

TRAILBLAZERS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

DAVID FREUDENTHAL CROWELL & MORING LLP

PIONEER SPIRIT Dave Freudenthal says that becoming an environmental lawyer is a natural evolution for someone from his part of the country. "You grow up near agriculture and resources in Wyoming, so you are naturally headed toward natural resource and agriculture law." Freudenthal graduated from Amherst with an economics degree and went to work for the Wyoming governor's office, drafting language for state statutes around energy and environmental issues. After law school, he opened his own practice, servicing clients ranging from oil and gas to coal. "I did a lot of federal lands work because Wyoming is a federal land state."

TRAILS BLAZED As a U.S. attorney, Freudenthal handled a lot of environmental enforcement, including protection of wildlife. "We criminally charged people who were illegally shooting wild animals. It served as a great deterrent." Elected governor in 2003, Freudenthal created the first regulatory scheme for carbon capture and sequestration. He also developed a wildlife and national resources trust to provide state funds for the purchase of key properties for wildlife and led the state to adopt a plan for the conservation of the greater sage grouse. Since leaving government, he has helped a client establish a conservation bank for the bird, saving approximately 500,000 acres of habitat.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS Freudenthal believes we are going to see an increased period of uncoordinated regulation on the federal level that impacts the private sector and states. "There will be a rebalancing of the energy portfolios. Nuclear will come back. Coal will drop some. Oil and gas will come up. Renewables will continue to grow, but the opportunities are not as robust as people think."

