



Wisconsin Bio Industry Alliance

# EXPERT DATABASE

Last Updated April 7, 2009

*To Contact Individuals in the Database Please Call the WBIA at 414-344-1733*

**Jackie Blackburn**  
**Coordinator, Clean Fuels**  
**American Lung Association in Wisconsin**

Picture  
Not Available

A 2005 graduate of UW-Platteville (B.S., communication technologies, minors in agronomy and public relations), Jackie worked for both state and federal conservation agencies in Wisconsin and northeast Iowa before joining the American Lung Association in Wisconsin in fall of 2008. Jackie also contributed to several newspapers, magazines and a public relations firm as both a freelance and staff writer. Currently pursuing her master's degree in communications (journalism and science, health and environmental communications), Jackie lives in her native Milwaukee.

Area of Expertise: E85, Clean Fuels

**Cynthia L. Buchko**  
**Shareholder**  
**Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.**



Cynthia L. Buchko is a shareholder in the Madison office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. where her legal practice is concentrated in renewable energy law, energy and public utilities law and commercial litigation. She assists clients with renewable energy-related projects, including obtaining all state and federal regulatory agency approvals necessary for a project, preparation of requests for information and requests for proposal during early project development, interview and retention of consultants, and contract development. She also advises clients involved with renewable energy projects on the municipal land use regulations affecting their projects, including zoning restrictions, variance or conditional use permit requirements, shoreland/wetland and other special or overlay district impacts, and various other land use regulations.

Cindy is actively involved in energy-related legal and trade associations. She is on the Wisconsin Bio Industry Alliance Bio Power Board and is a member of the Renewable Energy Resources Committee for the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. Cindy was named a "Rising Star" on the Wisconsin Super Lawyers list in 2006 and 2008, and was recently selected by In Business Magazine as one of 2009's 40 Under 40.

Area of Expertise: Regulatory and other legal requirements for energy facilities; land use issues relating to energy facilities.

**David Crass**  
**Partner**  
**Michael Best and Friedrich LLP**



David A. Crass is chair of the firm's Agribusiness, Food Processing and Distribution Group and a leader in the firm's Renewable Energy practice. Mr. Crass has served as the Managing Partner of the firm's Madison Office (2005-2008) and as chair of the firm's Land and Resources Practice Group (2003-2005). He focuses his practice primarily in the areas of environmental/regulatory law, land use, agricultural and food industries and renewable energy project development. He focuses his practice primarily in the areas of environmental/regulatory law, land use, agricultural and food industries and renewable energy project development. In regards to his work in renewable energy, Mr. Crass has provided strategic counsel to numerous existing and start-up operations in the nation's burgeoning biofuels industry.

Mr. Crass currently services on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Biodiesel Association and the Dairy Business Association of Wisconsin and is an Advisory Board Member for the Wisconsin Crop Production Association and a Board of Visitors Member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He is also an active member of the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council Legislative Committee. Mr. Crass received a B.A., with honors, from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a J.D., cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School. He recently was named one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2008-2009 in the area of environmental law.

Area of Expertise: Environmental/Regulatory Law, Renewable Energy Product Development, Agribusiness Permitting Issues

**Mike Gludemans**  
**Project Manager**  
**J. F. Ahern Company**



Founded in 1880, J. F. Ahern Co. is a mechanical and fire protection contractor headquartered in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin that has been a key partner on several alternative fuel projects. J. F. Ahern Co. has provided the fabrication and installation of the process piping and fire protection systems at several ethanol plants in Wisconsin, including Ace Ethanol in Stanley, United Ethanol in Milton, Renew Energy in Oshkosh, and Didion Ethanol in Cambria. J. F. Ahern Co. has also been involved with the Best Biodiesel plant located in Cashton, Wisconsin, and has partnered with Best Energies on the crude corn oil recovery project at Golden Grain Energy in Mason City, Iowa and at United Grain Producers located in Freisland, Wisconsin.

Area of Expertise: Energy Solutions, Fire Protection, HVAC, Industrial/Process Piping, Mechanical Service, Pipe Fabrication, Plumbing, and Water/Wastewater

**John Greidanus**  
**Vice President – Power and Energy Development**  
**Boldt Construction**



John Greidanus is a broad gauged senior business executive with significant experience in a variety of power and energy projects. He is primarily responsible for business and project development activities at Boldt. He has over 30 years of experience in the power and energy sector including project development, construction and operations. He is familiar with all current forms of energy producing technologies ranging from Coal and Gas to Biofuels, Hydro and Wind Power. He has successfully led negotiations for several major asset transactions and construction agreements. He has also had responsibilities for strategic planning, administrative services, procurement and contract administration.

Area of Expertise: Construction, General Contractor, Construction Management, Bioenergy Plant Builder



**Gregory J. Lynch**  
**Co-Chair of Renewable Energy Practice Group; Managing Partner**  
**Michael Best & Friedrich LLP**

Mr. Lynch has served as corporate counsel to a variety of multinational clients and has assisted in structuring, negotiating and integrating acquisitions in North America and Europe. Mr. Lynch has also represented national, regional and local clients in a variety of other corporate transactions, including public offerings, private placements, corporate financing, venture capital financing and corporate governance. Mr. Lynch also represents early stage and emerging growth companies and investors in corporate structuring and financing. Mr. Lynch has negotiated numerous license agreements and equity arrangements with spinoffs from major research institutions, including the University of Wisconsin – Madison, University of Chicago and Medical College of Wisconsin.

Area of Expertise: Corporate Law, Debt Financing for Renewable Energy Companies, Venture Capital Representation, Intellectual Property

**Craig Pilgrim**  
**Global Marketing and Product Development Manager**  
**Lallemand Ethanol Technology**

Craig started in ethanol industry with Genencor International. In his time there, Craig provided valuable in-plant technical support to ethanol producers; then transitioned into a role as Applications Manager where he specialized in enzyme technical applications for the use of novel enzyme technology in the ethanol industry. He was partly responsible for introducing new technologies and products such as specific alpha amylases, glucoamylases, and proteases into the ethanol industry. Craig was also responsible for product development and marketing for the fuel ethanol industry. An example was the introduction of STARGEN (a novel raw starch hydrolysis enzyme system) into the market. Now with Lallemand Ethanol Technology, Craig is responsible for adding value to the industry through marketing and development of LET's product line of yeast, yeast nutrients, and antimicrobials. Two examples are the introduction of stabilized liquid yeast and the non antibiotic alternative, chlorine dioxide - based system "PureMash" into the industry. Craig has been in the ethanol industry for 17 years, has spoken at a number of industry conferences, filed numerous patent applications, and has been awarded three patents.

Area of Expertise: Fermentation ingredients (Yeast, yeast nutrition and antimicrobials)

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**Maria Redmond**  
**Biofuels Sector Specialist**  
**Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence**



The Office of Energy Independence is the state energy office of Wisconsin, with the mission to ensure that Wisconsin obtains 25% of its transportation fuels and 25% of its electric power from renewable sources by 2025. As part of reaching this goal, Redmond manages the operations of the Wisconsin Biofuels/Alternative Fuels Program. She has worked in this capacity since February 2001, with a recent focus on advancing ethanol and biodiesel availability, production and distribution in the state. Additionally Redmond works on supporting research and development activities, program administration, grant development, and acting as liaison with other state agencies, granting agencies, contractors and the public related to biofuels.

Area of Expertise: Biofuels, Ethanol, Biodiesel, Grants, Industry Coordination, Networking



**Robert Sather**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**  
**ACE Ethanol**

Mr. Robert D. Sather is the Board Chairman and Vice President of Innovative Bio-Technologies, and currently serves as Chairman of the Ace Ethanol Board of Directors/Director of Public Affairs. Mr. Sather is a part-time lobbyist and serves on the Board of Directors' of C5-C6 Technologies (First in the world to clone enzymes for more efficient biorefining processing), co-chairs Glasshoff and Sather Enterprises, serves on the Mega Foods and Fuels Board of Directors' and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Altoona Housing Authority and Chairs the Board of Directors' of the Chippewa Valley Workforce Taskforce. Mr. Sather is professor emeritus and administrator of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, served on the Eau Claire Area Economic Development Committee for 7 years, Vice Chair of Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors', and served as chair of the Chippewa Valley Airport Commission. Mr. Sather has an earned Bachelor of Science degree, UW-Eau Claire and a Master of Science, UW-Stout.

Area of Expertise: Ethanol Plant Operations and Enterprise, Current Research Per Enzymes

**Chris Wolslegel**  
**Vice President, Industrial Business Development**  
**Miron Construction**



Chris is responsible for Business Development for the Industrial Division of Miron Construction Co., Inc. His duties include coordinating marketing efforts, assisting project managers with customer relations, contacting prospective customers, and assuring that industrial customers are satisfied. Chris has over 15 years experience in the pulp/paper and power generation industries. Previous to joining the Miron team, Chris was a sales account manager for a specialty chemical company serving the paper industry. He was also a project engineer and operations/maintenance manager at two Wisconsin power generation facilities. Chris has a Mechanical Engineering degree from University of Wisconsin- Platteville and a Masters of Business Administration from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Areas of Expertise: Design/Building of Bio-Energy Facilities