

## Energy Finance Atty Joins Ex-Pillsbury Partners At Bracewell

By Reenat Sinay

*Law360 (September 12, 2019, 8:10 PM EDT)* -- Bracewell LLP has snagged yet another partner from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP with the addition of veteran energy finance attorney Todd W. Eckland to its New York office, the firm announced Thursday.

Eckland, who started in his new role over Labor Day weekend, has more than three decades of experience in guiding investment banks and companies in a variety of capital markets transactions, with a particular emphasis on the energy, technology and life sciences arenas, the firm said.

After spending his entire career at Pillsbury, Eckland said that while his new firm's pedigree in the energy sector is second to none, the extra push that led him to Bracewell was the opportunity to reunite with several former Pillsbury colleagues, including Catherine Hood and J. Anthony Terrell, who both made the jump over the summer.

"Bracewell is quite plainly unmatched in the depth of its experience in the energy and finance sectors, so that intrigued me," he said. "But the impetus for my move was really rejoining forces with my former partners, Cathy Hood and Tony Terrell, which, given Bracewell's platform in the energy sector, really gives us not just a leading presence but a growing presence in the energy capital markets sector."



J. Anthony Terrell (from left), Todd W. Eckland and Catherine Hood

Eckland earned his law degree from Columbia University and worked his way up the ladder at Winthrop Stimson Putnam & Roberts, which he called "a storied firm in the public utility space." The firm evolved into the current iteration of Pillsbury after mergers in 2001 and 2005.

He "cut his teeth" on public offerings for energy companies as a first-year associate there, he said, and never looked back. Eckland represented clients in more than 250 public offerings of debt, equity and hybrid securities in various industries, and spent the last 15 years as co-head of Pillsbury's securities team.

Eckland said he has most enjoyed working on innovative offerings as the regulatory landscape has rapidly and significantly shifted over the last two decades.

"Beginning with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in 2002 and continuing with a range of regulatory developments that have both protected investors and also facilitated access by companies to the capital markets, it's been a thrilling time to be a securities lawyer," he said.

But perhaps the most rewarding transaction of his career thus far has been his ongoing work with Midwest Fertilizer Co. in its seven-year-long mission to develop and finance a massive \$2 billion facility in Indianapolis.

"As I look back, spending seven years and encountering numerous hurdles that the company has overcome and helping them overcome those challenges has truly been one of the highlights of my career," Eckland said.

Part of what stood out about that deal among so many others is that Eckland has gotten the chance to deal with obstacles he doesn't come across every day, such as crisis management and engineering, procurement and construction contracts.

"That's outside of my sweet spot, quite frankly, which is part of the reason it's been an interesting transaction for me," he said.

Eckland noted that while he has predominantly worked in the energy sector, his practice is by no means limited to that industry. He has also worked extensively with technology and biotechnology companies, and shepherded offerings on both the issuer and underwriter side for both equities and debt, he said.

"I'm excited about this new direction of sorts in my career," he said. "I look forward to availing myself of all of Bracewell's practice areas to facilitate continuing to work in a variety of sectors."

--Editing by Janice Carter Brown.