

OUR ABILITY TO INVESTIGATE, NEGOTIATE, PERSUADE AND WIN HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY PROVEN IN COURT.



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Recognized as one of California's leading crisis management experts, Deborah is Chair of Meyers Nave's Crisis Management Practice, Trial & Litigation Practice and First Amendment Practice.

Deborah is a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and has received the AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell since 2004. Additional ranking honors include "Most Influential Women Lawyers in Los Angeles" (*Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2021, 2019), "Top Lawyers in the Pasadena Area" (*Pasadena Magazine*, 2021), "Top 100 Lawyers in California" (*Daily Journal*, 2020), "Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers in Los Angeles," (*Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2020, 2019), "Top Women Attorneys in Los Angeles" (*Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2020), "Top Women Lawyers in California" (*Daily Journal*, 2018), Southern California Super Lawyer (*Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2021), "Top Rated Lawyers in Land Use and Zoning" (Martindale-Hubbell, 2013-2018), "Women Leaders in the Law" (Martindale-Hubbell, 2013-2015) and "Top Women Litigators" (*Daily Journal*, 2007, 2009).

Our Trial & Litigation Practice Group protects the rights of our clients, as defendants or plaintiffs, in trial and appellate work in state and federal courts, as well as in administrative hearings and other proceedings before regulatory agencies. Our complex litigation experience includes multi-party and multi-district cases, civil litigations intertwined with pending criminal actions, and matters that involve extensive electronic information.

Meyers Nave's trial and litigation attorneys are highly regarded for special expertise in complex, high-stakes lawsuits that are often matters of first impression. We have served as lead counsel in many precedent-setting front-page news matters throughout California. Our team is also recognized as go-to litigation counsel for public entities facing catastrophic disasters and other crises involving public health and safety. Our Trial & Litigation Practice works with attorneys from all of the Firm's practice areas to handle disputes involving First Amendment, Labor and Employment, Land Use, Environmental, Eminent Domain, Public Contracts, Municipal & Special District Law, and Real Estate, among others.

We represent clients from initial complaint through discovery, motion practice, trial and appeal. We have the capacity to respond immediately to any litigation that may arise, and we have the breadth of expertise to assign attorneys with the experience to address a specific area of law. Our litigators work closely with every client to obtain a thorough understanding of the overall objectives and resolution goals for each unique matter. We develop litigation strategies that are tailored to outcomes that match these key considerations – whether that is through motions to dismiss, summary judgment, early settlement, arbitration, indemnification by third parties, or taking a case through trial and verdict.

The highly regarded reputation of our Trial & Litigation Practice is demonstrated by the results we achieve and the recognitions our attorneys receive, including "Top Litigators and Trial Lawyers," "Top Verdicts," "Top 100 Lawyers," "Top Women Litigators," "Super Lawyers" and Senior Fellow election to the Litigation Counsel of America.

CLASS ACTIONS AND MULTI-PLAINTIFF MATTERS

Meyers Nave attorneys have broad experience handling class actions and other complex multi-plaintiff matters in numerous areas of law, including cases involving natural and man-made disasters, catastrophic issues impacting public health and safety, mass transit controversies focused on eminent domain and inverse condemnation, privacy claims arising from data breach, alleged violations of the ADA, financial fraud claims of aiding and abetting, alleged violations of California's statute prohibiting the recording of conversations, and employment claims relating to issues of overtime calculation, meal and rest breaks, and classification of exempt employees, among others. This broad range of class action experience provides our attorneys with experience in handling cases involving large scale investigation, discovery, damage analysis, and claims management.

CLAIMS EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

When we take on cases with many claims for damages, we undertake a highly organized and methodical approach to claim evaluation and management, starting with evaluating the underlying individual claims to determine the exposure from each and the collective overall damages. We then develop a strategic plan for handling these claims – determining which claims to move forward first and how – and pursue approaches based on situational specifics: the nature of the claims, where different claims are venued, who is the opposing counsel for a given claim and the status or likelihood of coverage through a traditional insurance carrier or a joint pooling entity. These evaluations drive our tactical decisions such as whether or not to file a demurrer, or a motion for summary judgment, our settlement positioning, etc.

Trial & Litigation Services

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Business Disputes
- Civil Rights Claims
- Class Actions
- Coastal Issues and Sensitive Lands
- Constitutional Law
- Construction
- Eminent Domain, Inverse Condemnation
- Environmental Claims/CEQA
- Federal Preemption
- First Amendment
- Government Investigations
- Housing
- Labor and Employment
- Land Use
- Peace Officer Defense
- Post-Redevelopment Issues
- Real Estate
- Zoning

DISCOVERY MANAGEMENT

We have developed a well-tested and well-proven capability in matters that involve enormous amounts of print and electronically-stored information, including developing and managing systems and protocols for discovery plans in complex matters and document intensive litigation. Our teams are adept at researching, organizing, reviewing, interpreting and distilling massive amounts of data, in the form of transcripts, pleadings, rulings or other records, both to develop the short-term plan and to target the case for dispositive rulings.

We also stay on top of developments in e-discovery procedures and rules, and we advise clients on email retention, metadata scrubbing software, and securing or backing up key databases that contain critical information. We are also exceptionally qualified in the unique considerations that apply to public agency document production, such as attorney-client, deliberative process and legislative privileges, and their application under the California Public Records Act and civil discovery rules.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Meyers Nave provides a Project Management Professional who is skilled at formulating and implementing a plan that helps assure all aspects of a complex litigation matter are handled as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible. The PMP is certified by the Project Management Institute and has earned a Project Management Certificate from the UCLA Extension program. The PMP works with our litigation teams to develop budgets and staffing plans tailored to a specific matter and the client's objectives, implement tools that help teams manage project scope and stay on budget, streamline processes and improve communications efficiencies from start to finish of a case, and develop systems and protocols to manage discovery, experts and required vendors.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- *County of San Joaquin, County of San Bernardino, City of Lodi: COVID-19 Litigation.* Meyers Nave is defending public entities and officials in federal litigation filed by providers of religious services and private businesses challenging restrictions under Shelter In Place Orders and Reopening Plans. Meyers Nave obtained district and appellate court victories denying requests for TROs to block enforcement of such Orders and Plans.
- *County of Santa Barbara: Thomas Fire and Montecito Debris Flow.* Meyers Nave is defending Santa Barbara County in connection with more than 75 claims filed by residents and businesses against the County after the devastation wrought by the December 2017 Thomas Fire and the overwhelming flow of debris over Montecito when rainstorms pummeled the same area one month later.
- *City of Palmdale: Flood and Resulting Mud Flow.* In a series of cases Meyers Nave successfully resolved on behalf of the City of Palmdale (including a negotiated dismissal, a dispositive motion for judgment and a negotiated a settlement primarily paid by a pooling entity), more than 30 plaintiffs brought separate actions as a result of an intense rain storm in that caused substantial flash flooding and related debris flow. With a "return frequency" at 1000 years, the storm overwhelmed the City's public improvements.
- *County of Los Angeles: Complex Environmental Damage Litigation.* Meyers Nave achieved a closely watched victory for the County of Los Angeles and obtained a preliminary injunction banning all large-scale trucks from an illegal waste disposal operation. The victory was profiled on the front page of the *Los Angeles Times* on May 31, 2018. The case involved the illegal transport and dumping of concrete and other construction debris in an ecologically sensitive area of the Santa Susana Mountains.