



Benjamin L. Champion

Associate

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Ben counsels clients on a wide range of environmental and energy issues, including regulatory compliance, litigation, and strategic planning for sustainability initiatives.

He has experience researching and developing policies aimed at achieving carbon emissions-free energy grids and has worked on significant projects related to renewable energy markets and coal-impacted communities.

Before joining B&D, Ben gained wide-ranging litigation expertise as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Evan J. Wallach at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, with a majority of Judge Wallach's service as a visiting judge at the Ninth Circuit and the District of Delaware. Prior to his clerkship, Ben also held a U.S. Department of Energy fellowship, hosted by the Arizona Corporation Commission, where he researched the implications of new wholesale electricity markets in the western U.S. and the impacts of the closures of coal plants on Arizona communities. In law school, Ben interned with EPA Region 7.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Ben received his doctorate in geography at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, where his research focused on the development of local food trading networks. After his time at Oxford, he worked for ten years in higher education sustainability on the academic and administrative sides. He first served as the Director of Sustainability at Kansas State University and later as a Director of the Office of Sustainability at the University of Arizona. In these roles, he led university-wide strategic planning, developed sustainability programs for students and other departments, and coordinated sustainability rankings and reporting. During both of these roles, he also served part-time as a geography professor, where he taught courses including Sustainability Science, The Green Economy, and Evolution of a Sustainable World.

Education

- Kansas State University (B.A., *cum laude*, 2002)
 - Chemistry and Environmental Science
 - Minors in Political Science and Spanish
- University of Oxford (D.Phil., 2009)
 - Geography
 - Rhodes Scholarship (2003-2006)

- University of Arizona (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2021)
 - Articles Selection and Comments Editor, *Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*

Bar Admissions

- Arizona
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals - Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals - Federal Circuit

Honors & Awards

- Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, High Honors Recognition (2024)

Prior Board Service

- People's Grocery Cooperative Exchange, President
- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Secretary
- Climate and Energy Project, Treasurer
- Kansas Rural Center
- Return Products Management, Inc.

Publications

- Benjamin L. Champion, Note, [*A Comparison of PURPA Renewable Energy Policy Changes Throughout the United States from 2014-2019: There Has Got To Be A Better Way Forward*](#), 11 ARIZ. J. ENVTL. L. & POL'Y 1 (2020).
- Amber Campbell Hibbs & Ben Champion, et al., [*Agricultural Producer Perceptions of Climate Change and Climate Education Needs for the Central Great Plains*](#), 52 J. OF EXTENSION 3 (2014).
- Lisa M. PytlikZillig & Ben Champion, et al., "Fostering climate change education in the Central Great Plains: a public engagement approach." 8:1 INT'L J. OF SUSTAINABILITY 161 (2013).
- Ben Champion & Amber Campbell Hibbs, Et Al. [*Kansas Opinions on Climate Change: Results from a Statewide Telephone Survey and a Deliberative Discussion*](#) (Kansas State University 2013).

- Benjamin L. Champion, [*The Political Economy of "Local Food" in Eastern Kansas: Opportunities and Justice in Emerging Agro-Food Networks and Markets*](#) (2007) (doctoral dissertation, University of Oxford).