

Mary Ellen Ternes is a shareholder within McAfee & Taft's Environmental Practice Group, and Co-Chair of the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Industry Group in the firm's Oklahoma City, Oklahoma office. A former chemical engineer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and then private industry, specializing in hazardous waste, site remediation, combustion and air pollution control technology and permitting, Ms. Ternes has many years of technical, regulatory and legal experience, particularly with air, hazardous waste and remediation issues. Ms. Ternes counsels clients regarding technical interpretations, applications and defenses arising in development of environmental compliance strategies, permitting, rulemaking and other administrative and adjudicatory proceedings including enforcement actions, permit appeals, citizen suits and common law litigation.

Ms. Ternes has been significantly engaged in assisting a broad range of industry clients with strategies for acquiring, developing and redeveloping environmental impacted properties. Ms. Ternes specializes in all appropriate inquiry, site characterization and plume delineation, risk assessment and exposure implications, post-closing duties, contractual assignment of environmental liabilities, voluntary cleanups and brownfield projects, remediation agreements, environmental insurance and guaranteed fixed price remediation projects. Ms. Ternes serves as a committee co-chair within the American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources and forum chair within the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Ms. Ternes is listed in Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America and Best Lawyers 2011 Lawyer of the Year in Environmental Law, Oklahoma Super Lawyers and Top 25 Women Oklahoma Super Lawyers, as well as the International Who's Who of Environment Lawyers. Ms. Ternes is also a Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

Ms. Ternes received her J.D. *with high honors*, from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and her Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from Vanderbilt University. During law school, Ms. Ternes clerked for the U.S. EPA Office of General Counsel, Air and Radiation Division. Ms. Ternes is admitted to the bars of the States of Arkansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina, as well as the District of Columbia.

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