



Geoff Yost

Partner

San Francisco

D: +1-415-984-8724

gyost@omm.com

Geoff brings more than 25 years of experience to his litigation practice, which focuses on environmental and technology disputes from the investigation stage through settlement, trial, and appeal. He has represented clients in hazardous waste enforcement, cleanup disputes, environmental citizen suits, and water and other natural resources matters. He is one of only a handful of California lawyers who have taken state hazardous waste “dumpster diving” investigations to court. Geoff has also litigated complex antitrust, patent, and trade secret cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts. He is a member both of the firm’s Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment practice and its Intellectual Property and Technology practice.

Geoff’s clients span a wide range of industries and include retailers, health care companies, real estate developers and trusts, semiconductor manufacturers and related technology companies, transportation companies, utilities, startups, and consumer products manufacturers.

With an eye toward avoiding litigation whenever possible, he adopts sound, cost-effective strategies that focus on achieving clients’ business goals through settlement or in court.

Experience

- Successfully litigated the termination of a hazardous waste injunction against a major retailer
- Litigated and settled state hazardous waste enforcement action against a major transportation company

Admissions

Bar Admissions

California

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Education

Santa Clara University School of Law, J.D., 1991: *cum laude*; Emery Scholar

University of California at Berkeley, B.A., 1987

- Litigated and negotiated with prosecutors in a number of California hazardous and medical waste enforcement investigations
- Defended real estate developers and manufacturers in toxic tort and environmental contamination litigation
- Litigated numerous federal and state law cost recovery lawsuits in federal and state courts on behalf of landowners, manufacturers, a major railroad, and energy companies
- Defended and counseled clients facing Proposition 65 claims, including clients in the airline, consumer products, furniture, retail, home products, construction, and dry cleaning industries
- Successfully defended major bank through appeal and recovered attorneys' fees in a dispute with a developer over contaminated commercial real estate
- Successfully defended California petroleum company through appeal against a Clean Water Act citizen suit
- Represented major utility in natural resource litigation
- Represented renewable energy company and dry cleaner franchise in administrative proceedings before the South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Represented a large, multinational semiconductor manufacturer in multiple patent and antitrust actions against a high-profile computer memory interface technology firm
- Tried a patent infringement case and obtained a favorable jury verdict and a permanent injunction on behalf of major EDA company against its primary competitor
- Successfully defended petroleum distributor and its employee against allegations of trade secret theft, obtaining dismissal on summary judgment
- Defended a price fixing antitrust suit against major semiconductor manufacturer through a 4-month long state court jury trial that resulted in a complete defense verdict
- Defended a large, multinational consumer electronics manufacturer in patent litigation through settlement on the eve of trial
- Litigated and settled international arbitration for software development firm following acquisition of Canadian software development partnership
- Litigated and settled software development contract dispute between software engineering consulting firm and its client
- Helped numerous Silicon Valley technology startups to resolve IP and contract disputes out of court

Professional Activities

Extern

- California Supreme Court (1990)

Member

- San Francisco Bar Association

Adjunct Professor

- University of California, Hastings College of Law (1998)

Editorial Board

- Environmental Liability, Enforcement and Penalties Reporter (2000-2008)