

## Morgan Lewis Gains Blank Rome Energy Ace In Houston

By Lynn LaRowe

*Law360 (January 31, 2025, 3:27 PM EST)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP announced Friday that it has added an experienced energy-focused transactional attorney in Houston who most recently practiced with Blank Rome LLP, fortifying the firm's finance capabilities in the Lone Star State.

Matthew Lea, who has come aboard as a partner, advises lenders, borrowers and sponsors on energy financing transactions, including complex conventional and mezzanine transactions, the firm said in a statement.



Matthew Lea

"There are tremendous areas of synergy between the counsel I provide to clients and Morgan Lewis' global finance and energy teams," Lea said in an email to Law360 Pulse on Friday. "The firm's collaborative approach to client service is something that certainly attracted me to the firm."

"I am pleased to join Morgan Lewis and get to work advising clients, including representing lenders, borrowers, and sponsors, on a broad range of financing issues," Lea said.

Lea provides guidance to clients on a broad range of energy-related finance matters, the firm said, noting that he routinely advises on alternative energy capital solutions and secured and unsecured commercial finance transactions such as syndicated and asset-based financings, bilateral loans, and loan workout and restructuring transactions including debtor-in-possession and exit credit facilities. Lea has experience in energy-related acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures, the firm said.

"As energy transition investment expands across the globe, the added complexity in financing structures and rapidly evolving regulations necessitate that we provide individualized, innovative solutions to our clients to advance their business strategies," Morgan Lewis Chair Jamie McKeon said in a statement. "Matt's arrival in Houston — in the heart of the energy industry — adds strategic growth to our leading finance practice and complements our strong private credit and direct lending capabilities around the world."

Lea practiced with Blank Rome for less than a year before departing for Morgan Lewis, his LinkedIn profile shows. Prior to Blank Rome, Lea was a finance partner for more than two years with Reed Smith LLP and before that, he practiced for more than three years at Winstead PC. Lea began his legal career at Porter Hedges LLP, where he practiced for more than 12 years and rose from associate to partner.

Marjorie Crider, who leads Morgan Lewis' finance practice, noted in a statement that, "With an established track record in energy lending and extensive upstream experience, Matt's energy finance practice will both expand our capabilities in the Texas markets, and generate natural synergies with our corporate and energy and project development teams."

"Beyond his remarkable experience, Matt's energetic and collaborative approach to delivering exceptional service to clients — many of which we already share — will add value as they pursue their business objectives," Crider said.

Lea earned his law degree from the South Texas College of Law Houston and holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University.

Morgan Lewis is an international law firm that employs more than 2,200 lawyers in its locations in North America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, according to the firm's website. The firm's Texas shops are in Dallas and Houston.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.