

## BakerHostetler Environmental Pro Jumps To Morgan Lewis

By Tracey Read

*Law360 (February 20, 2025, 1:50 PM EST)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired the former national co-chair of BakerHostetler's environmental team as a partner in its environmental litigation practice, the firm said Thursday.

Matthew Thurlow, a resident in the firm's Washington, D.C., and San Francisco offices, advises clients including chemical and product manufacturers, retailers, oil and gas companies and financial services companies on environmental litigation and regulatory compliance obligations, the firm said.



Matthew Thurlow

"Morgan Lewis has long had a reputation as one of the premier environmental groups in the country," Thurlow told Law360 Pulse in an interview Thursday. "And I was really excited about the global platform for my practice and working with a really strong team of environmental toxic tort and product liability litigators."

A third-generation attorney, Thurlow said the practice of law is in his blood.

"My grandfather was an attorney, and my dad as well, and so I'm following that tradition," he said. "I came across a bio from sixth grade, and apparently, I thought I would be a lawyer in sixth grade."

Thurlow would go on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in history and then Yale Law School, where he was editor of the Yale Law Journal.

Thurlow spent over seven years at BakerHostetler. Before that, he was a counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP. He also spent three years as a trial attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, acting as lead counsel on a variety of civil enforcement matters.

Thurlow said his DOJ background continues to be invaluable to his practice.

"That background really provides a lot of credibility when I'm working with regulators that I've been on the other side," he said.

Firm chair Jami McKeon noted in the firm's announcement that businesses across industries are looking for counsel with a strong understanding of evolving environmental policies and regulation, emerging legal trends, and their impacts on litigation risk.

"Matt's sophisticated and successful track record in state and federal courts across the country, including multidistrict litigation, strengthens our ability to provide comprehensive guidance to clients facing significant exposure in these areas," McKeon said.

"Matt's deep relationships with key industry players and his ability to advise clients at the intersection of litigation and regulatory compliance align seamlessly with our strategic approach and add strength to our toxic torts bench," added Troy Brown, leader of the firm's global litigation practice.

Thurlow represents clients in high-profile toxic tort and product liability litigation as well as environmental litigation brought under major federal environmental statutes, including the Clean Air Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

In addition to his litigation practice, Thurlow advises companies on environmental regulatory compliance obligations, including under federal and state law related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as "forever chemicals" or PFAS, in consumer products and environmental compliance obligations related to PFAS.

"Obviously with the Trump administration, there are going to be some changes, and there are going to be different points of emphasis, but I still think you're going to see a lot of traditional environmental enforcement," he said.

In addition, Thurlow said there will be enhanced state regulatory efforts on the environmental front.

"State attorneys general, particularly in California, are going to remain very active, and then you're going to have private party litigation," he said. "And in the toxic tort space, I don't think there will be any drop-off in terms of the litigation you're seeing around issues like PFAS and other emerging contaminants."

Over the past 12 months, the firm said it has added nearly two dozen partners to its global litigation team.

On Wednesday, Morgan Lewis announced it had welcomed former Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP partners Heather Egan, based in Boston, and Washington, D.C.-based Hannah Levin in an expansion of the firm's cybersecurity, incident response, privacy and information management practice. Egan previously served as Orrick's global head of the strategic advisory and government enforcement business unit and formerly chaired the unit's cyber, privacy and data innovation group.

Last month, the firm hired Ashley Lynam and Jacob Sand, a pair of Philadelphia-based former prosecutors from Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP who specialize in litigation, investigations, corporate compliance and public company board representations.

Other key hires this year include a five-partner West Coast intellectual property litigation team from Knobbe Martens and a 54-lawyer, multipractice team in Paris from Kramer Levin.

--Additional reporting by Andrea Keckley, James Mills and Marialuisa Taddia. Editing by Patrick Reagan.