



Bob Nicksin

Counsel

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Bob Nicksin is a seasoned litigator and transactional attorney with more than 25 years of experience specializing in environmental matters, including civil and criminal enforcement actions, compliance counseling, policy development, and advocacy. He also handles national and international environmental diligence associated with mergers, acquisitions and financings.

Bob's practice covers a wide and diverse range of environmental issues such as air quality, climate change and greenhouse gas regulation. Bob has significant experience with Superfund and hazardous waste law, as well as the redevelopment, transfer, and cleanup of contaminated properties. He has handled numerous actions brought under both the warning and the drinking water provisions of the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxics Enforcement Act, better known as Proposition 65. Bob also publishes a quarterly update of recent developments with regard to maritime environmental law.

In 2010, Bob was awarded California Trout's Streamkeeper Award for his pro bono work in representing that organization in *Casitas Municipal Water District v. US. The Casitas Municipal Water District* argued that the federal government owed it compensation for the water used to protect endangered fish species' survival. Eventually, the courts determined that no compensation was due.

Bob's continuing successes as a lawyer can be attributed to his ardent dedication to environmental law and his tenacity, resourcefulness, and commitment in pursuing his clients' causes.

Admissions

Bar Admissions

California

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit,
Federal Circuit

US District Court, Central and
Southern Districts of California

Education

Whittier College, J.D.: 1991

Indiana University, M.S., 1974:
Telecommunications

San Jose State University, B.A.,
1973: Speech Communication

Experience

- Represented an international package delivery company, a nationwide security systems installer, and a grocery store chain in similar actions brought by county district attorneys and the State of California alleging improper disposal of hazardous wastes
- Represented Los Angeles County's largest landfill operator in matters before the South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Represents two short-line railroads in matters including acquisition of a fleet of low-emission locomotives, negotiation of operating agreements, and obtaining government grants
- Represents Los Angeles' largest refuse handler regarding CERCLA liability at various sites
- Represented a liquefied natural gas port proponent in permitting matters before local, state and federal regulators
- Represented two Los Angeles refineries in environmental enforcement actions brought under the Clean Air Act
- Litigated under the US Freedom of Information Act on a pro bono basis for a US Navy veteran wrongfully court martialled
- Handled environmental due diligence for numerous mergers and acquisitions, including cruise ship companies, resort hotel operations, pool and spa equipment makers, electronics manufacturers and food processors, among others
- Counseled numerous national retailers and manufacturers regarding compliance with environmental laws
- Co-authored, with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the second White Paper on implementation of the federal air operating permits program
- Led a diverse coalition that won approval for low emission vehicle fleet rules, ensuring a viable natural gas vehicle market
- Developed a compromise on federal rule enforceability that streamlined South Coast Air Quality Management District's RECLAIM rules
- Played a key role along the US-Mexican border in winning environmental support and approval for pipeline and power plant projects
- On a pro bono basis, won a jury verdict and judgments of over US\$2 million in the case of an Indonesian woman trafficked into the US to work as a domestic servant. The case was selected by the legal newspaper Daily Journal as one of the high impact jury verdicts for 2009

Professional Activities

Member

- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Environmental Law Section, Past Chair

Author

- "New Frontiers for the Push and Pull of Federalism - Implementation of the Clean Air Act's Operating Permit Program in Southern California," *Environmental Law Reporter* (1999)
- "Latest Developments in International Maritime Environmental Regulation," *Tulane Maritime Law Journal* (Winter 2008)

Honors & Awards

- Named a “Super Lawyer” in a survey conducted by *Law & Politics Media Inc.* and published in *Los Angeles* magazine (2012 - 2015)