



Christopher A. Rheinheimer

Partner

Chris Rheinheimer is a partner in the firm's Real Estate and Environment section. Chris is a versatile trial lawyer who has litigated a wide variety of complex cases in state and federal court, through private arbitration, and before regulatory agencies. He represents and advises clients in environmental, energy, and real estate-related matters, including representation of leading energy companies, business operators, and numerous real estate owners, developers, and investors. Chris also represents clients in land use and CEQA litigation, and he has significant experience successfully challenging voter initiatives in court.

Representative Work

Represented developer in successful challenge to city council's adoption of voter initiatives that purported to restrict development of long-planned residential community.

Counsel for environmental remediation contractor defending multiple governmental enforcement actions and private cases alleging falsification of data at Superfund site in California.

Represent aggregate mining company in land use and governmental matters.

Represent company in connection with contaminated property assessment and response, protection of workers from possible vapor intrusion, and threatened litigation with landlord and neighboring property owners.

Represented developer in negotiations with owner of historic mining easement to remove easement from title.

Represent real estate developer in litigation against adjacent property owner and former operators seeking damages stemming from long-term groundwater contamination.

Represented hotel developer in litigation against adjacent property owner claiming prescriptive easement rights over portion of hotel's property.

Represented California energy company in successful Phase 1 trial challenging a county's measure that would have banned hydraulic fracturing, wastewater disposal, and the drilling of new wells.

San Francisco

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Firm Leadership

Environmental Law Practice Co-
Leader

Practices/Industries

Environmental Law

Land Use

Real Estate

Contaminated Property

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Successfully defended investment company in a one-day trial on CEQA challenge to a large mixed-use project in the Bay Area. Judgment was entered less than one year after the filing of the case.

Represented a large telecommunications provider in defense of procurement contract award for statewide communications services.

Successfully defended the purchaser of a \$110 million loan from a trust established by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in connection with a bank's acquisition of certain Bear Stearns assets. Judgment for the client entered on all counts following a seven-week trial.

Represented a real estate developer in a CEQA challenge to a mixed-use development bordering an industrial area. Matter was settled favorably and without delay of trial, allowing construction to proceed in a timely matter.

Publications

"Judicial Council Revises Its Deadline for Tolling Civil Statutes of Limitations, Including for CEQA Actions," Environmental Law + Land Use Law Alert (May 2020)

"Project Approved Pursuant to SB 35 Streamlining Procedures Survives Court Challenge," Land Use Law Alert (May 2020)

"California Superior Court's Application of SB 35 to Los Altos Development Project Provides Encouragement to Housing Proponents," Land Use Law Alert (April 2020)

"New COPA Policy Now in Effect as of June 2, 2019," Real Estate Law Alert (June 2019)

"Court Strikes Down Alameda Impact Fees in Boatworks, LLC v. City of Alameda," Land Use Law Alert (May 2019)

"San Francisco Nonprofits Granted Right of First Offer to Purchase Residential Buildings With Three or More Units," Land Use Law Alert (May 2019)

Press

"Hanson Bridgett Welcomes Partner Andrew Bassak and Senior Counsel Christopher Rheinheimer," Hanson Bridgett Press Release (2019)

Education

J.D., New York University School of Law (2007)

B.A., University of California, Davis (2004)

Admissions and Courts

California

Christopher A. Rheinheimer
Partner



U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California