

Environmental Law Section | Executive Committee Roster | 2025

Sean Herman
Chair



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Sean represents public agencies and private businesses involved in complex environmental and land use matters, with a focus on regulatory compliance and related litigation involving surface and groundwater quality and use. His work often involves the Clean Water Act, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, SGMA, CEQA, Endangered Species Act, RCRA, and CERCLA. Outside the office, Sean has taught administrative law and environmental law moot court.

Anna Nguyen
Vice-Chair



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Anna works with clients on environmental, land use, and real estate law issues, specializing in land acquisition, redevelopment, and environmental cleanup and litigation. She handles a broad range of environmental matters from toxic torts to Superfund cleanup on the federal, state and appellate levels. She also manages development projects, focusing on due diligence, regulatory permitting, and insurance procurement and negotiation. Anna navigates clients through the regulatory maze to achieve site closure and facilitate ground-breaking.

Jon-Erik W. Magnus
Treasurer



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Jon-Erik represents a wide variety of clients in all aspects of environmental and regulatory matters throughout California and Washington. This includes litigation, agency negotiations, and administrative proceedings. Jon-Erik regularly counsels clients with respect to Clean Water Act/storm water compliance and all varieties of regulatory matters, from greenwashing claims to compliance in connection with air district rules. He helps clients navigate rules applicable to doing business in the City and County of San Francisco.

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Julia Mata
Secretary



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Julia Mata is Principal Counsel of Environmental Law. Before joining Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, she represented both environmental compliance and litigation matters arising under state and federal law. Her environmental litigation experience includes a broad range of disputes, including environmental enforcement, groundwater contamination actions, complex toxic tort, product liability, Proposition 65, and landlord-tenant matters relating to lead-based paint and other environmental concerns.

Ladd Cahoon
*Immediate
Past Chair*



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Ladd helps clients buying, selling and cleaning up impacted real estate, assessing and allocating responsibility and liability, obtaining insurance coverage, and pursuing appropriate parties to pay. Ladd defends clients in government agency enforcement actions, and negotiates workable resolutions. Where necessary, Ladd defends clients and pursues responsible parties in litigation. Areas of practice include contaminated property, landfills, water quality, stormwater, wetlands, USTs, CEQA, and Prop 65.

Melissa Allain
Member



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Melissa is an attorney and ADR neutral based in San Francisco Bay area, with 35+ years of experience including environmental matters, cross-border and other commercial transactions, litigation, and corporate governance.

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Laurie Berger
Member



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Laurie Berger is Special Counsel with Silicon Valley Law Group where she specializes in environmental regulatory compliance and litigation. Laurie represents manufacturers, developers, property owners and electronics companies. Her areas of expertise include hazardous and solid waste, Proposition 65, due diligence, vapor intrusion, land use, underground storage tanks, military base closure and reuse, municipal and hazardous waste landfills and conflict minerals.

Stuart I. Block
Member



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Stuart is an environmental partner in the San Francisco office and co-leader of the firm's Contaminated Sites Practice. During his more than 30 years of practice, Stuart has counseled clients on the investigation, cleanup, management, purchase, and sale of hundreds of environmentally impacted properties in California, including former industrial facilities, shopping centers, gas stations, dry cleaners, military bases, rail yards, marinas, and landfills. Stuart also has extensive experience in negotiating and resolving disputes concerning environmental liabilities, and the placement of and recovery under environmental insurance policies.

Dorothy "Dee Dee" Dickey
Member



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Dee Dee is an executive and leadership coach who helps attorneys and other professionals thrive at work--and in the rest of life. After a 25+ career in environmental law, she now supports people who want to meet their career and personal goals feeling more confident, focused, and energized. She helps her clients clarify their objectives, uncover potential stumbling blocks, explore solutions, and choose a path forward. Dee Dee is a former Chair of the California State Bar Environmental Law Section. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the California Lawyers Association Health and Wellness Committee and as an Advisor to the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section.

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**Karen
Donovan**
Member



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Karen's practice focuses on land use, water rights, water quality, and administrative law and public agencies. She is an attorney with the S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission, focusing on enforcement. Karen has extensive experience with CEQA and NEPA and the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, and she previously represented several water districts throughout the state.

Louise Dyble
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Louise helps businesses navigate complex regulatory landscapes, assisting clients facing issues related to environmental compliance and permitting, air emissions, water quality, waste management, and environmental mitigation and remediation. Louise advocates for clients facing regulation or enforcement by the U.S. EPA as well as state agencies, including the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the State Water Quality Control Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Control District. Her experience includes problem-solving and, when necessary, assertive defense actions on behalf of companies involved with the generation, transmission, storage and sale of energy, as well as manufacturers, retailers and developers.

John Epperson
Member



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John has wide experience in environmental, health and safety law, regulatory compliance, transactions, permitting and entitlements, administrative enforcement, investigation and remediation of contaminated property, cost recoveries, and renewable energy projects. His practice includes the Clean Water Act, RCRA, CERCLA, green chemistry and sustainability, Proposition 65, and OSHA investigations, inspections, and enforcement. He is a former adjunct professor at Golden Gate University School of Law and a former member of the Executive Committee of the California Bar's Environmental Law Section.

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Hina Gupta

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Hina Gupta helps public agencies and private clients navigate land use entitlements, environmental compliance issues, and litigation related to CEQA, NEPA, the California Coastal Act, and the state planning and zoning laws on a variety of infrastructure, energy, industrial, institutional, residential, and commercial projects throughout California. Before becoming an attorney, Hina worked as an environmental consultant preparing CEQA and NEPA documents for several high-stake development, infrastructure, and transit projects.

Natalie C. Kirkish

Member



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Natalie leverages her depth of experience in land use law and her passion for environmental protection to overcome complex challenges and achieve success for her private and public agency clients. Natalie guides clients through every phase of project development: due diligence, permitting and entitlement, administrative proceedings, and trial and appellate court. Natalie offers expertise on land use issues involving CEQA, NEPA, the public trust doctrine, endangered species, the California Coastal Act, the McAtteer-Petris Act, federal and state laws governing protection of historic and cultural resources, and local zoning codes and general plans.

Chris Rendall-Jackson

Member



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Chris has significant experience in federal and state courts, including high-profile Superfund (CERCLA) litigation, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) writ litigation, and complex commercial litigation. He also provides product counseling and litigates product claims, including Proposition 65 and federal and state PFAS standards and reporting requirements; counsels on environmental due diligence for real estate transactions; counsels on air quality and permitting; and practices before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

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Jon Welner

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Jon represents clients in all areas of environmental and land use law. He is also the Chair of the firm's Prevailing Wage Practice Group and is recognized as one of the foremost prevailing wage practitioners in the State. Jon serves on the Advisory Board of the Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, and is a Councilmember of the Town of Tiburon.

Justin Zucker

Member



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Justin's practice focuses on land use and environmental law. Justin has expertise counseling clients with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, planning and zoning laws, including the State Density Bonus Law, Housing Accountability Act, SB 35/SB 423, SB 330, Housing Element Law, and Subdivision Map Act, affordable housing laws, water rights, and code enforcement. Justin serves on the Executive Committee of the California Lawyers Association's Environmental Law Section as well as on the boards of the Housing Action Coalition and Urban Land Institute San Francisco, and is Chair of the Piedmont Planning Commission.

Jillian Ames

*Barrister
Representative*



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Jillian works on a variety of natural resource and land use matters involving clients from both the public and private sectors. Jillian's experience includes land use and environmental laws at the State and local levels, with a concentration on entitlement processing, water quality, use, and rights, endangered species. Given this focus, Jillian's work encompasses the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the State's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the State's California Endangered Species Act.

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**James R.
Arnold**

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Jim is in the process of retiring and is not accepting new clients.

Adam Baas

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Adam represents private and public clients, and focuses his practice in environmental litigation, regulatory compliance, and the redevelopment of impacted properties. Notable topics of representation include, cost recovery actions, natural resource damage claims, toxic torts, CERCLA, RCRA and CEQA matters, vapor intrusion, large heritage site cleanup, municipal redevelopment, dry cleaner properties and cases involving storage tanks and pipelines.

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Josh Bloom

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Josh Bloom specializes in all areas of state and federal environmental and natural resources law, including complex litigation and compliance counseling, brownfields, transactional environmental matters, and consumer products issues, representing both public and private clients. He has thirty years of experience, practicing in both California and Washington, D.C. Josh also provides mediation services for complex matters and environmental and natural resource disputes (www.jabmediation.com).

Rich Campbell

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Rich represents the USEPA in administrative and judicial litigation and regulatory compliance matters involving all aspects of federal environmental law. Rich also teaches environmental law as an adjunct professor at the Golden Gate School of Law. Rich is completing his third term as Chair of the Planning Commission for the City of Pacifica. Prior to joining USEPA, Rich was in private practice for six years in Phoenix, Arizona where his practice focused on compliance with local, state, and federal land use and environmental regulatory requirements, as well as water rights.

Barry Epstein

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Barry's practice focuses on land use, natural resources, water rights, renewable and conventional energy, and environmental law. Areas of expertise include: Surface and ground water rights, water supply, and water quality; Energy generation and transmission facility siting and development, transactions and regulation; Land use regulation and development entitlements; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Conservation easements and transactions for habitat and agricultural land mitigation.

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Arielle Harris is an attorney whose practice focuses on land use and appellate matters. Arielle represents developers, landowners, and public agencies in connection with entitlements and environmental review and permitting for residential and mixed-use projects, transit-oriented infill developments, corporate campuses (including technology and biotechnology), office and industrial parks, retail, military base reuse projects, as well as public infrastructure projects (including water and solar).

Kamran Javandel

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Kamran helps businesses deal with environmental challenges. He defends clients in litigation involving contamination and counsels companies on compliance with environmental laws and regulations. He's helped obtain project permits and entitlements, and advised on environmental aspects of real estate transactions. In a prior career as an environmental consultant, he managed investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties.

Catherine Johnson

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Environmental General Counsel



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Catherine's practice at Environmental General Counsel is focused on remediation of contaminated sites (with special expertise in vapor intrusion), EPR packaging requirements under SB 54, and Proposition 65 compliance plans.

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**Sarah
Peterman Bell**

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Sarah's practice includes litigation and counseling in NRD assessments and litigation, enforcement and cost recovery actions, citizen suits, water quality matters, and complex toxic tort actions. She has represented clients in proceedings and negotiations with administrative boards, utility districts, and other municipal entities.

Alison Torbitt

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Alison focuses on brownfield remediation and environmental compliance, dispute resolution, and transactional due diligence, counseling a large range of manufacturers, developers, and financing parties to find solutions to environmental risk and liabilities, including an in-depth knowledge from her former work as an ecotoxicologist on the latest science from emerging contaminants (PFAS) to vapor intrusion attenuation factors. She thinks strategically about ESG and sustainability, identifying risks and innovations to tackle climate change, aging infrastructure, and the need for more housing.
