

sustainability

TEAM LEADER

HEATHER M. BELL

Sustainability touches every person and every industry and is changing the way individuals, companies and lawmakers make day-to-day decisions. To stay competitive, businesses of all sizes must embrace the concepts of environmental integrity and social responsibility. Mitchell Williams' Sustainability Practice helps our clients stay ahead of the curve in all areas of business within this rapidly changing legal and regulatory environment.

The highly-integrated team of attorneys uses a multi-disciplinary approach to providing effective legal advice, drawing on members from the firm's environmental, energy, real estate, business and finance, corporate, utility, intellectual property, and tax practices.

In addition to providing counsel on a wide array of issues that arise in connection with the generation and distribution of renewable and alternative energy resources and the development and financing of new sustainability technologies, the team's attorneys will also help clients evaluate current policies and standards, manage emerging risks, navigate climate change regulations, understand and benefit from emissions trading programs, audit current practices, and develop new sustainability initiatives. Other services included in the practice are:

- Renewable energy technology
- Economic development and government incentives
- Green leasing, financing, acquisitions and sales
- Land use, entitlements and repositioning of projects
- Environmental due diligence, permitting, audits and compliance
- Brownfields redevelopment, incentives and Superfund laws
- Procurement law and government contracts
- Environmental infrastructure project development, including water supply and wastewater facilities and contaminated sediment dredging projects
- Energy infrastructure project development, including solar, wind, hydroelectric and biofuel
- Government affairs and public policy
- Construction and real estate litigation and dispute resolution
- Carbon audits, offsets and investments in new carbon markets
- Real estate and LEED-certified green building construction, including design, leasing, marketing, insurance and risk management
- Tax incentives, including conservation easements

Representative experience includes:

- Negotiation and execution of wind energy leases for properties in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming
- Bond financing and pilot program development for wind turbine manufacturers
- Negotiation of tax credits for alternative energy for major automotive manufacturer
- Represent second largest bio fuel manufacturing plant in Arkansas from initial start-up to full scale operation.
- Represent international wind blade manufacturer in all aspects of project finance and day to day business operations.
- Outside counsel to state-wide electric generation and transmission company with significant hydroelectric assets.
- Representation of largest consumer (energy recovery) of waste tires in the state of Arkansas
- General and legislative counsel to the Arkansas Recyclers Association, which represents the state's four scrap consuming steel mills and the major scrap processors
- Representation of an Arkansas-based multi-plant drum recycling and remanufacturing company
- Representation of the largest tire processing and recycling facility in the state of Arkansas
- Negotiation of agreements associated with capture and sale of carbon credits to be generated by capture of methane in an Arkansas landfill
- Negotiation of permits associated with one of the nation's largest hazardous waste processing/recycling facilities