

G. Christopher Van Bever, Esq., P.E. Partner



Partner

Lexington

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Overview

Chris is a partner in the Firm's Lexington office. He is an experienced lawyer and engineer representing coal, oil and gas, landholding and other natural resources industry and commercial clients in connection with:

- Mergers and acquisitions
- Real property and commercial transactions
- Corporate finance and banking transactions
- Environmental compliance and permitting
- Regulatory enforcement matters
- Administrative hearings
- Civil litigation, including mediation and arbitration
- Business services including entity selection, business planning, organization and operation
- Professional licensure matters for engineers and architects

Chris is a registered professional engineer.

Experience

Chris is an experienced lawyer and engineer with extensive experience providing legal counsel to commercial and natural resources industry clients, including public corporations, investment banking firms, privately owned businesses and individuals. Chris has also worked in the private sector having served as Assistant General Counsel for two leading coal companies, Murray Energy Corporation and Arch Coal, Inc. Chris' real world experiences along with his education and training allow him to provide clients with innovative high quality legal services to meet client objectives while identifying practical and cost effective solutions to meet client needs. Examples of Chris' experience include:

- Representing clients in connection with the due diligence review, structuring, negotiation and documentation of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other business transactions, including:
 - acquisition and divestiture of coal mining operations, and the related coal reserves, real property, leases, supply contracts and other physical assets;
 - acquisition and divestiture of oil and gas operations, and the related reserves, lease portfolios and other assets;
 - stock acquisition transactions for commercial businesses.
- Representing client in connection with two separate Rule 144A secured notes offerings raising over \$1 billion.
- Representing coal industry clients in all major U.S. coal basins, including representing clients in connection with the negotiation and documentation of both domestic coal sales and export coal sales transactions for the export of coal from the east and west coasts of the United States and from the Gulf of Mexico to Europe and southeast Asia.
- Representing construction industry clients in connection with contract negotiations, contract administration and dispute resolution proceedings.
- Obtained a \$1.1 million award on behalf of client in a Dissenters Right Action following an August 2020 bench trial in the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Recognition

- **Dentons recognized by Best Lawyers in America® in 2024 rankings**

Honors and Awards

- Included in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the field of Mining Law, 2024

Insights

- Contributing author, Comparative Law of Oil & Gas in Kentucky, Oil and Gas Law of the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL), 2015

Activities and Affiliations

- Kentucky Bar Association
- Fayette County Bar Association
- Energy and Mineral Law Foundation
- Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers
- Society of Petroleum Engineers
- Kentucky Coal Association
- Kentucky Oil and Gas Association

Areas of focus

Practices

- **Corporate**
- **Mergers and Acquisitions**
- **Environmental Regulation**
- **Environmental Permitting**

Industry sectors

- **Private Equity**
- **Oil and Gas**
- **Mining**

Education

- University of Kentucky College of Law, 1991, JD
- University of Kentucky, BS, Mining Engineering
- University of Kentucky, BS, Civil Engineering
- University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School, Aresty Institute of Executive Education, Finance and Accounting for the Non-Financial Manager Program

Admissions and qualifications

- Kentucky
- US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- US District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- US District Court for the Western District of Kentucky