

PRACTICE AREA

Energy, Natural Resources & Utilities

Trusted counsel for Arkansas's energy, utility, and natural resource industries—providing strategic guidance in transactions, regulation, and dispute resolution.

Our firm represents energy producers, utilities, and landowners in every aspect of the energy and natural resources industry. Our attorneys advise clients on regulatory compliance, business transactions, rate proceedings, and dispute resolution before the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, and state and federal courts. We serve a diverse client base, including electric, water, and telecommunications utilities; oil and gas exploration and drilling companies; and timber and mining operations, helping them navigate complex regulatory frameworks and protect valuable assets. Whether structuring mergers and acquisitions, negotiating mineral leases, managing royalty disputes, or addressing environmental and taxation matters, we combine industry insight with legal experience to achieve practical, cost-effective results.

Key Contacts



James M. Saxton
OF COUNSEL
LITTLE ROCK
501-370-1586
saxton@fridayfirm.com



Jay T. Taylor
PARTNER
LITTLE ROCK
501-370-1485
jtaylor@fridayfirm.com

Areas of Focus

Business Transactions

We represent energy clients in the purchase and sale of subsidiaries, in merger and acquisition deals with other companies, and in investment arrangements with private investment groups. Often, our lawyers are called upon to handle the energy regulatory matters in these transactions in addition to traditional business counseling.

Regulatory

Our firm represents both utilities and energy companies in their dealings with the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission. We advise our clients in regulatory matters that involve rate proceedings, transmission and distribution and power marketing.

Dispute Resolution

Our familiarity with the energy industry enables us to try, settle, arbitrate, or mediate controversies to a successful conclusion, including those that involve leases and contracts, royalty disputes, operating disputes, negligence, toxic tort, injury claims, rate controversies and numerous other matters. We represent our clients in federal and state courts, before federal and state agencies and before the Arkansas Legislature.

SUMMARY

- **Comprehensive Industry Counsel:** Representing energy producers, utilities, and landowners in regulatory, transactional, and litigation matters across Arkansas.
- **Regulatory Representation:** Advocating for clients before the Arkansas Public Service Commission, Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, and other federal and state agencies.
- **Strategic Business Transactions:** Guiding clients through mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and investment arrangements in the energy and utilities sector.
- **Resource & Landowner Advocacy:** Assisting landowners, operators, and investors in negotiating mineral leases, resolving royalty disputes, and managing natural resource assets.
- **Proven Litigation Experience:** Defending clients in complex disputes involving contracts, toxic torts, rate controversies, and environmental claims in state and federal courts.

Related Practice Areas

- [Agricultural Law](#)
- [Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights](#)
- [Bonds](#)
- [Business, Corporate & Commercial](#)
- [Commercial Litigation & Regulatory](#)
- [Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Planning](#)
- [Government Relations, Lobbying & Regulatory](#)
- [Insurance Defense](#)
- [Labor & Employment](#)
- [Litigation](#)
- [Mergers & Acquisitions](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [State & Local Tax](#)

Natural Resources Services

We serve the legal needs of investors, operators, participants, and landowners involved in mining and timber operations. We advise landowners and their agents charged with responsibility for managing real estate and natural resources, counseling them on issues associated with their land ownership rights to hard minerals and timber. Our landowner work involves helping owners maximize the natural resource use of their land, and we have negotiated numerous leases of mineral interests on behalf of mineral owners. Often, our lawyers will help clients decide what use they want to make of the land and will construct and manage production agreements that keep the owner in compliance.

Meet the Team

Michael B. Childers

Christopher Heller

Thomas P. Leggett

Elizabeth Robben Murray

James M. Saxton

Jay T. Taylor

Bruce B. Tidwell

Experience

Regulatory & Transactional Experience

We have represented a diversified natural gas company before the Arkansas Public Service Commission in connection with the sale of its distribution subsidiary and advised an exempt wholesale electricity generator on the proposed sale of its Arkansas generating facilities. These matters reflect our ability to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while advancing our clients' strategic business objectives.

Trial & Litigation Experience

Our trial lawyers secured a defense jury verdict for a Louisiana gas company in a toxic tort case, demonstrating our capacity to manage high-stakes, technically complex disputes in the energy sector. We are prepared to defend our clients' interests in both state and federal courts when litigation is unavoidable.

Land, Lease & Royalty Matters

We have negotiated numerous mineral leases on behalf of landowners seeking to maximize the value of their interests, and we regularly represent production companies in royalty and ownership controversies. Our work includes appearing before county quorum courts and city councils on local ordinance issues, giving us practical, on-the-ground insight into the regulatory and business challenges facing energy, natural resources, and utility clients.