# ALSTON & BIRD



# Greg A. Christianson

Partner

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#### **Related Services**

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources 

Environmental Crisis Management 
Internal Investigations & Environmental Audits

With more than 20 years of experience, Greg has a proven track record representing clients in environmental litigation, with a particular focus on Superfund cost recovery, natural resource damage claims, toxic tort actions, and federal and state enforcement actions.

Greg A. Christianson is co-chair of the Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group. He advises clients in cost recovery matters, natural resource damage actions, federal and state citizen suits, and other complex litigation matters. Greg 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 nationwide, including various federal and state Superfund sites. Greg advises clients at a wide range of facilities, including contaminated waterways, 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. Greg negotiates 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. Greg is recognized in *Chambers USA* and *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup>.

# **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.

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- 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.
- Represented a manufacturer in addressing EPA allegations of successor liability and assessing remedial investigation results and future cleanup requirements.
- Advised a former property owner in ongoing remediation for trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination at a former Silicon Valley facility.
- Represented a former operator in litigation and remedial investigation work related to arsenic contamination.

# **Publications & Presentations**

#### **Publications**

- "Parties Seeking to Overturn Superfund PFAS Rule Explain Bases of Their Challenge," *The Journal of Federal Agency Action*, June 2025.
- "The Coming Wave of PFAS Superfund Enforcement and Litigation," *Law360*, May 3, 2024.
- "High Court May Take On Preemption in Superfund Case," *Law360,* June 26, 2019.

#### Presentations

 "The Future of Remedying 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