

## Bracewell Adds Energy Finance Atty From Pillsbury

By Michael Phillis

*Law360 (July 9, 2019, 5:46 PM EDT)* -- Bracewell LLP has brought on board to its New York City office a former Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP attorney with decades of experience in energy finance.

Catherine Hood started at the firm's corporate and securities group in late June, where she will continue her core work of energy company finance. She helps utilities and energy companies secure financing through unsecured notes, tax-exempt debt, green bonds and other types of offerings. She also handles commercial lending transactions.



Catherine Hood

Hood said she knew people at Bracewell before her move and was familiar with its collaborative culture. She was also drawn to the firm because it is energy-focused and employs regulatory and project development experts who will help her practice, she said.

"When you are doing financing work for companies, it really helps to know their industry. It helps to understand what the risks are. To have people who speak the language of the power industry is useful. It just enables me to provide more services and deeper services to my clients," Hood told Law360. "In addition to the energy practice, the firm's corporate and capital markets team has really deep relationships with financial institutions and does pretty sophisticated work, so I knew I had the bench strength to serve my clients here."

She worked at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, starting in 2012 as a partner. She moved there after a stint at Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP that began in 2003.

Before joining Bracewell, Hood helped subsidiaries of PPL Corp. secure more than \$1 billion in mortgage bond transactions, assisted DTE Electric Co. with \$650 million in green bonds, and worked with Louisville Gas and Electric and Kentucky Utilities with more than \$1.5 billion in first mortgage bonds, according to Bracewell.

According to Hood, the energy sector continues to be in need of capital and that trend has only accelerated as companies upgrade or transition away from older technologies.

"Coal fired plants have been aging, gas prices are down from historic highs, so companies are taking the opportunity — or meeting the challenge depending on how you look at it — to replace their old coal

plants with renewables and new gas-fired plants,” she said.

Hood said about 20% of her practice deals in some way with renewables. For example, she said she has worked on green bonds issued by traditional utility companies that are increasingly moving towards renewables. She added that the companies she has worked with have been “pretty prescient” about the need to move away from coal and towards greener sources.

Hood graduated from Cornell Law School.

"Cathy is a highly regarded capital markets lawyer with a tremendous amount of experience in the utility sector," Bracewell managing partner Gregory M. Bopp said in a statement.

Daniel S. Connolly, managing partner of Bracewell’s New York office, praised the move, saying Hood "adds depth to our bench of energy and finance lawyers, both in New York and throughout the firm."

Bracewell has hired seven partners since March 2018 to build its global energy team. Earlier this year, the firm brought back Clint Steyn, who works out of its Dubai office and is an experienced Middle East energy practitioner. This was not the first time the Dubai office had expanded. The firm had also announced that Andrej Kormuth had joined as a partner, bringing experience on infrastructure projects.

--Editing by Peter Rozovsky.