



NATURAL GAS

Experienced team to stay ahead of the curve

Schmidt, Valois, Miranda, Ferreira & Agel participation in gas projects goes back to the 90's with the privatization of gas distribution companies. Over the years, the firm has represented shippers in negotiation of gas supply and transportation agreements and participated in negotiation and structuring of capacity release operations associated to the Bolivia-Brazil (GASBOL) pipeline. Our lawyers represent sponsors, lenders, operators and owners in cross-border transactions for the funding and construction of pipelines and gas distribution, compression and storage facilities.

The firm has also been involved in the review of the open season rules handed down by the Brazilian National Oil, Natural Gas and Biofuels Agency for the expansion of the pipeline transportation capacity. Our lawyers have been deeply involved in the review and discussions of the new regulatory framework for gas transportation in Brazil and in public and legislative hearings in connection with the Gas Law and its regulations.

More recently, due to the rise of shale gas exploration worldwide and particularly in Latin America, the office has been assisting companies interested in developing opportunities in Brazil. Recent studies estimate the Brazilian recoverable shale gas resources in 225 trillion cubic feet, most of which located at the Parnaíba and São Francisco basins.

How we can help:

- Local Gas Distribution Companies (LDCs) Association (ABEGÁS).
- LDCs and state authorities regarding the new regulations for the unbundling of natural gas markets.
- Sponsors on the implementation of LNG, REGAS and FSRU projects.
- Projects for the exploration and production of non conventional gas engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contracts, build-operate-transfer (BOT) operations, financing and structuring of guarantees for pipeline construction.
- Negotiation of easements and rights-of-way with real estate owners and governmental authorities for the construction of pipeline infrastructure.
- Securing governmental licenses, permits and authorizations for the implementation of all phases of the natural gas chain, including for construction and operation of gas-fired power plants.



Antônio Luís Ferreira

alferreira@svmfa.com.br

He represents domestic and international clients in mining, Oil & Gas and corporate transactions, and has been actively participating in the review and discussion of bills of law related to the energy industry, in particular natural gas regulations. Started his career at Shell Brazil (1971-1998), having spent the last ten years at the company as general legal counsel of the Shell Group Companies in Brazil, responsible for oil products, natural gas, mining, metals, chemicals, aviation, as well as for the tax department. Acted as an off counsel and was partner of two major Brazilian law firms. He was appointed as one of the most admired lawyers by Análise Advocacia 500 in commercial contracts and infrastructure. He has been listed since 2007 by the International Who's Who of Business Lawyers in the oil and gas sector, and was nominated as a leading lawyer in Energy and Natural Resources by Chambers and Partners from 2008 to 2018. He was nominated as a leading lawyer by Expert Guides to the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resource Lawyers and by Best Lawyers since 2010. Recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" for his work in Oil and Gas by Best Lawyers 2018. Appointed by Legal 500 Latin America and Latin Lawyer 250 as one of the leading lawyers in Energy and Natural Resources in Brazil. Author of many articles and chapters in newspapers, specialized magazines and books dealing with legal and regulatory matters of the Oil & Gas industry. Post-graduated in Business Law from Fundação Dom Cabral. Graduated by the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro. Languages: Portuguese and English.



Sonia Agel

sagel@svmfa.com.br

Acted for more than 25 years in the public sector as federal state attorney with relevant experience in regulatory matters and judicial and administrative litigation. She was general counsel of the National Oil and Gas Agency (ANP) between 1998 and 2002, where she played an outstanding role in the development of the O&G regulatory framework in Brazil, with a relevant contribution to the structuring of the first bid rounds of exploratory areas and in road shows held in the five continents. She has been listed, year after year, by international publications such as Chambers and Partners, Latin Lawyer 250, Legal 500, Best Lawyers, LACCA and Who's Who Legal in Energy and Natural Resources. Graduated by Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG), 1972. Languages: Portuguese and English.



Paulo Valois Pires

pvalois@svmfa.com.br

His practice involves the representation of IOCs, NOCs, private equities, financial institutions and suppliers in O&G, M&A, private placements, offshore supply, pipeline construction, LNG projects, infrastructure, and tax related matters. He represents international and domestic clients in international tenders promoted by the Petroleum Agency and Petrobras for the divestment of onshore and offshore blocks, and also in complex bidding procedures for the charter of FPSOs, FSRUs, and FSOs. He started his career in 1989 as in-house counsel for Shell in Brazil. He is the co-head of the O&G practice group of the firm and managing partner of the Rio de Janeiro office. He is author of a variety of articles and a frequent speaker in panels related to O&G matters and programs worldwide. He was nominated as a leading lawyer (Band 1) in "Energy and Natural Resources" by Chambers Global and Latin America 2006 - 2010, 2011 ("spot light table"), and 2012-2018 editions. He is top ranked in the 2007-2017 "Experts' Guide to the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resource Lawyers" of Euromoney, and recognized as "The Best of the Best in Latin America" in 2012-2017 by the same institution. Recommended in Oil & Gas and Projects & Infrastructure by the international publication Legal 500. He is highly recommended by Latin lawyer 250. Also quoted by Best Lawyers in 2009/2014 - 2018 ("Lawyer of the Year" for his work in Natural Resources in 2018); by The International Who's Who Legal Energy 2009-2017 editions ("Most Highly Regarded Individuals"- 2016 and "Thought Leader - Energy 2018") and by the Latin American Corporate Counsel Association (LACCA) in the 2014-2018 editions. Brazilian Anuário Análise Advocacia has recognized him as one of the most admired lawyers in Brazil. He was nominated by the Brazilian edition of the GQ Magazine in 2014 as one of the most influential lawyers in the country. Assistant Professor of Law at Universidade Cândido Mendes (1999-2002) and at Master Business in Petroleum of COPPE/UFRJ (2000-2004). Vice-chairman of the Brazilian Center of Mediation and Arbitration (CBMA - 2014-2016). Director of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce in Rio de Janeiro (2015-2016). Tax Committee of National Organization of Oil Industry (ONIP - 2000-2002). Vice-chairman of the Energy Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce (2000). Member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators and former alternate regional director of the AIPN Latin America Chapter. Master Degree in International Law by the University of São Paulo. Master Business in Petroleum - MBP by the Federal University of State of Rio de Janeiro/COPPE. Post-graduate diploma in International Law by the Université Robert Schuman, Strasbourg, France: Certificat des Hautes Études Européennes. Law Degree by the University of State of Rio de Janeiro. Languages: Portuguese, English, French and Spanish.



Rogério Sobral de Miranda

rmiranda@svmfa.com.br

For more than 25 years, he has developed a legal practice focused on business law, representing clients in local and international transactions related to natural resources and infrastructure projects (in particular oil and gas, power generation, mining, ports and terminals), mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate matters, international contracts and project finance. He was the head of the gas and power and oil products in the legal practice of Shell in Brazil, where he was extensively exposed to all related legal and contractual matters of the industry, including exploration and production. Prior to founding the firm, he was a partner at a well-known Brazilian law firm. He has been appointed as a leading lawyer both in Energy and Natural Resources and in Corporate/M&A by Chambers and Partners, year after year. International Who's Who of Business Lawyers and the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resources Lawyers, published by Euromoney, recognized him in the Oil and Gas. Highlighted by Who's Who Legal as a reference in the natural resources area in Brazil. He has been recommended by the publication Legal 500 and Latin Lawyer 250. Brazilian Anuário Análise Advocacia has recognized him as one of the most admired lawyers in Brazil. He holds a masters' degree from the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) of the University of Dundee, Scotland, 2001. Bachelor of Laws degree from Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro in 1988. Member of the Ethics Court of OAB/RJ in 2010. Languages: Portuguese, English and Spanish.



Isabela Faria

ifaria@svmfa.com.br

Representing and advising clients in structuring, negotiating and documenting finance and business transactions with emphasis on project finance transactions related with energy, oil and gas and infra-structure projects. Representing and advising clients in connection with direct foreign investments, private placements, investment funds, loan agreements, EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contracts, lease and charters agreements, foreign exchange transactions in general, Brazilian Central Bank regulations and corporate law. She was recommended as "Leader in their field" in Brazil by Latin Lawyer 250 - 2017. She frequently takes part in articles and presentations related to project finance in the oil and gas sector. Masters of Laws in International and Comparative Law (LL.M.) from Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia, USA. Bachelor of Law degree from Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). Languages: Portuguese and English.

Rio de Janeiro
Rua Humaitá, 275, 14th floor, Edifício Lagoa
Corporate, Humaitá
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

São Paulo
Avenida Horácio Lafer 160,
2nd floor, Itaim Bibi
São Paulo - Brazil

