

## Access to Experts



**Dirk Michels**  
Partner  
K&L Gates

Dirk Michels is a partner with the international law firm of K&L Gates LLP, resident in its Palo Alto and San Francisco offices, where he is the leader for California of the firm's Cleantech and Alternative Energy practice group. Mr. Michels advises renewable energy and cleantech companies in project development and corporate and project financing matters. His work on behalf of cleantech companies, particularly those focused on renewable energies, includes the full range of corporate and strategic advice, as well as assistance with all aspects of project development and financing, complex debt and equity financing, and securing of public grants. In his more than 15 years of practicing law in Germany and California, Mr. Michels has developed and negotiated corporate and project agreements for many companies engaged in centralized and distributed renewable energy projects – from power purchase agreements and interconnection agreements, to construction contracts, debt and equity financing agreements, and agreements related to renewable energy and carbon credits.

Mr. Michels earned his bachelor's degree and doctorate from the University of Hamburg and his Masters of Law's from the University of San Diego School of Law. Besides being a partner at K&L Gates LLP, Mr. Michels is the Honorary Representative of the City and State of Hamburg, Germany, at the U.S. West Coast.

Mr. Michels is a frequent speaker on topics of corporate financing, project development, project financing and international business transactions. He is a frequent guest lecturer at the International School of Management, San Diego/ Berkeley, California and has been a guest lecturer at The Wharton Business School, San Francisco, California and at the University of San Francisco, California.

In 2011, Mr. Michels was recognized by the legal industry publication *Daily Journal* as one of the "Top 25 Clean Technology Lawyers in California" for his work in project finance.

Contact Carol Courter, Manager, Corporate Communications, +1 212 339 0232, [courter@conferenceboard.org](mailto:courter@conferenceboard.org)

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