

CHRISTOPHER B. WHITMAN

SENIOR OF COUNSEL

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LANGUAGES:
English



For more than 20 years, Christopher (Chris) Whitman has successfully represented public agencies, corporations, and private clients in complex disputes litigated in California's state and federal courts.

Chris' practice spans the full spectrum of trial and appellate work, including high-stakes commercial litigation, government disputes, and constitutional claims. Clients turn to Chris for his proven ability to simplify complex legal issues, build persuasive strategies, and deliver favorable results both in and out of the courtroom.

Chris is well-versed in every stage of litigation—from claim investigation and dispositive motion practice to discovery, depositions, jury and bench trials, appeals, arbitrations, and mediations. He has handled cases involving contract disputes, civil rights, employment law, land use, and public governance, achieving outcomes that protect his clients' legal and business objectives.

In addition to his trial work, Chris has extensive experience representing government entities in high-profile and politically sensitive matters. He understands the intersection of law, policy, and politics, and he brings that insight to bear when advising clients whose disputes carry significant public impact or reputational risk. This ability to anticipate both legal and practical considerations enables Chris to craft strategies that not only win cases but also advance his clients' broader goals.

Before joining Meyers Nave, Chris served as a Deputy City Attorney for San Francisco, a Deputy County Counsel for Contra Costa County, an associate at a San Francisco law firm, and in-house counsel for a nationwide transportation company. Beyond his legal practice, Chris serves as an advisor to the Executive Committee of the Public Law Section of the California Lawyers' Association. He previously completed two terms as an Executive Committee member, including as Vice Chair of Publications and Editor-in-Chief of the *Public Law Journal*.

EDUCATION

Tulane University Law School, JD, 2002

Colgate University, BA, 1997

ADMISSIONS

California, 2002 – Bar No. 223636

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

PRACTICE AREAS

Trial & Litigation

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Writs & Appeals

HONORS & AWARDS

- Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award – Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) (2010)

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- The State Bar of California, Member (2002–Present)
- California Lawyers Association, Public Law Section: Executive Committee Member (2016–2023); Vice-Chair of Publications and Editor of Public Law Journal (2022–2023); Advisor (2023–Present)
- Bar Association of San Francisco, Courthouse Landlord/Tenant Project (2008–2010)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Editor, “Litigation & Case Law Update” – *Public Law Journal of the California Lawyers’ Association* (Fall 2016–Sept. 2023)
- Moderator, “Mental Health, Altered States, and Policing” – *Public Law Section’s Use of Force and Police Liability Conference* (May 2023)
- Moderator, “Technological Force” – *Public Law Section’s Use of Force and Police Liability Conference* (June 2017)

PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- ***Witt Home Ranch, Inc v. County of Sonoma*** (2008) 165 Cal. App. 4th 543
- ***County of Sonoma v. Superior Court*** (Marvin’s Gardens Cooperative, Inc.) (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 1312
- ***Morrison v. Peterson*** (9th Cir. 2015) 809 F.3d 1059
- ***Go v. Zimple*** (2017) Cal. Ct. of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two, Case No. A144806
- ***Mims v. City and County of San Francisco*** (2021) Cal. Ct. of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, Case No. A161397