



Jenny Riggs
Principal

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Practice Groups

Trial and Litigation
First Amendment
California Public Records Act
Labor and Employment
Workplace Investigations

California Bar Number
204417

Hawai'i Bar Number
011869

Education

Northwestern University School of Law, JD,
cum laude, 1999

University of Dallas, BA, History, *cum*
laude, 1992

Practicing Since: 1999

Jenny Riggs is Chair of Meyers Nave's statewide Trial and Litigation Practice Group. She brings extensive state and federal court litigation experience on behalf of cities, counties, special districts, businesses, non-profit organizations, and other clients with a focus on multi-district cases and complex civil litigations, including cases intertwined with criminal actions. She values listening and clear communication to understand and achieve goals, paying attention to details and implementing creative and efficient solutions.

Her expertise includes single- and multi-plaintiff cases involving constitutional law, government corruption, land use, zoning, catastrophic disasters, eminent domain and inverse condemnation, coastal issues, environmental claims, Public Records Act and Brown Act compliance, Americans with Disabilities Act, employment law, and civil rights claims for violations of substantive and procedural due process. In one case, she obtained a permanent injunction to shut down an illegal dump that had been the bane of the neighborhood, in addition to securing a multimillion-dollar judgment for the client.

With a collaborative approach to practicing law, Jenny handles pre-trial litigation (including dispositive motions), pre-trial discovery, various stages of motion practice, and trial. In addition to her skills in the courtroom examining witnesses and arguing motions, and her expert aptitude for taking and defending depositions, she leads the development and management of Meyers Nave's systems and protocols for discovery plans in complex matters and document-intensive litigation.

Jenny earned her B.A. in History from the University of Dallas and received her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. She is admitted to practice in the courts of the State of California, the courts of the State of Hawai'i, all U.S. District Courts in California, the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Honors and Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Commercial Litigation (2026–2027)
- Volunteer of the Year – *Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice* (2010)

Professional Affiliations

- The State Bar of California, Member (1999–Present)
- California Women Lawyers, Member
- Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Member

Presentations

- Presenter, “Fires, Floods, Landslides, and Debris Flows: Crisis Management Best Practices” – *County Counsels’ Association Fall Land Use Conference* (December 3, 2021)
- Presenter, “Public Works Liabilities for Catastrophic Disasters” – *County Counsels’ Association Fall Public Works & Contracts Conference* (2020)
- Presenter, “Preparing for Fires, Floods, Landslides and Debris Flows” – *County Counsels’ Association Spring Land Use Conference* (2020) (cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic)
- Presenter, “What is the California Consumer Privacy Act?” – *LSI Webinar* (2020)
- Presenter, “It Just Isn’t Fair: Unfair Competition Claims” – *LSI Conference* (2019)
- Presenter, “e-Discovery” – *17th Annual Eminent Domain Conference, CLE International* (2015)

Representative Experience

Land Use, Zoning, Civil Rights, First Amendment

- **County of Los Angeles.** Achieved a closely watched victory in a final ruling that awarded \$6.6 million in attorneys’ fees, sanctions and civil penalties plus permanent injunctive relief in a case that involved the illegal transport and dumping of concrete and other construction debris in an ecologically sensitive region in the Santa Susana Mountains. Relying on drone surveillance and more than 500 exhibits, Meyers Nave initially obtained a preliminary injunction banning all Class 6 trucks and higher from the illegal waste disposal operation, along with additional restrictions including requiring defendant to post No Dumping signs and submit a conditional use permit and engineered grading application to address hillside stability issues. After granting our motion for summary judgment, the Court ordered briefing on the appropriate remedies. The Court’s subsequent ruling granted a permanent injunction banning Class 6 and higher trucks, the most effective deterrent for the County to halt the dumping and parades of trucks through the canyon. Civil penalties and attorneys’ fees were awarded in the amount of \$6,638,192.33. For violating the County’s Zoning, Grading, and Building Codes, the Court assessed civil penalties of \$4,893,000. For violating the state Unfair Competition Law, the Court assessed an additional penalty of \$800,000. The Court also awarded the County \$945,192.33 in attorneys’ fees.
- **County of Los Angeles.** Defended the county in a series of lawsuits in federal and state courts brought by a married couple asserting land use, civil rights/takings, and First Amendment

retaliatory claims. The original case settled after a Rule 68 offer. Remaining cases are on appeal following successful motions to dismiss or for summary judgment.

- **City of Chula Vista.** Represented the city in obtaining a permanent injunction to close a strip club that violated zoning codes. The court also granted the City's cost bill. The case validated the constitutionality of the City's adult zoning and licensing ordinance that Meyers Nave drafted.
- **City of Oceanside.** Represented the city in obtaining dismissals of claims pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute in a dispute regarding the City's rejection of an application from BGT to operate a digital billboard on a City right-of-way. At the end of public hearings, the City Council voted to deny approval of the applicant's digital billboard project. A year after BGT's application was denied, the City completed a global zoning code amendment that repealed the provision under which BGT had made its application for a permit. As a result of the amendment, the City no longer permitted digital billboards on City property or City rights-of-way. An initial demurrer and an anti-SLAPP motion succeeded in obtaining a full victory for the City and resulted in a judgment for Oceanside with an award of attorneys' fees.
- **City of Modesto.** Defended the city against federal claims brought by the owner/operator of a proposed strip club, obtaining dismissal before discovery began.
- Provided cities, including Modesto and Ventura, with legal advice on revisions to adult use ordinances, including urgency and moratorium ordinances.

Catastrophic Event Litigation

- **County of Los Angeles – Chiquita Canyon Landfill.** At the center of widespread media attention, residents near a Santa Clarita Valley landfill have filed over 25,000 odor complaints with the South Coast Air Quality Management District—a volume unprecedented in the District's 50-year history—describing smells like “rotten eggs, sour milk, and cheap perfume” that cause headaches, nausea, nosebleeds, and “constant anxiety” about health impacts, forcing families indoors. The noxious fumes stem from an underground smoldering event that has expanded from 30 acres to over 90 acres and is still growing, generating hazardous gases, heat, and toxic leachate, threatening landfill stability. Regulatory agencies have deemed the situation uncontrolled and a serious public health risk. Los Angeles County tapped Meyers Nave to bring a nuisance abatement action, recently moving for a preliminary injunction demanding \$20 million to temporarily relocate the 938 most severely affected households as experts warn the underground reaction could continue for years.
- **County of Los Angeles – Calabasas Landfill.** Following the devastating 2025 Los Angeles wildfires, the Calabasas Landfill was designated by federal authorities as a key disposal site to receive fire debris from the massive cleanup effort in the Palisades area. Hazardous materials are routed elsewhere; only pre-screened fire debris previously cleared by the U.S. EPA and the Army Corps is accepted at the Calabasas Landfill. The City of Calabasas filed a high-profile lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles (landfill owner) and Sanitation Districts (operator), claiming the debris disposal violates the landfill's permit.
- **County of Los Angeles – Palos Verdes Coast Landslides.** Meyers Nave has been engaged by the County of Los Angeles to serve as lead counsel in a complex series of cases involving the significant landslides along the Palos Verdes coastline. While these matters are in their early stages, they exemplify the type of high-profile and intricate litigation Meyers Nave consistently manages, further underscoring our reputation and expertise in handling substantial, complex disputes.

- **County of Santa Barbara.** Represent the county in a dispute with Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding potential liability for the 2017 Thomas Fire and subsequent Montecito debris flow. SCE sued various public entities alleging that “negligent acts and omissions of the public entities” contributed to or exacerbated the injuries, deaths and multi-million dollar losses incurred by plaintiffs that are suing SCE for causing the fire. The matter includes 200 lawsuits, 3000 plaintiffs, and 70 plaintiff law firms asserting billions of dollars of liability. In November 2023, we secured a ruling excluding Edison’s claim for \$700 million in damages. In April 2024, we secured a second ruling excluding more than \$300 million in additional damages, resulting in rulings excluding a total of more than \$1 billion in damages.
- **County of Maui.** Assist local counsel in providing advice and defense in response to litigation stemming from the 2023 Maui wildfires. These unprecedented fires caused significant damage, including in the historic town of Lahaina, resulting in at least 100 deaths and billions of dollars of damage to over 2,000 structures. Brought in to assist with the complex nature of the litigation, involving hundreds of cases, thousands of plaintiffs, and several defendants in actions pending in both state and federal courts. Role has included implementing case and document management systems, motion practice in the coordinated and class action proceedings, and preparing comprehensive strategies for litigation.

Government Corruption

- Assisted a municipality in a major government corruption investigation of the Mayor and every member of the City Council. The investigation was conducted by a joint federal and state task force involving the FBI, the IRS criminal investigative division, and the District Attorney’s office. Extensive e-discovery was required to cull through 500,000+ pages of documents from City departments, councilmembers’ email accounts, and various City defendants. The massive amount of electronically stored information had to be reviewed from the Public Records Act perspective and, in select instances, uploaded to a City website that provided the public with updates about the investigations.

Employment, ADA

- **County of San Bernardino.** Represented the county in federal court litigation involving the ADA, and specifically the issue of whether County Hospital medical personnel provided effective communication to hearing impaired individuals who were treated at the Hospital. Settled the case, both with the plaintiff and with the Department of Justice, on terms beneficial to the County. Also settled a second case to the benefit of the County in which the plaintiff, a paraplegic, alleged in a federal action that he was denied on-street parking accessibility to a store because the County failed to install an angled parking space and curb ramp that would enable him to access the store.
- **City of Los Angeles.** Represented the city in a federal class action lawsuit alleging that the City violated state and federal disability laws by failing to install and maintain accessible pedestrian rights of way, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb cuts. The matter involved discovery, both electronic and paper, across nearly all offices and departments of the city, including a number of legacy products. The matter resolved on favorable settlement terms.
- Represented a personnel commission against a claim brought by an employee who was returned to class from a probationary position after he engaged in sexual harassment of a colleague. After the trial court ruled in our client’s favor, the matter settled on favorable terms prior to an appeal.

- Represented an international English language instruction college in an employment matter in which a former employee filed a claim with the California Labor Commissioner alleging violations of the California Labor Code and applicable wage orders, as well as a claim alleging violations of the California Labor Code related to retaliation. The matter settled very favorably for the client with the former employee subsequently releasing his claims against the employer and dismissing the claims with prejudice.
- Represented a transit agency in an employment matter in which the former Director of Human Resources alleged retaliation and wrongful termination in violation of FEHA. The matter settled on favorable terms for the agency.
- Investigated allegations made against a senior level executive at a transit agency, relating to claims that the executive had not properly executed responsibilities, had not accurately reported information, and had improperly influenced recruitment and hiring.
- Investigated allegations relating to the use of a concealed recording device and listening device in a municipal building, potentially involving both elected officials and senior staff at the municipality.

Construction

- Defended a transit agency in litigation involving competing claims brought by a tunneling contractor, and the agency's own cross-claims. The action involved disputes over differing site conditions, defective specifications, delay, liquidated damages, and chemical grouting costs.

Product Liability

- Defended a multinational company in a five-month toxic tort trial in Los Angeles brought by multiple foreign plaintiffs, obtaining a split verdict that was later overturned on appeal due to plaintiffs' fraud.
- Defended a respirator manufacturer in numerous personal injury/product liability actions throughout California, including defending against claims of successor liability.

Business, Contracts, Commercial Litigation

- Defended a microelectronics company in a four-month trial in San Jose, California, obtaining a unanimous defense verdict, subsequently recognized as a "Top Defense Verdict of the Year."
- Represented a third-party defendant against indemnity claims arising out of the client's IPO.
- Brought suit on behalf of a water district seeking rescission of an interest rate derivative swap transaction, disgorgement of fees earned by defendants in those transactions, and fraud damages.
- In a matter relating to leases for operating a tourist train, successfully opposed the tenant's request for a preliminary injunction to prevent a county transportation commission from terminating the tenant's leases, and then successfully settled the case.

Pro Bono

- Provided pro bono representation to women seeking domestic violence restraining orders.
- Provided pro bono representation to a California state prisoner in a religious discrimination case, seeking to enforce his First Amendment rights.

Other

- Represented the Assessor in defending against various challenges to the assessment of property taxes.
- Represented a municipality in its response to federal and local investigative subpoenas relating to a confidential matter.

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