

**Melanie George Smith** is founder and president of Sustainable World Strategies, which drives organizational improvement through strategic community relations, business development and global sustainability. She currently advises institutions of higher education, governments, business, and non-profits on (1) the value of sustainability and developing a successful strategy around sustainability implementation, and (2) developing strategic plans to accomplish organizational goals through enhanced community and business relations. She is an attorney and recently retired from 16 years of service as State Representative of the 5th District of Delaware. Ms. Smith co-chaired the Joint Finance Committee, which writes the state's budget, for the past 6 years, and she was the past chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. Smith recently earned a Certificate from Harvard University's Executive Education Sustainability Leadership program. Ms. Smith was the prime sponsor and author of the law creating a Delaware Certificate of Adoption of Transparency and Sustainability Standards. The new law will enable Delaware entities to show their commitment to sustainability. Ms. Smith also envisioned and was the prime sponsor and author of the law creating the Delaware Sustainability Commission. She speaks around the country at sustainability conferences.

In addition to practicing law at Richards Layton & Finger for nearly 20 years, she provided pro bono assistance to veterans, the elderly, and victims of domestic violence, and she served as a guardian *ad litem* for children in foster care. Ms. Smith co-founded and for six years co-chaired the Delaware Kids Caucus, a group of legislators who advocate for children's issues. She was also a member of the Child Protection Accountability Commission, which monitors Delaware's child protection system to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the state's at-risk children. She recently received awards from both Junior Achievement of Delaware and Children and Families First. In 2012, Representative Smith received the prestigious Commissioner's Award from the U.S. Administration on Children, Youth and Families in recognition of her exceptional contribution to the prevention and treatment of child abuse. She was also honored as the Delaware Superior Court's 2007 Legislator of the Year.

Ms. Smith currently serves on the board of directors of the World Trade Center of Delaware, Leadership Delaware, Child Inc., Community Legal Aid, and the Delaware Advancement for Nonprofits Association.

Representative Smith earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in economics from the University of Pennsylvania where she was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar.