

PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Litigation
Congressional Oversight and Investigations

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Oil and Gas
Oil and Gas Litigation

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, J.D., 2001

American University, B.A., 1998

BAR ADMISSIONS

Arizona
Colorado
North Dakota
Texas

Chris Chrisman

Partner

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Chris provides counsel on complex oil and gas matters throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

For over 25 years, Chris has advised and defended producers, working interest owners, and midstream clients in lawsuits, arbitrations, audits, and investigations.

His practice areas include royalty underpayment litigation, commercial disputes between industry parties, title issues, and surface access problems, and subpoena response. Chris has extensive experience in defending producers in cases filed as class actions.

Chris litigates at both the trial and appellate levels in multiple energy-producing states. He also counsels clients involved in insolvency disputes and bankruptcy, as well as government audits and formal investigations.

EXPERIENCE

Environmental and Natural Resources Litigation

- Oil and Gas Royalty Disputes
- Class Action Defense
- Insolvency Issues and Bankruptcies
- Operational Disputes
- Regulatory Issues
- Surface Access and Title Matters

CLIENT RESULTS

Recent Matters

- Defended client in complex bankruptcy of insolvent producer and claims asserted against non-operating working interest owners.
- Successfully defended multimillion-dollar class action settlement against jurisdictional challenges raised by objectors in federal court.
- Successfully defended client against multimillion-dollar claim for underpayments on production from wells in Colorado and North Dakota.
- Defeated royalty underpayment claims alleging breach of New

Mexico's implied duty to market.

- Successfully defended client against multimillion-dollar class action alleging royalty underpayment under Colorado law.
- Successfully appealed multimillion-dollar judgment against client alleging improper deduction of transportation costs from class members' royalty payments.

PUBLICATIONS

"Arizona Pulls the Plug on Renewable Mandates: Key Implications for the Energy Industry," *Renewable Energy Update*, March 19, 2026

"State, Federal Incentives Heat Up Geothermal Projects," *Law360*, December 4, 2025

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation - Environmental – Denver, 2021, 2023
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Litigation - Environmental, 2017-2027
- *Denver Business Journal*, Who’s Who in Energy, 2016-2017