Holland & Hart

PRACTICES

Environmental
Environmental Litigation

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 handles complex oil and gas litigation throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

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

His practice areas include royalty underpayment litigation, commercial disputes between industry parties, title issues, and surface access problems. 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, representing creditors in adversary proceedings and related litigation.

Chris clerked for the Hon. Allison H. Eid during her service on the Colorado Supreme Court, prior to her appointment to the Tenth Circuit.

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