Holland & Hart



PRACTICES

Environmental
Federal Lands Permitting
Environmental Litigation
Site Remediation
Water Resources

INDUSTRIES

Mining
Energy and Resources
Renewable Energy and Storage
Conventional Power

EDUCATION

Arizona State University - Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, J.D., 2023
summa cum laude

Texas A&M University, B.S. Environmental Studies, 2020
summa cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Arizona
Colorado

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Benjamin Longbottom

Associate

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Ben represents clients in the mining, power generation, and agricultural industries in complex environmental litigation and regulatory challenges.

Ben assists clients through all phases of litigation, from case development and discovery to dispositive motions and appeals in both state and federal courts. His experience includes handling commercial and natural resource disputes, CERCLA contribution actions, and water rights issues, with a particular focus on challenges to large infrastructure projects.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Ben was an associate at Perkins Coie in Phoenix, where he worked in the Environmental Litigation practice. He previously served as a law clerk at Noble Law Office in Yuma, Arizona, focusing on Colorado River water law and policy issues affecting Arizona agricultural interests.

EXPERIENCE

- Environmental litigation and regulatory matters
- Federal lands permitting and infrastructure development
- CERCLA contribution actions and site remediation
- Clean Water Act (and state equivalents) permitting and compliance
- Natural resource disputes, including water rights matters
- Interstate Colorado River water management and policy
- Complex written discovery and document review
- Dispositive motions and appellate briefs
- Oral advocacy and deposition strategy and preparation

CLIENT RESULTS

Litigation and Enforcement Defense

- Successfully defended South32 Hermosa Inc. in third-party challenges to an Arizona aquifer protection permit and a state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued to facilitate its mineral exploration activities in southern Arizona. Patagonia Area Resource Alliance v. State of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Nos. LC2022-000250 and 259 (Maricopa County Superior Court), No. 1 CA-cv-23-0725

(2024) (Arizona Court of Appeals).

- Defending intervenor Resolution Copper Mining, LLC in three cases in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona challenging a statutorily mandated land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service, intended to facilitate copper mine development in rural Arizona, under NEPA and other theories. See San Carlos Apache Tribe v. U.S. Forest Service and Arizona Mining Reform Coalition et al v. U.S. Forest Service, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 158408 (D. Ariz. August 15, 2025) (denying preliminary injunction sought by Tribe and environmental groups against land exchange); Lopez v. U.S. Forest Service, 2025 WL 2380475, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 158995 (D. Ariz. Aug. 17, 2025) (rejecting free exercise and NEPA claims by Tribal members).
- Representing Resolution Copper Mining, LLC in a case by a tribal affiliate group asserting that the United States' proposed conveyance of federal lands to Resolution would violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment's Free Exercise clause. Apache Stronghold v. United States, 101 F. 4th 1036 (9th Cir. 2024) (en banc), cert. denied, 145 S. Ct. 1480 (2025).
- Counsel for American Exploration and Mining Association and other mining industry amici in U.S. Supreme Court case addressing whether National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to evaluate environmental impacts over which they have no regulatory authority. Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado, No. 23-975 (U.S. 2024).
- Counsel for the National Mining Association as amicus in the first case to interpret statutory deadlines for completing NEPA review added by the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act. Signal Peak Energy, LLC v. Haaland, 2024 WL 3887386 (D.D.C. Aug. 21, 2024).
- Defending the City of Phoenix in CERCLA litigation in the District of Arizona brought by law firm and, previously, its client Roosevelt Irrigation District, alleging that the city and dozens of other private and public parties impacted irrigation wells it wanted to convert to drinking water use.
- Represented developer and blockchain innovator in Nevada district court litigation related to water rights worth over $30 million from discovery and summary judgment briefing through settlement.
- Representing developer of large gold and antimony mine in Idaho against permitting and related regulatory challenges brought by environmental organizations and Native American tribe.
- Defending small-business owners in northern Arizona against lawsuit alleging violation of water-supply and wastewater treatment agreements in Coconino County Superior Court, procuring favorable summary judgment rulings on key water-use issues.

Counseling

- Advising Resolution Copper Mining, LLC, a joint venture between Rio Tinto and BHP, on environmental regulatory issues pertaining

to its project near Superior, Arizona.

- Advising South32 Hermosa Inc. on environmental regulatory issues pertaining to its exploration project southeast of Patagonia, Arizona.
- Advising developer and blockchain innovator regarding water rights issues in northwest Nevada.

Pro Bono

- Secured pro bono client's release from immigration detention within one week following a petition for habeas corpus filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona after client was detained for nearly two years.

PUBLICATIONS

"Tapped Out: Court Rejects ADWR Groundwater Rules on Procedural Grounds," *Water Law Update* , April 29, 2026

"Federal Court Halts Wind and Solar Permitting Freeze," *Renewable Energy Update* , April 28, 2026

"Siting Energy and Transmission Line Projects in Arizona," *Holland & Hart and SWCA Guide*, July 10, 2025

"SCOTUS Reins In NEPA: A Game-Changer for Infrastructure Development," *Holland & Hart NEPA Update*, June 3, 2025

"RFRA and Religious Servitudes on Public Lands," *71st Annual Natural Resources and Energy Law Institute, Chapter 33A, 2025*, 2025

"A Cautionary Tale: EPA Lists PFOA and PFOS as Hazardous Substances," *Law.com*, May 22, 2024

"What Nevada ‘Superbasin' Ruling Means for Water Users," *Law360*, April 2, 2024

"Water Rights and Water Use of Coal Facilities in the Colorado River Basin," *KYL CTR. FOR WATER POL'Y & ASU LIGHTWORKS JUST ENERGY TRANSITION*, August, 2022

"Beyond All Drought: Improving Urban Water Conservation in the West through Integrative Water and Land Use Policy," *63 NAT. RES. J. 88*, 2022

RECOGNITION

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America,* Commercial Litigation, 2026, 2027