



John A.D. Vellone

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John has a comprehensive energy and technology law practice encompassing a breadth of corporate, commercial and regulatory issues with a particular focus on Canadian electricity markets and infrastructure revitalization.

He is a Partner and the National Leader of the firm's [Environmental, Social & Governance \(ESG\)](#) initiative. His clients include Provincial and Territorial governments, system operators, regulated utilities, developers, investors, and lenders. He provides counsel concerning corporate, commercial and regulatory aspects of the electricity and natural gas industries and power project development for a variety of technologies, including:

- wind
- solar
- hydro-electric
- biomass/biogas
- tidal
- natural gas
- cogeneration (combined heat and power)
- district energy

John represents clients in proceedings before provincial regulatory agencies, primarily the Ontario Energy Board.

John also has a comprehensive technology law practice encompassing the breadth of corporate/commercial matters. He has experience drafting and negotiating agreements for hardware, software, telecommunications and information technology services for large electrical utilities, provincial/territorial governments and other public sector entities, including in respect of major technology-related acquisitions and supplier arrangements, including custom-developed hardware, software and telecommunications systems; and significant IT outsourcing arrangements.

Experience

- Advising the Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator (and formerly the Ontario Power Authority), the Province of Alberta, the electricity utility serving the Territory of Nunavut (Qulliq Energy Corporation), and the procurement administrator appointed by the Province of Nova Scotia on energy, procurement and commercial law matters as applicable, including drafting and amending interconnection and/or cost recovery agreements, procurement documents, long-term power purchase agreements, and shorter-term incentive contracts and advising on ongoing contract management matters, in respect of Province and Territory-wide initiatives including:
 - the Large Renewable Procurement, the Industrial Electricity Incentive Program, the Hydroelectric Standard Offer Program and the Hydroelectric Contract Initiative in Ontario
 - the Alberta Solar Energy Procurement (up-to 135,000 MWh annually)
 - the Nova Scotia Tidal Energy Procurement
 - Qulliq Energy Corporation's Independent Power Producer Program and Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program
- Advising developers, investors and lenders concerning corporate, commercial and regulatory aspects of power project development for a variety of technologies including natural gas, wind, solar, hydro-electric, biomass, cogeneration, combined heat and power.
- Advising above clients on transaction structure, contract design, risk assessment, permitting, project finance, regulatory issues, power purchase and energy sales agreements, non-utility generation contracts, construction contracts, operations and maintenance agreements, and mergers and acquisitions in the energy sector.
- Advising clients, including local distribution utilities, generators, large industrial consumers, and transmitters on energy regulatory matters and representing those clients before the Ontario Energy Board in a variety of proceedings, including electricity and gas rate applications, licensing applications and licence amendments, Z-factor applications, and MAADS applications, and before the Independent Electricity System Operator in a variety of proceedings, including compliance proceedings and inquiries. Advising above clients in respect of review and appeal proceedings before the Ontario Divisional Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal.
- Drafting and negotiating major outsourcing, technology and telecommunications agreements for large electrical utilities, provincial and territorial governments and other public sector entities, including major technology-related acquisitions and supplier arrangements, including custom-developed hardware and software systems; significant IT outsourcing arrangements; and Province and Territory-wide initiatives.

Insights & Events

- More than marketing How to share your ESG story with investors
- Ontario Ministry of Energy proposes growing hydrogen economy through reduced electricity rates
- SEC proposes new climate change disclosure: changes for Canadian listed issuers
- Special Presentation - ESG in the Capital Markets: The Ecosystem

- ESG best practices and lessons learned from the 2021 legal summit
- Net metering regulation in Ontario: Information to start your community net metering project
- Mandatory climate-related disclosure heats up: the CSA seeks comments on national instrument
- Financial services playbook to COP26 and climate finance
- TCFD implementation: the shifting landscape of climate change policy in North America
- Renewable VPPAs and ESG: What you need to know before you buy
- ESG and sustainable finance opportunities in Canada
- Greenhouse gas offset market – the missing piece in Canada’s carbon economy – is here
- Where are the Directors in a World in Crisis? ESG and corporate governance best practices
- Proposed changes to Ontario’s leave to construct requirements
- Trends to watch in 2021 – ESG: from optional to essential
- Canada’s SMR Action Plan: regulatory change at the CNSC in action
- Ontario looks to kick-start the new hydrogen economy
- OEB’s latest guidance on distributed energy resources connections
- CSE report stresses cyber threat to Canada’s energy sector
- Ontario proposes community net metering program (again)
- OEB Issues Corporate Governance "Best Practices" for Rate-Regulated Utilities
- OEB’s Cyber Security Readiness Report and Amendments to Electricity Reporting and Record-Keeping Requirements
- Changes to Ontario’s Net Metering Regulations
- The Sensor: The Ultimate Mobility Synergy: Autonomous Vehicles and Electric Vehicles
- FERC Decision Highlights Impacts of Out-of-Market Payments on Capacity Auction Design

Beyond Our Walls

Professional Involvement

- Chair, Ontario Bar Association - Natural Resources and Energy Law Section, 2021/2022
- Executive, Natural Resources and Energy Law Section, Ontario Bar Association
- Executive, National Environmental, Energy and Resource Law Section, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Law Society of Upper Canada

Community Involvement

- Board member, ZooShare Biogas Co-operative Inc.
- Board member, Alpine Club of Canada (Toronto Section)
- Volunteer, Ontario Alliance of Climbers

Bar Admission & Education

- Ontario, 2008
- LLB, Osgoode Hall Law School, 2007
- MBA, Schulich School of Business, 2007
- BA.Sc. (Electrical Engineering), University of Waterloo, 2003



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