

Fighting for Our Transit Clients— *Darensburg et al.* *v. MTC*

This week, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed Hanson Bridgett's hard-fought 2009 trial victory for our client Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in a published opinion. MTC is the transportation planning and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Its region is very complex and includes local streets and roads, highways, 101 cities, three major airports, a half dozen bridges, and more than two dozen transit operators. The plaintiffs in the case alleged that MTC's funding decisions purposefully discriminated against AC Transit's minority riders in violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The plaintiffs also alleged that MTC's funding decisions resulted in disparate impact that violated California state law. The plaintiff had challenged a myriad of MTC policies regarding the way it handles federal, state and local funds. This case called into question the very way MTC does business, and the agency really wanted to fight this battle to the end. We were honored to help them do so.

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