



John Nelson

Partner

SERVICES & SPECIALIZATIONS

Environment and Natural
Resources
Real Estate
Land Use

ADMISSIONS

California
Missouri

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Overview

John represents public and private clients across a wide range of industries in litigation, permitting and compliance counseling. He focuses on environmental law, complex litigation, water rights and quality, land use and real estate. John brings industry experience to his clients, having previously served as in-house counsel for Monsanto Company and Ash Grove Cement Company.

John's legal practice includes:

- Complex environmental litigation (Superfund, water rights)
- Large-scale mining and real estate permitting and litigation
- Natural resource permitting and regulatory compliance
- Real estate litigation
- Surface Transportation Board and Federal Railroad Administration regulatory and compliance work on behalf of railroad and industrial clients
- California Environmental Quality Act compliance and litigation
- Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act litigation and compliance
- Regulatory and general counsel for agribusiness, biotech, water agency and construction industry clients
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances ("PFAs")
- Sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Practice
- Toxic tort and environmental litigation

Representative Matters

- *Ameripride Svc. Inc. v. Valley Industrial et al.* 2:00-cv-00113, Eastern District of California, 2006 (favorable Superfund settlement for client Huhtamaki Foodservices, Inc.)
- *United States v. Ash Grove Cement*, Case No. 2:13-cv-02299 (Clean Air Act Consent Decree requiring extensive cement plant upgrades and pollution control technology)
- Tar Creek Superfund site and related toxic tort cases (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma federal and state courts)
- Lower Duwamish Superfund site (Seattle, WA)
- *United States v. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District* (negotiated \$4.7 billion Clean Water Act Consent Decree for sewer overflows)

Education

- JD, University of California Los Angeles School of Law, 2001
- BA, Claremont McKenna College, 1998

Thought Leadership

- Author. "[Climate Disclosure Obligations for U.S. Companies: A Work in Progress](#)," March 19, 2024.
- Co-author. "[San Diego City Council Takes Action to Support Housing Development](#)," February 1, 2024.
- Co-author. "[Recently Proposed SEC Amendments to the Shareholder Proposal Rule May Further Affect Shareholder Proposals Related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)," August 5, 2022.
- Author. "[Pending California Legislation Could Build Upon—or Conflict with—Forthcoming SEC Disclosure Rules](#)," February 7, 2022.
- Panelist. National eDiscovery Leadership Institute, 2015.
- State Water Resources Control Bd. Cases, 136 Cal.App.4th 674, 2006
- *Kansas v. Colorado*, 543 U.S. 86 (assisted U.S. Supreme Court Special Master), 2004

Community

- California Bar, Environmental Section
- Missouri Bar
- Desert Bar Association
- Riverside County Bar Association

News Coverage

- Cruz, Adrian. "Calif. Firm Procopio Cory Adds Enviro Partner in San Diego," *Law360*, October 22, 2021.