



## Benjamin F. Wilson

Ben Wilson is the Chairman of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. Under his leadership, Beveridge & Diamond has been recognized as an “Environmental Practice Group of the Year” by *Law360* for two years in a row, named “Environmental Firm of the Year” by *U.S. News-Best Lawyers*, ranked Tier 1 nationwide for Environmental Law and Environmental Litigation by *U.S. News-Best Lawyers*, included on the *National Law Journal’s* “Midsize Hot List,” and listed among national leaders in environmental practices by *Chambers USA Guide to the Legal Profession*.

He has been lead counsel in many complex environmental litigation and regulatory matters for major consumer products corporations, retailers, oil and gas companies, municipalities, and developers. He serves as the Court-Appointed Monitor for the Duke Energy coal ash spill remediation project and as Deputy Monitor for Emissions & Environmental in the Volkswagen AG emissions proceedings. He previously served as lead counsel at the largest chromium site in the United States. Mr. Wilson also offers deep experience with environmental justice representations and is a recognized leader on diversity and inclusion (D&I) in the legal profession.

Mr. Wilson represents a number of municipal government agencies on Clean Water Act enforcement, litigation, and project development matters, including: the City of New Orleans, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, DC Water, the Metropolitan Water District of Greater Chicago, and the San Antonio Water System.

Mr. Wilson has represented financial bodies on a wide variety of environmental issues pertaining to the sale and ownership of real property, wetlands and Endangered Species Act litigation, and several complex commercial litigation matters.

### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Wilson worked after graduating from Harvard Law School at the Atlanta, Georgia law firm of King & Spalding, focusing on litigation and tax matters. Mr. Wilson joined the Civil Division of the Department of Justice in 1979. At the Justice Department, he gained substantial trial expertise in commercial litigation matters, appearing on behalf of the government in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the United States Court of Claims, and district courts throughout the United States. While at the Department, he received Special Achievement Awards in recognition of his performance in 1981 and 1982. Prior to joining Beveridge & Diamond, Mr. Wilson joined

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#### Chairman

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#### EDUCATION

- ◆ Dartmouth College (A.B., History, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Senior Fellow, Rufus Choate Scholar, 1973)
- ◆ Harvard University (J.D., 1976)

#### BAR ADMISSIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- ◆ Georgia
- ◆ District of Columbia
- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit
- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- ◆ U.S. Court of Claims
- ◆ U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- ◆ U.S. District Court, Northern California
- ◆ Supreme Court, Georgia
- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

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- ◆ U.S. Court of Appeals, Georgia
- ◆ National Bar Association (Past Chairman, 1987-1998), Environmental, Energy and Public Utility Section

### RELEVANT PAST EXPERIENCE

- ◆ King & Spalding, June 1976 - August 1979
- ◆ U.S. Department of Justice, September 1979 - January 1982
- ◆ Chapman, Duff and Paul, January 1982 - December 1986
- ◆ Beveridge & Diamond, December 1986 - present

the law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Chapman, Duff and Hasley as an associate in 1983. In 1985, he became a partner in the firm, focusing on civil litigation. He joined Beveridge & Diamond in 1986.

### PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### *Board Service*

Mr. Wilson is Chair of the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and serves on the Board of Directors of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College, and the Board of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD). For the past 30 years, he has been the Chairman of the Environmental, Energy, and Public Utilities Law section of the National Bar Association.

Mr. Wilson has also served as a member of the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar Association, Co-Chair of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Co-Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA)'s Environmental Justice Committee, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Healthy Babies, Inc., Chairman of the Board of the Dwight A. Mosley Memorial Fund, Chairman of the Advisory Board of WAMU public radio, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a member of the Boards of Funds for the Community's Future, and a member of the Advisory Board of the National Association for Public Interest Law. From 1990 to 2004, Mr. Wilson served as Chairman of the Board of Elections and Ethics of the District of Columbia.

#### *Teaching*

Mr. Wilson serves as an Adjunct Professor of Environmental Law at the Howard University School of Law and co-founded the Howard Energy and Environmental Law Society. He has been a guest lecturer at the law schools of leading universities, including: American University, Catholic University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Tulane University, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, and the Washington University in St. Louis. In 2018, he was featured in *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education's* "Black Scholars Matter" series celebrating Black academicians and their work.

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*Diversity & Inclusion Recognition*

A tireless advocate for D&I in the legal profession, Mr. Wilson has been recognized for his leadership by the following organizations and publications:

- ◆ MASKED Award, United Negro College Fund (2018)
- ◆ Sheryl J. Willert Pioneer Diversity Award, Defense Research Institute (2017)
- ◆ Lifetime Achiever, Professional Excellence Awards, *National Law Journal* (2017)
- ◆ “Celebrating Diversity” magazine cover feature, *Washington Lawyer* (2017)
- ◆ Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit, Washington Bar Association (2016)
- ◆ Thurgood Marshall Legacy Award, Thurgood Marshall College Fund (2016)
- ◆ Extraordinary Service Award, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (2016)
- ◆ List of the Most Influential Black Corporate Directors, *Savoy Magazine* (2016)
- ◆ List of the Most Influential Black Lawyers, *Savoy Magazine* (2015)
- ◆ Spirit of Excellence Award (the Commission’s highest honor), ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession (2014)
- ◆ Dedication to Diversity and Justice Award, ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources (2013)
- ◆ “Powering Up” magazine cover feature, *Diversity & the Bar* (2013)
- ◆ “100 Most Influential Black Lawyers in the Nation,” On Being A Black Lawyer (2012)
- ◆ Outstanding Outside Counsel Award. National Bar Association Commercial Law Section (2010)

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- ◆ Wiley Branton Award, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (2009)
- ◆ "A Celebration of Leadership: Remembering Dr. King's Environmental Legacy with Benjamin Wilson," Environmental Leadership Program Mid-Atlantic Network (2009)

In 2008, ELI published a profile on Mr. Wilson in *The Environmental Forum* titled "The Defender" in which ELI notes that Mr. Wilson "sees representing business and governmental clients not only as a mandate to achieve their goals but as an opportunity to benefit the environment and civil rights." Mr. Wilson established the African American General Counsel and Managing Partner Networks in 2012 and founded the Diverse Partners Network in 2008.

### *Other Recognition*

Mr. Wilson was named to the 2015-2018 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* and the 2013-2017 editions of *Super Lawyers*. In 2012, *The Daily Record's* Leadership in Law Program included him among its "Outstanding Leaders in Law" honorees.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Achieving the "Justice" in Environmental Justice: Why Diversity in Environmental Law Is Vital, *National Bar Association Magazine*, April 2018

The Corporate Role in the Environmental Protection Enterprise, *Environmental Law Institute*, January 24, 2018

With Hurricanes Providing Fresh Examples of Needs, Panel Is Asked What Trump Can Do to Foster Environmental Justice, *The Environmental Forum*, October 16, 2017