



Greg A. Christianson

Partner

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Related Services

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources ■ Environmental Crisis Management ■ Internal Investigations & Environmental Audits

Greg A. Christianson is co-chair of Alston & Bird's Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group. His practice includes advising clients in cost recovery matters, natural resource damage actions, federal and state citizen suits, and other complex litigation matters. Greg also achieves results for his clients using alternative dispute resolution methods, including pursuing cost-effective, cooperative solutions with regulators, property owners, and potentially responsible parties to avoid litigation.

Greg defends private and public entities at sites throughout the country, including various federal and state Superfund sites. Greg advises both individual clients and joint-defense groups at a wide range of facilities, including mixed-use landfills, former mines, and other industrial operations. He has also pursued CERCLA, RCRA, and common-law claims through litigation and mediations, obtaining substantial funds for clients' environmental cleanup work. In many cases, Greg negotiated creative settlements, including multiparty federal and state consent decrees, and has defended settlements against third-party challenges at trial and appellate courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Greg has significant experience working with experts in the technical aspects of litigation, including contaminant fate and transport, identification of potentially responsible parties, and the range of factors affecting multiparty cost allocation.

Greg's work includes defending clients in multiparty toxic tort actions for personal injury, medical monitoring, and property damage claims based on alleged groundwater contamination, surface-water releases, and air emissions.

Representative Experience

- Represented an industrial company and landowner in connection with sediment contamination at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Oregon.
- Defended two multinational corporations in an environmental class action and mass-joinder toxic tort lawsuit in Florida.
- Represented a public entity pursuing an industrial operator for costs arising from perchlorate contamination.
- Defended a joint-defense group at the former Cal Compact Landfill in California against claims by the site owner and state regulators, and pursued contribution claims against 40 waste generators.
- Represented oil industry clients pursuing and defending cost-recovery claims at numerous sites.
- Defended an industrial operator against a Clean Air Act citizen suit based on alleged releases from a petroleum coke loading terminal.

- Advised clients in averting threatened litigation by nongovernmental organizations under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “High Court May Take On Preemption in Superfund Case,” *Law360*, June 26, 2019.

Presentations

- “The Future of Remediating the Past: PFAS and ‘Emerging’ Superfund Implications,” 53rd Spring Conference on Environmental Law, Chicago, IL, April 3–5, 2024.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association
- Los Angeles County Bar Association

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

Education

- Stanford University (J.D., 1995)
- Princeton University (B.A., 1989)

Admitted to Practice

- California
- U.S. Supreme Court