

Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation

In today's world, an increasing amount of litigation in California and elsewhere concerns the environment and natural resources.

Larson is at the forefront of leading environmental cases and counsels clients on expanding environmental regulations, as well as in disputes and investigations related to natural resources and the environment.

We represent clients in all areas of environmental laws—including disputes related to groundwater contamination and hazardous materials—in state and federal courts, and in administrative investigations and enforcement actions by federal, state, and local agencies. Clients turn to our attorneys for advice and representation in litigation related to compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Air Act, and other state and federal environmental statutes and regulations.

Our attorneys are among the most skilled litigators in California when it comes to litigating claims cost recovery and cleanup actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). We have successfully represented and advised municipal water districts, government entities, and potentially responsible parties at all stages of CERCLA proceedings and Superfund litigation, to remediate contaminated groundwater. Larson's efforts have resulted in [the Superfund designation](#) for a contaminated groundwater basin and recently [won the firm appointment as co-lead counsel](#) for plaintiffs in litigation arising from the Amplify Energy oil spill.

We have also represented water districts, landowners, businesses, and a federally recognized Native American tribe in disputes over groundwater and riparian water rights, and in disputes regarding the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and the Clean Water Act.

In addition to environmental disputes, Larson represents clients in disputes arising from their economic interests in minerals, oil, gas, precious metals, and basic materials. These disputes include disputes regarding extraction and mining operations, joint operating agreements, and oil and gas leaseholds. Larson advises clients on environmental and natural resource issues related to administrative, regulatory, and enforcement issues with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and other regulatory agencies.

Related Practice Areas

- [Appellate Litigation](#)
- [Complex Civil Litigation](#)
- [Class Action](#)
- [Commercial Litigation](#)
- [International Arbitration](#)
- [Partnership Disputes and Securities Litigation](#)

- Real Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance
- White Collar Defense and Government Investigations

Representative Matters

- Represented a municipal water district in connection with its **remediation and cost recovery efforts** related to two plumes of volatile organic compounds affecting groundwater.
- Won summary judgment, which was **later affirmed on appeal**, in favor of a private water company in a complex property and water rights dispute that included allegations ranging from breach of fiduciary duties to elder abuse.
- Represented a municipal water district in a water rights dispute with a private water company alleged to have over-pumped water worth approximately \$50 million.
- Represented privately owned oil company in government enforcement action by the EPA and the Department of Justice, alleging violations of the Clean Water Act.
- Represented an international mining company in an internal investigation related to the company's mineral extraction activities in Africa.
- Represent a company in an investigation and civil litigation related to Clean Water Act violations.

Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation Team



**Andrew
Bedigian**
ASSOCIATE

abedigian@larsonllp.com



**Jerry
Behnke**
PARTNER

jbehnke@larsonllp.com



**Koren
Bell**
PARTNER

kbell@larsonllp.com



**Steven
Bledsoe**
PARTNER

sbledsoe@larsonllp.com



**Caroline
Glennie-Smith**
ASSOCIATE

cglennie-smith@larsonllp.com



**R.C.
Harlan**
PARTNER

rcharlan@larsonllp.com



**Dana
Howard**
PARTNER

dhoward@larsonllp.com



**Jodie
Koo**
ASSOCIATE

jkoo@larsonllp.com



**Daniel
Lahana**
ASSOCIATE

dlahana@larsonllp.com



**Stephen
Larson**
PARTNER

slarson@larsonllp.com



**A. Alexander
Lowder**
PARTNER

alowder@larsonllp.com



**Robert
O'Brien**
PARTNER EMERITUS

robrien@larsonllp.com



**Jonathan
Phillips**
PARTNER

jphillips@larsonllp.com



**Rick
Richmond**
PARTNER

rrichmond@larsonllp.com



**Paul
Rigali**
PARTNER

prigali@larsonllp.com



**Scott
Sommer**
OF COUNSEL

ssommer@larsonllp.com