



Maureen F. Gorsen

Alston & Bird LLP
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Services

Environmental Litigation
Environment, Land Use & Natural Resources
Environmental Compliance, Permitting & Transactions
Legislative & Public Policy
Environmental Enforcement Defense
Chemical & Product Regulation
Proposition 65
Climate Change / Carbon Management
Consumer Product Safety & Regulatory Compliance
Pesticide Law and Regulation, Enforcement and Registration
Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability
China Business Team (CBT)
CBT - Green Chemistry, Chemical and Product Regulation
Government & Economic Incentives
Air Quality
Brownfield Contaminated Sites
Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Compliance
International
Coastal Land Use
Agribusiness

Education

Georgetown University
(J.D., 1993)

Johns Hopkins University

Maureen F. Gorsen

Partner

Located in Sacramento, Maureen Gorsen focuses her practice on providing strategic public policy, litigation and regulatory advocacy and counsel to product manufacturers, brand owners, industrial facilities and landowners. She represents clients in enforcement defense and regulatory compliance issues before administrative agencies in Sacramento and numerous state capitals, and provides international permit and compliance counsel on environmental, product and supply chain regulation issues. With laws governing corporate social responsibility on the rise, Ms. Gorsen assists clients in developing their corporate policies to meet sustainability, chemical supply chain transparency, anti-slavery and human trafficking, conflict minerals and related statutes.

Ms. Gorsen is the former director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, where she directed the regulation of solid and hazardous waste and soil and water cleanups under CERCLA, RCRA, water and brownfields laws, as well as spearheaded the California Green Chemistry Initiative and the new laws governing toxics in products sold in California.

Ms. Gorsen is the former general counsel of the California Environmental Protection Agency, where she oversaw policies and activities that enforce California's environmental laws. She is also the former general counsel for the California Natural Resources Agency. Ms. Gorsen has been ranked in *Best Lawyers* since 2013.

Representative Experience

- Successfully settled an EPA enforcement action against a client's former subsidiary for hazardous waste violations at its facility in Union City, California, reducing the initial multimillion-dollar penalty request to \$120,000.
- Represented a client against violations of the RCRA and Clean Water Act in connection with the client's chemical plant in Pittsburg, CA. Negotiations regarding the alleged surface water discharge and waste handling issues resulted in a \$40,000 settlement.
- Regulatory advocacy on low carbon fuel standards and cap and trade regulation amendments before the California Air Resources Board.
- Successful litigation in appellate court against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for administrative law violations.

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(M.A., 1992)

University of Pennsylvania
(B.A., 1986)

Admitted to Practice

California
Virginia

- Regulatory advocacy on behalf of the automobile industry regarding regulation of automobile components by CalEPA.
- Amicus brief on behalf of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association challenging the auction component of the California cap and trade rules under AB 32.
- Represent aerospace parts manufacturers, food processors and hospitals before CARB on allowance allocations under AB 32.
- Advise clients on the EPA's TSCA chemical data reporting rule.
- Prepare web, document and product label disclosures under SB 657 and related human trafficking, conflict minerals and supply chain legal requirements.
- Advise clients on Prop 65 compliance.
- Advised a client on green chemistry issues affecting their LEED green building certification regarding indoor air quality.
- Developed litigation and regulatory advocacy strategy for a client and successfully suppressed new biological and genetic testing regulations by a state agency.
- Secured for a client regulatory approvals for the residential use of a fully constructed mixed-use project in Oakland that was previously the subject of underground storage tank removals, remediation and soil excavation.
- Developed regulatory and media advocacy strategy for a client and successfully obtained repeal of onerous NPDES permit conditions.
- Successfully settle large multijurisdictional cases alleging improper labeling, packaging and disposal of consumer products.
- Provide legal memoranda and opinion on eligibility of projects and products under the renewable portfolio standard, rechargeable energy efficiency standards and carbon allowances under AB 32.

Publications

- "An Attack on Slavery," *CFO*, December 2015.
 - "Expert Analysis: UK Holds Companies Responsible for Slavery in Supply Chain," *The Asian Lawyer*, September 18, 2015.
 - "UK Follows California's Lead in Holding Companies Responsible for Slavery in Supply Chain," *Supply & Demand Chain Executive*, August 12, 2015.
 - "UK Follows California's Lead in Holding Companies Responsible for Slavery in Supply Chain," *Industry Today*, August 12, 2015.
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- "Manufacturers Target of Proposed State Chemical Safety Rules," *IndustryWeek*, March 17, 2015.
 - "Alameda County's Drug Take-Back Ordinance," *Industry Today*, October 22, 2014.
 - "The Clean Power Plan: Changes Ahead for Coal, Electricity," *FierceEnergy*, August 19, 2014.
 - "Get Ready for Calif.'s New Stormwater Permit Regime," *Law360*, August 18, 2014.
 - "Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rules: Current Headaches and Future Migraines," *Toxics Law Reporter*, July 17, 2014.
 - "With Backloading on Track, What Lies Ahead for the EU Emissions Trading System?," *International Environment Reporter*, September 25, 2013.
 - "Bipartisan Compromise Will Strengthen Chemical Safety Laws," *The Hill's Congress Blog*, September 18, 2013.
 - "What You Need to Know About California's New Consumer Products Law," *GreenBiz.com*, September 9, 2013.
 - "How Much of What You Know About EU REACH Will Help You Comply With K-REACH? What Else Do You Need to Know?," *International Environment Reporter*, July 17, 2013.
 - "Compare Pollution Burdens Across California," *Daily Journal*, May 16, 2013.
 - "Coming Soon: Manufacturer EPR Requirements," *U.S. Tech*, April 2013.
 - "2013: Time to Prepare for Compliance with CA's Safer Consumer Product Regulations," *Environmental Leader*, February 27, 2013.
 - "Look Before You Leap," *The Recorder*, Vol. 136, No. 52, December 24, 2012.
 - "PRIA 3 May Have Hidden Disadvantages for Industry," *Law360*, November 8, 2012.
 - "OTC Crunch Time in California," *Pharmaceutical Executive*, November 1, 2012.
 - "What Do Product Sellers Need to Know About Ingredients in Their Products? Proposed Toxics Regulations in California Could Confront Manufacturers with New Testing Requirements." *Industry Week*, December 8, 2011.
 - "Regulating the Global Supply Chain: California's OEHHA Proposes New Playground for Plaintiffs' Attorneys," *Environmental Leader*, November 1, 2011.
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- "Viewpoint: Blakeslee Protecting Your Health with Bill," *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, July 8, 2011.
- "From the Experts: It's Not Easy Being Green," *Corporate Counsel*, June 10, 2011.
- "Mad Scientists in the 'Laboratories of Democracy,'" *Law360*, June 9, 2011.
- "Viewpoint: Yes on Prop 26—Supermajority Isn't an Obstacle to Protecting State Environment," *Sacramento Bee*, October 5, 2010.
- "Setting the Table to Settle the GHG Debate," *Law360*, June 3, 2010.
- "Calif.'s Low Carbon Plan of Attack on Global Warming," *Law360*, May 7, 2010.
- "EPA's Decision in *American Electric Power Service* Sets the Stage for Requiring Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions," *Bloomberg Law Reports - Sustainable Energy*, Vol. 3, No. 2, February 2010.
- "Creating Incentives to Develop Green Chemistry," *The National Law Journal*, October 12, 2009.
- "Toy Safety Update: Two New Regulatory Playing Fields, New Sets of Rules, and New Umpires," *The Toy Book*, September/October 2009.
- California School Facilities Planning: A Guide to Laws and Procedures for Funding, Siting, Design, and Construction, Solano Press, 2006.

Memberships

- Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California Santa Barbara, advisory board and adjunct professor of administrative law.
 - www.bren.ucsb.edu/partnerships/advisory_board.htm
 - [California Manufacturers and Technology Association](#)
 - [Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse](#)
 - [International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization](#)
 - [TechAmerica](#)
 - ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, Consumer Specialty Products Member
 - [Consumer Specialty Products Association](#)
 - [ABA Administrative Law Committee](#)
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- [ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources; Pesticides, Chemical Regulation, and Right-to-Know Committee](#)
 - National Brownfield Association, Advocacy Committee
 - California Brownfields Revitalization Advisory Group (BRAG), founder
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