

Equal Rights Advocates



Champions Council

2023 Membership

Allen Matkins



Caroline Chase, Partner

Caroline practices land use law, with an emphasis on representing real estate developers in the entitlement of residential, commercial, industrial, biotechnology, and institutional development projects. Caroline has a unique multidisciplinary background including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) consulting, urban planning, zoning enforcement, and architecture. She has excelled at helping clients navigate the complex local and state entitlement processes throughout the Bay Area.

Caroline has extensive experience with CEQA and has been involved in every step of the preparation of multiple CEQA documents, including the review of technical studies and the preparation of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)-required project objectives and alternatives. She is particularly well-versed in local and state historic resource issues, which often complicate the CEQA review process by triggering the need for an EIR.

Caroline's involvement and passion for her practice are also evident outside of the firm. Caroline is a long-standing member of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) Housing Policy Committee and served on the Housing Action Coalition (HAC) Board for over a decade. She is also an active CREW and Urban Land Institute (ULI) member.

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP

Coblentz
Patch Duffy
& Bass LLP



Laura Seegal, Partner

Laura Seegal represents individuals, public entities, and companies of all sizes through all phases of litigation in both state and federal courts. Laura has experience in a wide variety of civil litigation matters, as well as white-collar matters and regulatory proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission. She has broad experience representing defendants in high-stakes business litigation, including breach of contract, unfair competition, and consumer class actions. In her employment practice, Laura has represented clients in high-profile wrongful termination and discrimination cases. She enjoys building close relationships with clients and prioritizes client service and communication.

Prior to joining Coblentz, Laura was a litigation associate at Kerr & Wagstaffe LLP in San Francisco.

Laura is a member of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association. In 2018, she was an inaugural member of the Associate Board of 826 Valencia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the writing skills of under-resourced students.

Laura earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of California College of Law, San Francisco (Hastings), where she was a member of the Thurston Honors Society and an editor of the constitutional law journal.

Cruise

Mariah Ray, Director of Public Affairs

Mariah Ray currently leads the Public Affairs team at Cruise and is a member of ERA's Gala and Corporate committees. As the first all-electric, driverless service to welcome public riders in a major US city, Cruise is on a mission to make our roads safer, improve the health of our planet, and make transportation more accessible for more communities.

Prior to Cruise, Mariah was a founding member of the Public Policy team at DoorDash, serving most recently as Head of Strategic Partnerships and Innovation Policy. Mariah formerly led government sales at FUSE Corps, growing the scale and impact of FUSE's executive fellowship program with city and county government partners across the country. From 2011-2015, Mariah served in the administration of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson as his Deputy Chief of Staff. In this capacity, she led government affairs, external affairs, education initiatives and strategic partnerships. Among her major accomplishments as one of the Mayor's most trusted senior advisors, she oversaw the Mayor's Presidency of the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), his Presidency of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) and served as his liaison to the Obama Administration.

Mariah began her career as a Corps Member with Teach for America, teaching Financial Literacy and Investments to youth at Ariel Community Academy, a Chicago Public School founded by Ariel Investments. Mariah holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, a master's in teaching from Dominican University, and a BA in Economics and International Studies from DePaul University.



Delta Dental

Kenzie Ferguson, Vice President, Foundation & Corporate Social Responsibility

Kenzie Ferguson is a highly accomplished leader in corporate philanthropy and social impact strategies, with over a decade of experience. She currently serves as the vice president of the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation and the corporate social responsibility (CSR) program at Delta Dental of California, where she is responsible for the strategic vision and direction of Delta Dental's philanthropic giving, community service, and associated social impact programs. Prior to joining Delta Dental, Ms. Ferguson was the executive director of the TE Connectivity Foundation and the director of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at TE Connectivity. Under her leadership, TE Connectivity joined the United Nations Global Compact, was added to Newsweek's Top 100 Green Rankings, donated millions of dollars to various in-need organizations worldwide and achieved a listing on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for North America. Kenzie holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Cruz, a Master of Business Administration from Nyenrode University, and is pursuing her Ph.D. from the International School of Business in Paris. Originally from Seattle, Washington, she currently resides in San Francisco.



Jenner & Block LLP

Lindsay Harrison, Managing Partner

Lindsay Harrison serves as Managing Partner of the Washington, DC, office and co-chair of the firm's Real Estate and Hospitality Practice, as well as a core member of the firm's Appellate and Supreme Court Practice. As a tireless champion for both corporate and human interests, Lindsay's practice spans a range of industries with a special focus on hospitality and real estate companies, colleges and universities, technology and media companies, and nonprofit organizations. Lindsay has argued in front of the US Supreme Court and federal Courts of Appeals and has led high-stakes lawsuits against or involving the government. Lindsay is currently representing pro bono physician witnesses providing evidentiary support to the US Department of Justice litigation challenging the lawfulness of state laws criminalizing reproductive freedom. She also led the Jenner & Block team that won a major victory preserving the DACA program in the US Supreme Court after the government in 2017 attempted to rescind the program.



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan

Lisa Barrow, Vice President of Employment Litigation and Remediation

Lisa Barrow is the Vice President of Employment Litigation and Remediation at Kaiser Foundation Health Plan. Lisa's work involves strategic management of a multi-million-dollar employment litigation portfolio and risk mitigation in large enterprise wide issues facing a workforce of over 300,000 people. Prior to joining KFHP, Lisa was a partner at Minami and Tamaki practicing plaintiffs' side employment law where she successfully handled both class and single employment cases. She began her career as a public interest lawyer at California Rural Legal Assistance where she focused on impact litigation in education equity and housing.



Locke Lord

Locke
Lord



Regina J. McClendon, Partner

Regina McClendon is Managing Partner of the Firm's San Francisco office, where she concentrates her practice in class actions, business and commercial litigation and financial institution litigation. She represents sales companies, mortgage banking companies and servicers, auto finance companies, insurance companies, banks and other financial institutions in litigation and regulatory matters involving claims for unfair or deceptive business practices, violation of consumer protection statutes, breach of contract and fraud, and violation of TILA, RESPA, FCRA, FDCPA and TCPA.

In addition to defending dozens of consumer class actions in state and federal courts around the country, Regina has also represented banks, finance companies, mortgage lenders and mortgage servicers in disputes, litigation and regulatory matters relating to servicing, foreclosure, conduct by brokers and loan originators, and the sale and repurchase of loan portfolios.

Maynard Nexsen



Sasha Rao, Partner, Intellectual Property Practice Group Leader

Widely recognized as one of Silicon Valley's leading intellectual property lawyers, Sasha Rao has an established record of success for some of the world's top companies.

Chair of Maynard Nexsen's nationwide Intellectual Property Practice, Sasha regularly leads intellectual property and commercial litigation for her clients, including cases involving patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, unfair competition, and complex commercial disputes. Sasha also advises her clients, ranging from tech start-ups to the largest multinational companies, on a wide range of legal issues including, corporate, transactional, policy, regulatory, IP strategy, patent and trademark prosecution, and IP aspects of mergers and acquisitions.

Sasha has tried cases in district courts throughout the U.S. Her strong science background has enabled her to develop effective courtroom strategies for cases involving technologies ranging from pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and biotechnology to computers, the Internet, Web 3.0, and software. In the technology realm, Sasha has defended some of Silicon Valley's most prominent companies in cases brought by competitors and non-practicing entities. In life sciences, Sasha has extensive experience in Hatch-Waxman/ANDA litigation and has represented generic and branded pharmaceutical companies in numerous patent cases.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Audrey Jeung, Of Counsel

Audrey A. Jeung is of counsel at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. Audrey focuses her practice on the structuring, formation, and governance of, and investment in, US domestic and international private investment funds. She also advises fund sponsors and investment managers in other aspects of their business, including ongoing operations and other legal and transactional matters. In addition, her practice includes representing buyers and sellers of private fund interests in the secondary market. Audrey is a member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee and is active in multiple pro bono matters. She began her career in the firm's New York office and, prior to returning to Morgan Lewis, practiced in-house at AIG and in the private funds group of another leading law firm.

The logo consists of the letters 'ML' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered on a solid purple square background.

Morrison & Foerster



Natalie Fleming Nolen, Partner

Natalie Fleming Nolen is a partner and head of the Litigation Department in Morrison & Foerster's Washington, D.C. office. She is a trial lawyer and advocate who focuses on complex civil litigation and regulatory proceedings, with a particular emphasis on resolving antitrust issues and class actions that arise in the financial services industry. She has represented clients in trials in state and federal court, as well as administrative proceedings and arbitration forums. Her recent matters include representing a financial institution in a large multidistrict antitrust class action litigation and related litigation by individual companies that opted out of the class action; a leading telecommunications company in merger litigation and related regulatory proceedings; clients in consumer class actions and complex commercial litigation alleging breaches of contract; clients in complex antitrust arbitrations; clients before federal agencies, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission; and large companies being investigated by state regulatory authorities.

Natalie also has an active pro bono practice. She led a trial team in a challenge to Title IX rules related to sexual harassment and assault in schools; represented several clients in Immigration Court and successfully obtained asylum and withholding of removal; and helped young clients obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. In acknowledgment of her dedication to providing quality pro bono representation, Natalie was awarded the 2012 New York State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award in the young lawyer category and was also awarded the Kathi Pugh Award for Pro Bono Service in 2015.

Sunrun

Megan Lessard, Vice President, People Acquisition and Inclusion

Megan Lessard is the VP of People Acquisition and Inclusion at Sunrun. She is an HR executive with over 20 years of experience in both the technology and energy sectors. She has experience in software startups, large enterprises such as Siemens and Microsoft and has most recently spent seven years in various leadership roles at Sunrun, the nation's largest residential solar company. Throughout her career, Megan has been passionate about mentoring and sponsoring other women and seeing their growing successes. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time in the beautiful outdoors in Denver where she resides with her husband and children.

The Sunrun logo is displayed in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. It is centered on a background that features a vertical gradient from light blue at the top to light green at the bottom.

Veritext Legal Solutions

Greg Constantine, Senior Account Executive

With nearly two decades of dedicated service in the legal industry, Greg stands as a seasoned professional at Veritext Legal Solutions. His expertise focuses on court reporting services, with an emphasis on navigating the complexities of large-scale litigation matters. Greg's commitment to excellence in the legal field is a testament to his passion and unwavering dedication to his clients. Over the course of his career, he has consistently demonstrated a keen understanding of the intricacies of legal proceedings, ensuring that clients receive top-tier experiences tailored to the unique demands of substantial litigation cases.

Greg earned his bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College and resides with his wife and 3 kids in Annapolis, Maryland.



Wells Fargo



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Judith Goldkrand, Senior Vice President

Judith Goldkrand, a Senior Vice President with Wells Fargo, is the National Women's Segment Leader and National Asian Segment Leader. Judith has more than 25 years of experience in banking including Corporate Finance, Private Banking, and Business Banking. She is a board member of the Women Presidents' Organization and the Chair of the Foundation of the Women Presidents' Organization. Judith serves on the board of Equal Rights Advocates and is co-chair of the development committee. She is a co-chair of the Advisory Council of Women's Business Collaborative. Judith is also a board member of WBEC-Pacific (Women's Business Enterprise Council) and is a mentor with Million Women Mentors. Judith serves on the Impact Investing Committee for the San Francisco Jewish Federation and is a past board member of National Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America and a past president of Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco. She is a former board member of Pacific Community Ventures and chair of the loan policy committee. She is a Wexner Heritage Fellow alumna and a graduate of Yale University. Judith is passionate about women's leadership and influence, diversity, equity and inclusion, and the growth of women-owned businesses. In 2016, Judith was honored with the President's Award from the Women Presidents' Organization. Most recently, Judith was awarded the Industry Leadership Award by Professional Business Women of California. Judith and her wife have two college age daughters and two dogs.