



Chris Jones

Partner

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Chris Jones' practice concentrates on representing clients with oil and gas, geothermal, mining, and other real property-focused projects.

PRACTICES

Compliance Services
Oil and Gas
Environmental and Natural Resources

EDUCATION

University of Utah, J.D., 1998
Order of the Coif

University of Utah, B.A., 1995
magna cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

Utah
Wyoming
North Dakota

Chris primarily provides clients in the oil and gas, mining and geothermal industries with transactional services, including title due diligence and title opinions, lease and surface access documentation, purchase and sale agreements, and financing transactions. The oil and gas title group in the Salt Lake City office regularly assists clients with drilling and division order title opinions in Utah, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and New Mexico. Chris assists clients and interacts with federal agencies with respect to issues involving state and federal lands and leases, including federal units for oil and gas or geothermal development. Chris also provided clients with transactional services and regulatory advice involving oil and gas, geothermal, mining, and other projects on Indian Tribe lands. He represents clients in administrative actions and hearings before state and federal agencies involving oil, gas, geothermal, and mining projects. Chris assists clients in negotiating and obtaining surface access for roads, pipelines, and similar infrastructure.

Chris has also represented banks and other lenders in connection with loan transactions and works-outs, with a particular emphasis on financings involving oil and gas, geothermal, mining, and similar assets, including financings involving federal, state, or Indian leases and lands. He regularly represents clients on real estate due diligence and transactions for real estate projects involving mineral interests, federal lands, and Indian lands.

EXPERIENCE

Represented oil and gas, mining, and geothermal clients in various capacities, including:

- Drilling, division order, financing, and acquisition title opinions
- Title and regulatory due diligence
- Administrative proceedings before state and federal agencies
- Finance transactions
- Matters involving Indian Tribes and Tribal lands
- Oil, gas, mining, and geothermal lease negotiation
- Surface access and easement negotiation and documentation
- Joint venture agreements
- Purchase and sale agreements

- Federal oil and gas, and geothermal units
- Loan due diligence and documentation

PUBLICATIONS

"What Are Sliding-Scale Royalties?," *The Oil & Gas Report*, June 2017

RECOGNITION

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Mining Law 2013-2020, Oil and Gas Law, 2011-2020
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, 2011, 2012
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah Legal Elite, 2011-2015; Energy & Natural Resources, 2017-2019
- Mountain States Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Energy & Resources, 2009

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Utah State Bar, Member
- Wyoming State Bar, Member
- North Dakota State Bar, Member