Firm's pro bono involvement in the matter created a simplified contracting approach to help sales of Cambodia's first Reduced Emissions for Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project after years of development, allowing for access to private capital. The Firm also won the Global Pro Bono Deal of the Year (Environmental) award for the project.

With the assistance of local counsel, a pro bono Dentons team led by Chicago Climate Change partner Jeff Fort advised the Forestry Administration of the Royal Government of Cambodia on an avoided deforestation project for the northwestern province of Oddar Meanchy. Specifically, the Firm negotiated for the Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) between the Forestry Administration and Terra Global Capital (TGC), a carbon development and trading firm. This ERPA, executed in late 2013, facilitates the sale of carbon credits essential to funding the project based on REDD protocols and delivering high impact emission reductions.

REDD protocols use market and financial incentives to reduce greenhouse gases that result from deforestation. Degradation and deforestation are a significant source of carbon dioxide globally, exceeding the entire amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the entire transportation sector. Its implementation is supported by a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which helps developing countries design and execute national programs based on these mechanisms.

The REDD+ protocols take this concept a step further, focusing on enhancing carbon stocks and concentrating investments in local communities of indigenous peoples within the forest areas in need of protection. The need for reductions far exceed governmental funds, and the verification steps taken to create the REDD carbon credits prove that the reductions are real and open those projects to private capital.

Over the course of the Oddar Meanchy project's 30-year lifespan, a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of approximately 7.1 million metric tons will be achieved, generating a significant potential income stream for the 58 villages and 13 community forestry

groups who are involved in protecting the Oddar Meanchy's forest land.

Jeff successfully navigated the project's unique complexities by leveraging his particular experience with REDD protocols on projects in Brazil, Kenya, Malawi and the US in order to close the ERPA between the Cambodian Forestry Administration and TGC. The agreement sets the terms for TGC's obligations as the Exclusive Sales Agent of the carbon credits generated from the Oddar Meanchy REDD+ project. In addition to the complex legal work involved in carbon credit protocol creation, Dentons lawyers also engaged extensively with government leaders and local partners to ensure understanding of the ERPA terms.

The project is one of the world's first community-based REDD+ initiatives, and is also the first to complete verification of emission reductions under the Verified Carbon Standard, while delivering the highest community, biodiversity, and adaptation impact benefits, as well as robust accounting for emission reductions. Using the conduit structure created by Dentons lawyers, the project continues to generate credits and has a substantial supply immediately available for purchase.

Leading the way on climate change strategies

Climate change. The phrase reflects challenges, implications and opportunities. A strategy is essential, and Dentons is uniquely situated to help you find a smarter way.

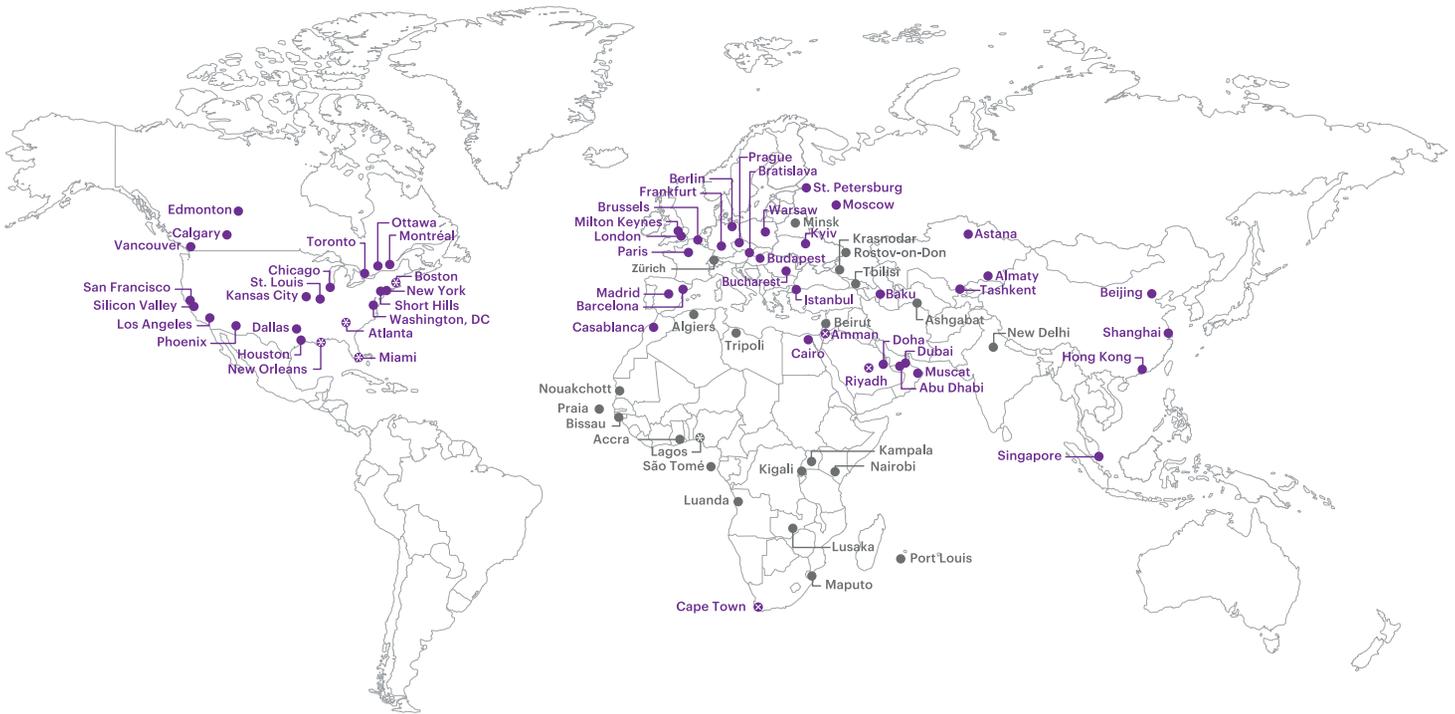
Our lawyers are architects of emissions trading and strategists behind greenhouse gas regulation, emission

reduction solutions and monetization. Regulatory requirements, emission reduction project protocols and environmental commodity transactions can be complex. We advise emitters, exchanges and clean-tech project developers. We help governments deliver world-class, world-first carbon strategies, such as carbon capture and storage programs. Our depth and breadth of experience

provide the insight and practical advice that makes these challenges manageable.

Whether you are developing an emissions compliance strategy, integrating or deploying next-generation clean technologies or making investments in emerging clean-tech companies or projects, rely on our experience and know-how to be the key to your success.

Our locations



Legend
 Offices, associate offices* and facilities*
 Associate firms and special alliances*

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