



Bryson Smith

Of Counsel

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Bryson guides clients through the complexities of environmental permitting and litigation.

PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Litigation
Business Litigation
Environmental Health and Safety
Federal Lands Permitting
Environmental Transactions

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
Mining
Oil and Gas
Oil and Gas Litigation
Oil and Gas Regulatory

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, J.D., 2014
Yale Journal on Regulation
Yale Law & Policy Review
Moot Court, Semifinalist

Clemson University, B. A. & B. S., 2011
summa cum laude
Phi Beta Kappa

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wyoming
District of Columbia

Bryson represents clients in a wide range of environmental and commercial matters, including defense of permits for mining and oil/gas operations, affirmative challenges to government restrictions on resource development, commercial disputes, land use disputes, and personal injury defense. He has also assisted companies on issues of workplace safety and emergency response, including regulatory enforcement.

Bryson has represented clients across a broad geographic range, including Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Minnesota, Nevada, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Bryson practiced at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Washington, D.C, where he represented clients in environmental litigation, corporate governance, and mergers and acquisitions.

EXPERIENCE

Bryson represents clients before administrative agencies and courts on matters including:

- Natural resources permitting and litigation
- Commercial litigation
- Land use disputes
- Federal lands
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- Workplace safety compliance

CLIENT RESULTS

- Represented the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in defense of a water discharge permit for the state's first copper-nickel mine, including a two-week trial in district court and oral argument before the Minnesota Supreme Court and Minnesota Court of Appeals
- Represented the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in defense of a copper-nickel mining permit, including a week-long contested case regarding engineering controls and briefing before the Minnesota Supreme Court and Minnesota Court of Appeals
- Briefed and argued case in Alaska federal district court challenging a moratorium on oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Obtained an arbitration award in favor of an Alaska Native Regional Corporation in a two-week arbitration regarding revenue generated from the sale of carbon offset credits
- Represented a Wyoming oil and gas operator in defense of drilling permits in federal district court in the District of Columbia
- Represented Montana coal mining companies in state and federal court in defense of numerous mining and water quality permits
- Represented a global oil and gas operator in various federal courts in defense of authorizations for Gulf of Mexico operations
- Represented lithium mine in defense of permits and in litigation to stop protester blockade of project construction
- Represented gold mine regarding Clean Water Act permitting issues
- Obtained summary judgment in Wyoming federal court for energy company in commercial dispute involving over \$100 million in requested damages
- Obtained favorable settlement for defense contractor in CERCLA cost recovery dispute in federal court in Rhode Island
- Represented energy company in multiple challenges to oil pipelines in North Dakota and Louisiana
- Represented energy companies in personal injury actions in Wyoming
- Represented Wyoming homeowners' associations in land use disputes

RECOGNITION

- Mountain States Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Environmental Litigation, 2023, 2024