



Christopher A. Bates

Shareholder

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Practice Areas

Appellate
 First Amendment and Religious
 Organizations
 Litigation

Christopher Bates is co-chair of the firm's Appellate section and a member of the Litigation and First Amendment and Religious Organizations sections. His practice focuses on appeals and critical motions in complex cases. He has argued dozens of cases in courts across the country, including the Utah Supreme Court, Utah Court of Appeals, and eleven of the thirteen federal circuits. He has also handled a variety of dispositive motions in both state and federal court. Chris's subject matter experience includes a range of constitutional, regulatory, and commercial issues.

Chris has significant experience in senior positions in both state and federal government. Before joining Kirton McConkie, Chris served as deputy solicitor general for Utah. In that position, he managed complex litigation for the state on a range of topics and routinely appeared in both appellate and trial courts. He also led the state's amicus efforts in the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeals. Prior to that, Chris served as senior counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he defended agency rulemakings and other administrative actions against statutory and constitutional challenges.

Earlier in his career, Chris was chief counsel to U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch on the Senate Judiciary Committee. In that role, he served as Senator Hatch's chief legal advisor on intellectual property, antitrust, and criminal law. He led introduction and passage of several key pieces of legislation and staffed the senator at two Supreme Court confirmation hearings. He brings this legislative experience to bear in analyzing complex statutes and building coalitions in multiparty litigation.

Chris began his career by serving as a law clerk to Judge Thomas B. Griffith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He was then a litigation associate in Sidley Austin's Supreme Court and Appellate Practice in Washington, DC. He has also taught college-level courses on constitutional law and legal studies.

Education

Harvard Law School, JD, *magna cum laude*, 2010

– Managing Editor, *Harvard Law Review*

Brigham Young University, BA, Political Science, *summa cum laude*, 2007

– Gordon B. Hinckley Presidential Scholar

– University Honors Program Graduate

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Clerkships

– Hon. Thomas B. Griffith, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Admissions & Affiliations

Bar Admissions: District of Columbia, 2012
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court of the District of Utah
Utah, 2018
Virginia, 2010 (inactive)