Dedicated to Sustainability and Change



A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill



We at MoFo are optimists. We clearly see the devastating impacts of climate change: the floods, fires, and extreme weather. We see the pervasive and insidious racism that results in brutality and mass incarceration. We see the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on our most under-resourced communities, and we recognize that those same neighbors will be impacted most severely by climate change. We see the ever-widening disparity between those with means and those who are facing homelessness, starvation, and addiction.

MoFo is proud to be a pioneer of legal innovation related to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). Our ESG innovation began with pro bono clients addressing environmental sustainability and developing innovative structures to solve social challenges, and today we've expanded our ESG legal services to represent some of the largest investors, funds, and companies focused on ESG and sustainability.

As a leader in sustainability and social change for over 20 years, MoFo offers unmatched industry-leading experience to assist with ESG, sustainability, and social impact matters. Our global

ESG Steering Committee, which includes more than 30 partners from across the firm, allows us to provide a holistic ESG approach for our clients. The global team includes corporate, finance, tax, regulatory, compliance, litigation, investigations, patent, and licensing lawyers who provide unrivaled experience counseling and advising on ESG matters in the public and private sectors.

We embrace the same unwavering commitment to diversity and sustainability within our firm as we do to advising our clients to help them meet their impact goals. The firm has a dedicated sustainability manager who works with our internal Environmental Sustainability Committee to advance our climate-focused and sustainability efforts. We also provide associates with the opportunity to move the needle regarding crucial issues around climate and broader ESG-issues by joining our ESG Associates Committee, whose mission includes advancing sustainable business practices and nurturing the growth of our ESG-related practice strengths. Below is an overview of how we help make a difference, and we invite you to learn more about our work at MoFo's Climate Briefing Room.

Key Contacts



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Our expertise has been recognized in the industry as we were a recipient of the Environment & Sustainability: Innovation Award (Private Practice) at the *Chambers* Diversity & Inclusion Awards: North America 2022.



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Making a Difference

- The CASE Task Force MoFo co-founded the California Small Enterprise Task Force (CASE Task Force), a consortium of legal, financial, and nonprofit professionals working to connect California small businesses with the resources they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CASE Task Force has structured a novel and efficient fund to raise and deploy \$1 billion for low-interest loans that it will direct via Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to our state's most under-resourced
- BSR MoFo advised Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) with the corporate structure and governance of the Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA).
- The Carbon Endowment MoFo lawyers counseled The Carbon Endowment in a nonprofit partnership designed to retire coal deposits responsibly while alleviating the disadvantages to communities dependent on the coal mining industry, to qualify for a federal tax exemption, and to develop an advantageous "hybrid" dual-entity nonprofit/for-profit structure.
- The Freedom Institute MoFo advised The Freedom Institute in establishing Veritus to provide additional out-patient treatment
- The Nature Conservancy MoFo advised The Nature Conservancy, working with RRG Capital Management, to codesign a conservation framework for a new Sustainable Water Impact Fund that would invest in land and water assets in California, Australia, and Chile.
- Land-Preservation and Conservation MoFo has created legal documentation for many land trust agreements and similar arrangements that permanently protect land against future development.
- PRIME Coalition MoFo advised PRIME with hybrid structuring advice as well as on a joint project to create a software climate assessment tool.
- Grid Alternatives MoFo advised on investment financing matters for low- to moderate-income solar projects.
- UC Berkeley School of Law Suz Mac Cormac serves as an adjunct professor at UC Berkeley School of Law; she is teaching a new course on Climate Finance and Governance in Fall 2022.

Learn more about our many pro bono efforts related to sustainability here.



Representing Clients Focused on Change

We advise an extensive roster of clients on their groundbreaking work to promote sustainability and climate resilience, including:

- Alpha Impact Investment Management Partners (AiiM Partners), in the formation of multiple investment funds spun out from a foundation, including an evergreen fund focused on startup capital, and a closed-end venture fund focused on growth capital. The funds are focused on social investing and supporting entrepreneurs in the water and oceans, air quality, agriculture, and energy sectors.
- Capricorn Investment Group with its investment in Carbon Lighthouse. Carbon Lighthouse is on a mission to stop climate change by making it easy and profitable for building owners to eliminate carbon emissions caused by wasted energy.
- Carbon Growth Partners, a leading investment manager in global carbon markets with a portfolio of more than AUD\$200 million of carbon assets under management, with fund formation, aggregation of capital, carbon credit distribution, investment matters, tax advice, and regulation analysis.
- Ceres, a Boston-based nonprofit that mobilizes a powerful network of investors, companies, and public interest groups to accelerate and expand the adoption of sustainable business practices and solutions to build a healthy global economy, on SEC disclosure requirements and on preparing guidance for its clients (GPs and LPs) on fiduciary duties and disclosure applications related to environmental sustainability.
- Emerson Collective, an impact investing firm focused on social justice initiatives, as lead investor in the \$10.5 million Series B investment in Angaza, a developer of high-quality solar energy systems designed to increase clean energy access in off-grid markets.

- The European Climate Foundation, a major philanthropic initiative to help tackle climate change by fostering the development of a low-carbon society, on the formation a "first-of-its-kind" philanthropic initiative that aims to catalyze \$2.5 billion for clean energy investments in Southeast Asia.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on its investment in Enko and Alveo Technologies, among others.
- Generate Capital on its \$2 billion fundraise from some of the world's leading institutional investors to accelerate deployment of sustainable infrastructure. Generate has built a portfolio of nearly \$2 billion in sustainable infrastructure assets across the energy, waste, water, and transport markets.
- The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council. a nonprofit advisory council, on its establishment spun out of the 2001 PG&E bankruptcy, including advising on its corporate structure, governance, processes, and procedures to enable the 17-member board to make unanimous recommendations about fee donation and environmental easements with respect to 140,000 acres of PG&E lands.
- Pacific Gas & Electric on corporate governance, management, and restructuring to ensure public safety, adequate climate change adaptions, and the measurement and oversight of ESG factors material to its operations. Suz Mac Cormac also participated in the California Public Utilities Commission's forums on governance, management, and safety culture.
- The Rockefeller Foundation in establishing the Catalytic Capital Consortium, a \$150 million initiative with the MacArthur Foundation and Omidyar Network dedicated to addressing financing gaps in impact investing, and structuring its Zero Gap co-mingled fund and securities to combat climate change.



Committed to Addressing Climate Change

MoFo is one of the nine firms who launched Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy, a groundbreaking, first-of-its-kind initiative to advance sustainability globally. As a founding member, MoFo committed to providing \$2 million in pro bono legal services for projects addressing climate change in 2021 and then contributed \$4.3 million in pro bono services to those matters in 2021.

Our partners are leaders in various industry organizations such as:

- Founding board member of Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)
- Board member of Business for Social Responsibility (BSR)
- President's Counsel at Ceres
- Co-chair of the Working Group for the Flexible Purpose Corporation, the first corporate form
- Corporate Legal Expert for CPUC and PG&E on Corporate Form and Governance to Address Climate Change
- Board member of California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
- Advisory board member of the American Carbon Registry
- Member of Reference Group for United Nations PRI Legal Framework for Impact



Dedicated to Diversity and Inclusion

- Ranked first overall among firms with 601+ lawyers in Law360's 2022 Diversity Snapshot. MoFo also tops the list of biggest law firms with the most diverse equity partners.
- The American Lawyer recognized MoFo as a top 10 firm on the 2022 Diversity Scorecard, an annual survey that ranks law firms according to their percentage of racially and ethnically diverse lawyers and partners. MoFo has placed in the top 15 every year since 2001.
- Every year since 2003, MoFo has received a 100 percent ranking in Human Rights Campaign's annual report on LGBTQ+ equality in corporate America.
- For 12 consecutive years, MoFo has received Gold Standard certification from the Women in Law Empowerment Forum in recognition of the integration of women into the firm's top leadership.