

CATHERINE L. CARLISLE

OF COUNSEL

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LANGUAGES:
English



Cathy is an experienced litigator representing governmental entities as well as major international and domestic corporations in high-stakes civil litigation matters.

Catherine (Cathy) Carlisle represents clients in sensitive, high-profile matters, with extensive experience defending complex litigation on behalf of municipalities, counties, special districts, businesses, and non-profit organizations in state and federal courts across the country. Her practice covers cases involving constitutional law, land use, zoning, catastrophic disasters, eminent domain and inverse condemnation, environmental claims, Public Records Act and Brown Act compliance, civil rights claims, commercial litigation, contract disputes, business torts, consumer protection, products liability, and toxic torts. She also handles class actions and multidistrict disputes, manages sensitive internal and government investigations, and counsels on regulatory compliance and risk management. In addition to representing a wide variety of public entities, she advises and defends private companies across technology, finance, e-commerce, manufacturing, consumer goods, supply chain, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries.

Cathy manages high-profile cases from their inception through trial and appeal, handling all stages of litigation, including motion practice, discovery, trial, and appellate work. Recognized for excellent brief writing, thorough analysis, and creative and winning arguments, Cathy has served as lead attorney on numerous successful motions and briefs. For example, she represented a Northern California city in a dispute with a gas company, drafting three successful demurrers that defeated the claims entirely each time the complaint was amended, and preparing a winning appellate brief that disposed of the claims in the Court of Appeal. She is also skilled at taking and defending depositions, presenting oral arguments, conducting negotiations, and representing clients in mediations and settlement discussions.

With over fifteen years of practice, including over a decade of practice in California courts and additional experience in New York and Washington, D.C., Cathy has litigated in jurisdictions nationwide. She has taught courses on pretrial advocacy, advanced litigation

EDUCATION

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, JD, 2009

Carleton College, BA, *magna cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

California, 2014 — Bar No. 298316

New York, 2010

District of Columbia, 2010

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeal for the Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

writing, depositions, and litigation practice preparation at UC Irvine, Pepperdine, and Southwestern law schools, and is a former Vice-Chair of the California Lawyers Association's International Law and Immigration Section and a former Editor in Chief of *The California International Law Journal*.

Before joining Meyers Nave, Cathy practiced at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in Washington, D.C., and Dechert LLP in Los Angeles, representing clients in complex commercial litigation, enforcement actions, and international arbitration. She is admitted to the bars of California, New York, and the District of Columbia; the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Second Circuits; and multiple U.S. District Courts in California and New York. Cathy earned her J.D. from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in 2009, with a concentration in international law, and served as Membership & Comment Editor for the *Journal of International Human Rights*.

PRACTICE AREAS

Trial & Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Crisis Management

First Amendment

Writs & Appeals

HONORS & AWARDS

- Ones to Watch — *Best Lawyers in America*, Commercial Litigation (2021–2024)
- Pro Bono Service Award — Legal Aid Society New York (2012)

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- The State Bar of California, Member
- The State Bar of New York, Member
- The District of Columbia Bar, Member
- California Lawyers' Association, International Law and Immigration Section, Vice-Chair (2019-2023) and Executive Committee (2019-2023)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Complex Litigation

- Representing the City of Antioch in a complex contractual dispute concerning the operation of a natural gas pipeline through the City, including fully prevailing at the Court of Appeal, as reflected in *California Resources Production Corp. v. Antioch City Council*, 107 Cal. App. 5th 481 (2024), as modified (Dec. 18, 2024), review denied (Feb. 11, 2025).
- Representing the City of San Leandro in two matters – a writ proceeding and a related

declaratory relief action – related to defense of the city's mobile home rental ordinance, including fully prevailing at the trial court level in both matters, and defeating an appeal of the writ proceeding. Currently handling the subsequent appeal of the declaratory relief matter.

- Representing the City of Brentwood and the City of Antioch before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding an application by a natural gas pipeline operator to become a public utility.
- Representing the County of Santa Barbara 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.
- Representing the County of Los Angeles in federal nuisance action brought against landfill related to noxious fumes emanating from uncontrolled underground chemical reaction.
- Representing the City of Los Angeles in inverse condemnation action in connection with landslide.
- Represented the County of Santa Barbara in a federal litigation regarding a complex contractual dispute concerning a regionally-critical solid waste/recycling facility.
- Defended several local jurisdictions in connection with various constitutional challenges to COVID-19 related mandates and policies, including the initial shelter-in-place orders, vaccination policies, and capacity restrictions on activities in settings such as restaurants, gyms, and religious worship facilities.
- Defended an international shipping company in state and federal court breach of contract actions in New York, Utah, Texas, Michigan and California, which included several trials.
- Defended an international transportation and equipment manufacturer in a contract dispute and consolidated products liability actions in California state and federal court arising from a train derailment.
- Represented a video game component manufacturer in a dispute with a supplier in a contract and tort action in California state court.
- Represented a solar energy plant developer in New York and New Jersey in contract disputes with a subcontractor arising from project delays.
- Defended a multinational software company in a trade secret and breach of contract case in Oregon federal court.
- Defended a clothing retailer in a trademark infringement action in California state court.

- Represented a Chinese manufacturing company in a patent dispute and related attorney disciplinary actions.
- Defended sporting goods manufacturers in products liability and warranty cases in California and Hawaii.
- Defended a chemical and pharmaceutical company in products liability and toxic tort trials in California and Florida state courts.

Class Actions

- Represented multiple California counties in class action brought by restaurant owners challenging COVID-19 restrictions enforcement.
- Defended a national bank, subsidiaries, and directors in multiple class actions and government suits in federal and state courts in New York, Massachusetts, California and Florida for securities, ERISA, breach of contract and other claims arising from Bernard L. Madoff Ponzi scheme, the largest to date.
- Defended a baseball bat manufacturer in a California statutory and breach of warranty class action.
- Defended an online travel company against antitrust claims arising from alleged hotel-online travel company pricing agreements.
- Defended an international LCD screen manufacturer in an antitrust class action arising from allegations of international price fixing.
- Defended a California athletic club in class actions alleging violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and Electronic Funds Transfer Act.
- Defended an emerging biotech company against a securities fraud class action in California state and federal courts.

Arbitration

- Represented a foreign sovereign in multiple arbitrations regarding alleged unfair treatment and expropriation in violation of the investment provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty and a bilateral investment treaty.
- Defended foreign corporations in actions to enforce arbitral awards in New York federal court.
- Represented domestic and multinational software companies in arbitration and enforcement proceedings.

Investigations

- Advised international biotechnology, domestic software, and health care companies on U.S. regulatory compliance and risk management.

- Advised a national bank and its subsidiaries on government investigations and enforcement proceedings regarding securities fraud claims.
- Advised a major investment bank on internal and government investigations regarding mortgage-backed securities.
- Advised a software company on internal and government investigations regarding insider trading claims.
- Advised an emerging biotech company on an internal investigation regarding stock-drop claims.
- Advised an international shipping company in an antitrust-related internal and government investigation and enforcement proceeding.
- Advised an international technology company in a large-scale antitrust-related government investigation and enforcement proceeding.
- Advised a software manufacturer on government investigations arising from large-scale trucking accidents.