



Christopher L. Bell

SHAREHOLDER

bellc@gtlaw.com

HOUSTON

1000 Louisiana Street
Suite 6700
Houston, TX 77002
+1 713.865.3637

WASHINGTON, D.C.

2101 L Street, N.W.
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Environmental and Natural Resources

Chris represents clients in civil and criminal enforcement and investigations, litigation, compliance counseling, emergency incident response, and legislative and regulatory advocacy (including appellate challenges to rulemakings) under all of the major environmental, health, safety, and natural resource laws. His enforcement experience includes internal investigations, responding to grand jury investigations and agency information requests, and negotiating consent, probation, and debarment agreements. He recently completed a 5-year stint as the EPA Independent Monitor overseeing Duke Energy's compliance with complex debarment and probation agreements arising from the resolution of a criminal enforcement case brought under the Clean Water Act.

Chris assists buyers, sellers, investors, and financial institutions on the environmental aspects of transactions, including conducting due diligence, negotiating the environmental provisions of transactional documents, and identifying and executing insurance-based risk management opportunities. His transactional experience has included upstream, midstream, and downstream energy projects, alternative energy projects, and transactions in the manufacturing, logistics, consumer products, and chemicals sectors.

He helps clients evaluate and implement compliance and ethics programs (e.g., under the Sentencing Guidelines), and environmental, health, and safety management systems (including based on ISO 14001). Chris advises clients on sustainable development, ESG, climate change, product and chemical stewardship and regulation, and value chain management. He served on an independent committee advising the senior management of a Fortune 50 company on its global sustainability strategy and reporting.

He is also experienced with international matters, including compliance with product and chemical regulations in the EU and Asia, and the international transportation of raw materials and waste. For over twenty years he has represented industry in the development of international standards, including ISO standards on EMS (ISO 14001), auditing, life cycle assessment, sustainable development, nanotechnology, and anti-bribery management systems (ISO 37001).

Chris spent a year seconded to a major multinational corporation as in-house counsel, and has worked with clients in many sectors, including power generation and distribution, natural gas, alternative energy, transportation, chemicals, oil exploration and production, life sciences, natural resources, defense, electronics, communications, real estate, consumer products, retail sales, and general manufacturing.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Law School, he enjoyed a two-year clerkship with the Honorable Philip Pratt, Chief Judge of the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Chris grew up in Europe and had several years of manufacturing experience before becoming a lawyer (he was a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and a certified Manufacturing Technician).

Selected Transportation and Manufacturing Sector Experience

- Assisted a major Japanese automobile manufacturer design, implement, and audit environmental management and compliance systems (based on ISO 14001) at its U.S. manufacturing facilities.
- Advised an automobile manufacturer on environmental remediation issues related to the decommissioning of a large manufacturing facility.
- Assisted many Tier-1 automotive suppliers design, implement and audit environmental management compliance systems in North American manufacturing facilities.
- Represented an international scrap recycling trade organization in environmental regulatory matters related to vehicle recycling.
- Advised U.S. auto manufacturer on compliance with the EU ELV Directive on issues related to product content.
- Defended a multiple-facility manufacturing client defend combined criminal and civil enforcement claims under the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, including negotiating probation and debarment agreements and advising the company on implementing and complying with those agreements.
- Represented a manufacturing company in a criminal Clean Air Act investigation; the government declined to bring charges.
- Represented automotive trade association in international negotiations resulting in the development and approval of the ISO 14001 environmental management systems standard (including regular cooperation with Japanese industrial (through Keidanren) and automotive interests).
- Regularly advise clients on ESG and sustainability issues, including reviewing sustainability reports and related environmental claims.
- Regularly advise industrial and manufacturing clients on the full range of air, waste, and water compliance and permitting issues.
- Advise clients on product content and compliance issues, including under TSCA and FIFRA; represented industry for several years in the negotiation of international ISO standards on nanotechnology.

Selected Litigation Matters

- ***West Virginia et al. v. EPA et al.*, 142 S. Ct. 2587 (June 30, 2022).** Part of the GT team in this landmark case that successfully challenged the D.C. Circuit's vacatur of the 2019 Affordable Clean Energy Rule, addressing the "major question" doctrine and "generation shifting."
- ***U.S. v. Alabama & Gulf Railway, LLC***, Case No. 7:20-cv-01315-LSC (D. Al., Sept. 3, 2020) Defended and resolved claims against railroad in a Clean Water Act enforcement case arising from a derailment involving rail cars transporting crude oil (and also involved private litigation).
- ***State of Wyoming, et al. v. US Department of the Interior, et al.***, 16-cv-285 (D. Wyo, Oct. 8, 2020) Part of the GT team that successfully challenged the Bureau of Land Management's 2016 Venting and Flaring Rule regarding emissions from oil and gas operations on federal lands.
- ***National Association of Surface Finishers v. EPA***, No. 12-1459 (D.C. Cir., July 21, 2015). Represented trade association in challenge to Clean Air Act regulations governing emissions from plating operations.
- ***Solvay USA, Inc. v. EPA***, No. 11-1189 (D.C. Cir. June 3, 2015). Represented trade association in challenge to U.S. EPA's non-hazardous secondary materials rule under RCRA.
- ***Trumpeter Swan, et al. v. EPA***, No. 13-5228 (D.C. Cir. December 23, 2014). Represented a trade association that intervened in the defense of an EPA decision to not regulate ammunition under TSCA.

Recognition & Leadership

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* 2023 (Litigation - Environmental, Natural Resources)
- Listed, *Chambers USA Guide*, 2007-2022
- Listed, *The Legal 500 United States*, 2019-2022 (Environmental Regulatory and Litigation)
- Listed, *Super Lawyers* magazine, *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2017-2022
- Team Member, a *Law360* “Environmental Practice Group of the Year,” 2022
- Listed, Acritas Stars™ Independently Rated Lawyers, “Star Lawyers,” 2018,-2021
- Listed, *National Law Journal*, "Energy and Environmental Trailblazer," 2017

Credentials

Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, University of Michigan Law School (*Order of the Coif*)
- B.A., Michigan State University

Admissions

- Texas
- Pennsylvania
- District of Columbia

Clerkship

- Hon. Philip Pratt, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

Selected Publications

11.10.22	West Virginia, et al. v EPA – What It Is and What It Means for Continued Coal-Based Electrical Generation in the U.S. , <i>American Coal Magazine</i> Published Article
05.01.22	Journey to the U.S. Supreme Court – Regulating Power Plant Greenhouse Gas Emissions , <i>American Coal Magazine</i> Published Article
12.17.20	TRANSITION THOUGHTS: What Clean Air Act Permittees Should Track in the Biden Administration , <i>E2 Law Blog</i> Blog
08.01.20	International Environmental Risk Management - A Systems Approach (Second Edition) , Publication
06.03.20	U.S. Department of Justice Revises its Guidance on Evaluating Corporate Compliance Programs , <i>E2 Law Blog</i> Blog
04.03.20	Environmental Compliance Essentials During The Pandemic , <i>Law360</i> Published Article
12.05.19	EPA’s Final Risk Management Program Reconsideration Rule More In-Step with OSHA’s Process Safety Management Standards GT Alert
11.15.19	United States indicts facility owner under Clean Air Act General Duty Clause , <i>Denver Business Journal</i> Published Article
11.14.19	Is the Clock Ticking on Coal Ash?: Key Deadlines and Takeaways from EPA’s Recent CCR Rule Revisions , <i>E2 Law Blog</i>
11.01.19	Environmental Management Systems and Environmental Law , <i>Environmental Law Handbook</i> Book