

## **Carney Williams Settles \$11.5 Million Environmental Case on Behalf of Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma**

Hank Bates, with Carney Williams, as co-lead counsel for the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, secured an \$11.5 million settlement in a case against Asarco, LLC involving damage to the Tribe's land from lead and zinc mining. The settlement was approved on January 29, 2008, by Judge Richard S. Schmidt, who is presiding over Asarco's bankruptcy case in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Quapaw Tribe's land, located in northeast Oklahoma, is one of the largest and oldest Superfund sites in the country. Decades of mining by Asarco and other mining companies left the Tribe's land severely contaminated with hazardous waste. In addition, mining companies failed to backfill or otherwise stabilize thousands of mine shafts and hundreds of miles of underground tunnels, so that today much of the area is at severe risk of subsidence or collapse. To date, there have been approximately 120 documented subsidence events in the area. Carney Williams is prosecuting a separate action on behalf of the Quapaw Tribe against additional mining companies in the federal district court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. In that related action, the Quapaw Tribe is seeking additional damages for injuries to the natural resources as well as the creation of a Court-supervised fund to abate the subsidence risk and remediate subsidence areas.