



Brett Oberst

Counsel

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Related Services

Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources ■ Environmental Litigation ■ Toxic Torts ■ Litigation ■ Environmental Appellate Litigation ■ Oil & Gas ■ Oil & Gas Litigation ■ Appellate

Brett Oberst is a member of Alston & Bird's Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources Group. Brett focuses on environmental law and representing clients in civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings related to soil contamination, groundwater contamination, air emissions, vapor intrusion, solid and hazardous wastes, toxic tort claims, cost recovery claims, and Proposition 65 claims.

Brett also represents and advises corporate and real estate clients on environmental issues, including in the context of mergers, joint ventures, acquisitions and dispositions, financing, and leases. He has extensive experience conducting environmental due diligence, working with environmental consultants on performing environmental investigations (such as Phase I and II environmental site assessments), negotiating environmental terms in transactions, and counseling clients on complying with environmental laws and regulations.

Representative Experience

- Defended a real estate developer and related parties in a toxic tort lawsuit involving approximately 1,800 plaintiffs who alleged personal injuries and property damages as a result of soil contamination and exposures to toxic chemicals allegedly caused by a former use of the property.
- Defended a manufacturer in a toxic tort lawsuit involving over 800 plaintiffs and two putative classes who alleged personal injuries and medical monitoring damages as a result of groundwater contamination allegedly caused by the company's former operations in the area.
- Defended a manufacturer in federal and state cost recovery actions, as well as in administrative actions brought by the State and Regional Water Quality Control Board, related to groundwater contamination allegedly caused by the company's former operations in the area.
- Defended an agricultural corporation in litigation involving thousands of plaintiffs from multiple countries who alleged personal injuries as a result of alleged exposures to a chemical while working for the company.
- Defended a manufacturer in an action involving claims for public and private nuisance based on allegations that the company's former operations caused soil and groundwater contamination.
- Defended companies in courts throughout California from private enforcers' claims based on sales of products that allegedly violated California's Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986.

- Represented a trade association in a challenge to the State of California, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's efforts to add a chemical to the Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the state to cause reproductive toxicity.

Professional & Community Engagement

- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section
- State Bar of California
- University of Michigan Alumni Association Club of Los Angeles, board of directors

Accolades

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Environmental Law (2013–present)
- *Super Lawyers*, "Top Rated Business Litigation Attorney" (2014–present)

Education

- University of Michigan (J.D., 1997)
- Cornell University (B.S., 1994)

Admitted to Practice

- California