



Profiles of Professionals

Russell B. Batson, Esq., Program Manager of *The Sapphire Group™*, is a legislative and regulatory counsel who has effectively represented business interests for over two decades. His approach to advocacy emphasizes lifecycle issue management, including early engagement with non-governmental standards organizations whose work can influence government policy; shaping legislative activity and administrative rulemakings with credible science and economics; outreach to journalists and other opinion leaders; and prepping controversies for litigation. Mr. Batson also utilizes coalitions and non-traditional alliances to advance client interests, and strives to harmonize federal and state regulatory requirements.

The integration of Mr. Batson's public policy expertise with The Sapphire Group's proven competency in science provides turn-key solutions for our clients' environmental, health, and regulatory challenges.

Mr. Batson has represented companies in the energy and manufacturing sectors, and has a strong knowledge of environmental, workplace safety and consumer product law. He has provided testimony before Congressional committees, and has participated in both traditional notice-and-comment and negotiated agency rulemakings. He has supervised association staff and outside attorneys, lobbyists, PR consultants, economists and scientists.

Mr. Batson received his law degree from University of Virginia School of Law, and is a member of the Virginia State Bar. He has served as a Congressional aide, and as a security-cleared advisor to U.S. trade authorities under the ITAC program. Mr. Batson has been interviewed on environmental, health and safety matters by dozens of publications, ranging from the New York Times to Environmental Health Perspectives, and has appeared on CNN.