HansonBridgett



# Claire Hervey Collins

Partner

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**Areas of Focus**

- Environmental Law
- Government
- Land Use
- Public Revenue: Rates, Fees and Charges
- Real Estate
- Water Law

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Claire represents public entities, private companies, and individuals in real estate and environmental matters with an emphasis on water-related issues.

Her practice includes transactional law, compliance counseling, and litigation. She regularly handles the following types of matters:

- Public agency general counseling
- Contract negotiation, drafting, and review
- Real property sales, acquisitions, and leasing
- Boundary disputes
- Easement and “Right of Way” negotiation and interpretation
- California Environmental Quality Act compliance and litigation
- Public finance issues, including Prop. 218 compliance, State Revolving Fund loans, and bond issuances
- Eminent domain and inverse condemnation
- Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act litigation and compliance
- Water, solid waste, wastewater, recycling, and recycled water contracts, ordinances, laws, and regulations
- Railroad-related matters
- Open government law, including the Public Records Act and the Brown Act

- California Government Claims Act
- Local agency formation commission matters
- Joint powers authority matters

Ms. Collins is General Counsel to Irvine Ranch Water District, Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District, Trabuco Canyon Water District, Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority, and Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. She serves as special counsel to a variety of other public agencies across the state.

## Publications

"El Niño Alert 2: Emergency Authorities for Responding to Flood and Storm Water Damage," co-author, Environmental and Government Legal Alert (October 2026)

"El Niño Is Coming: Flood and Storm Water Preparation, Response and Recovery," co-author, Environmental and Government Legal Alert (September 2026)

"Governor Signs Three New Laws Protecting Water Agencies and their Customers From Higher Costs," co-author, Public Revenue Legal Alert (September 2024)

"Supreme Court Blocks Taxpayer Initiative from November Ballot," co-author, Government Legal Alert (June 2024)

"The EPA Designates Two PFAS Compounds as 'Hazardous Substances' Under CERCLA, Triggering Potential Cleanup Liabilities for Private and Public Entities," co-author, Contaminated Property Legal Alert (April 2024)

"Local Elected Officials: Levine Act Lookback Policy Does Not Apply to 2022 Donations," co-author, Government Law Legal Alert (January 2023)

"Pay-to-Play Restrictions Expanded in 2023," co-author, Government Legal Alert (November 2022)

"New Law Protects Water/Wastewater Sector by Limiting Rate Challenges," Water Law Alert (September 2021)

"Supreme Court Expands Scope of 'Public Works' Definition — Contract Employees Performing Operations Work are Covered by Prevailing Wage Laws," Government Law Alert (March 2021)

"Top Ten Recommendations for Virtual Brown Act Meetings," co-author, Government Law Alert (July 2020)

"Court of Appeal Clarifies Rules for Retaining Emails That are Included in CEQA Records," co-author, Government Law Alert (August 2020)

"PFAS – A Primer for Real Estate Lawyers on a New Environmental Risk," co-author, *American College of Real Estate Lawyers News and Notes* (April 2020)

## Presentations

"Contract Drafting for Water Lawyers: Risk Allocation Basics," presenter, Association of California Water Agencies Webinar (April 2026)

"Contract Drafting for Water Lawyers: Form vs. Manuscript," presenter, Association of California Water Agencies Webinar (January 2026)

"Contract Drafting for Water Lawyers: Agreement Fundamentals," presenter, Association of California Water Agencies Webinar (November 2025)

"Water Meets the Tax Revolt: Constitutional Issues in Public Financing of Water-Related Services and Projects," panelist, California Lawyers Association (October 2025)

"Water Rates, Prop. 218 and 26 Litigation, and Other Developments in the Law of Municipal Revenues," co-presenter, California League of Cities Conference (May 2025)

"Water is Worth It - Current Issues in the Costs and Risks of Water & Sewer Service," presenter, Orange County City Attorneys' Association (April 2025)

"Protect Yourself from a Rate Lawsuit! Implementing the ACWA Prop. 218 Bill (AB 2257)," co-presenter, ACWA 2024 Fall Conference and Expo (December 2024)

"The Looming Crisis in Rate Setting," ACWA 2024 Spring Conference and Expo (May 2024)

"Tug of War: Affordability, Conservation, and Prop. 218," moderator, ACWA Fall Conference and Expo (November 2023)

"What Not to Email: Brown Act and Public Records Act Issues," Sacramento County Bar Association (February 2023)

"Desalination: A Silver Bullet for Water Supply?," American Bar Association (January 2023)

"Defending Rate Challenges," moderator, ACWA Fall Conference (December 2022)

"Water System Consolidations: Better, Stronger, Faster?", moderator, ACWA Spring Conference (May 2022)

“Developments in Prop 218 and the Law of Water Rates,” CA Special Districts Association’s Annual Conference (August 2021)

“Developments in Prop. 218 and the Law of Water Rates,” ACWA 2021 Spring Conference (May 2021)

“Top Ten Recommendations for Virtual Brown Act Meetings,” co-presenter, In the Loop: With the Hanson Bridgett Government Group (July 2020)

“The Life of a Working Mom,” LACBA Real Property Section Webinar (September 2020)

“Virtual Meetings and Communications,” co-speaker, The Urban Water Institute Webinar (June 2020)

“Virtual Brown Act Meetings During COVID-19,” co-speaker, California Association of Sanitation Agencies Webinar (May 2020)

“Virtual Water Agency Board Meetings During COVID-19,” moderator, Association of California Water Agencies Webinar (April 2020)

“So Sue Me: Overview of Claims and Litigation Issues for Water Districts,” Urban Water Institute 2020 Spring Conference (February 2020)

“The Future of Recycled Drinking Water in Los Angeles County,” co-speaker, LA County Bar Association (January 2020)

“Prevailing Wage Law,” Rural Counties Representatives of California, Environmental Services JPA (August 2019)

“What *Not* To Email,” California Association of Sanitation Agencies (August 2019)

“Hollywood is Just the Tip of the Iceberg: Diversity and Discrimination as Ethical Concerns,” USC Real Estate Law and Business Forum (2018)

“Transportation and Development in the L.A. Region,” USC Real Estate Law and Business Forum (2016)

“Easements in California,” The Seminar Group (2015)

“The California Public Records Act,” Lorman Seminars (2012)

“Drafting and Interpreting Easements,” Los Angeles County Bar Association (2012)

“CEQA Basics Workshop,” California Association of Environmental Professionals (2011)

## Press

"New Fee Will Charge Paso Robles Farmers for Water They Used Last Year," *The Tribune* (May 2026)

"Central Corridor Project on Mare Island Halted While Vallejo Negotiates With Developer on Infrastructure," Vallejo Sun (May 2026)

"Bakersfield City Council Holds Off Vote on Sewer Rate Hike as Members Voice Frustrations," KGET News (May 2026)

"Ahead of May 13 Vote, Residents Ask City Council to Reject Sewer Rate Increases," Bakersfield.com (April 2026)

"Bakersfield Residents, Kern County Protest City's Proposed Sewer Rate Increase During Public Hearing," KGET (April 2026)

"The 2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Real Estate Lawyers," *Lawdragon* (August 2025)

"S.F.'s Fight Over the 'Monster in the Mission' Property is Back, Thanks to a Legal Loophole," *San Francisco Chronicle* (July 2025)

"Hanson Bridgett Facilitates Three New Laws Protecting Water Agencies and Customers From Higher Costs," Hanson Bridgett Press Release (October 2024)

"Hanson Bridgett in Growth Mode, Particularly in LA," *Daily Journal* (September 2022)

"10 New California Laws That Might Affect Your Everyday in 2022," *Capital Public Radio* (December 2021)

"Parched California Takes Aim at Water Rate 'Bounty Hunter' Suits," *Bloomberg Law* (October 2021)

"Gamble House Conservancy Suing USC," *Pasadena Now* (September 2020)

"Gamble House sues USC for allegedly failing to give up funds with house," *Pasadena Star-News* (September 2020)

"New Federal Law Requires PFAS Users to Report to EPA," *Northeastern University Research News* (April 2020)

"Hanson Bridgett Adds Attorneys," *Los Angeles Business Journal* (February 2020)

"Claire Collins Leads Five-Attorney Team from Lewis Brisbois to Hanson Bridgett," *Daily Journal* (February 2020)

"On the Move: Tracking the Ins and Outs of California Lawyers," *The Recorder* (January 2020)

## Honors & Awards

Best Lawyers (2018–2027)

*Lawdragon*, 500 Leading Real Estate Lawyers (2025-2026)

*Los Angeles Business Journal,* Women Of Influence (2022)

*Los Angeles Business Journal,* Women to Watch, Finalist (2021)

2013 Outstanding Young Lawyer, Real Property Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association

## Professional Affiliations

American College of Real Estate Lawyers (Fellow 2019 – present)

Gamble House Conservancy, Board of Trustees

Association of California Water Agencies Legal Affairs Committee, Member, 2020 - present (Vice Chair, 2020-2021)

USC Real Estate Law & Business Forum, Executive Committee, 2015 - 2023

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Real Property Section (Chair, 2018 - 2019, Vice Chair, 2016 - 2018, Chair of Land Use, Planning, and Environmental Law Steering Committee, 2008 - 2010)

California Association of Sanitation Agencies, Member, 2012 - present (Chair, Attorneys Committee, 2016 - 2018)

Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, Board Member, Land Use and Planning Committee, 2006 - 2009

## Education

J.D., International Concentration UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (2004)

B.A., University of California, San Diego (1996)

## Admissions and Courts

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

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