HansonBridgett



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Areas of Focus

- Government
- Municipal and Public Agency
- Government Ethics
- Infrastructure
- Land Use
- Public Transit and Transportation
- Public Revenue: Rates, Fees and Charges

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Michael represents public agencies and private companies in matters involving real estate, transportation, and environmental law. He has played an active role in major infrastructure projects, including the extension of transportation systems to the San Francisco Airport. He has participated in acquisitions of railroad rights-of-way on behalf of public transportation agencies, including the purchase of the Caltrain line between San Francisco and San Jose and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad right-of-way between Marin and Mendocino counties (now the right-of-way of the SMART service). He has also advised public and private railroad clients regarding regulatory issues arising under federal and state law.

Michael has overseen the environmental review process for major transportation projects, including the electrification of the Caltrain commuter rail line. He has counseled cities and transit agencies regarding transit-oriented development projects and has negotiated long-term ground leases and other types of public-private partnerships.

Publications

“Amendments to Surplus Land Act Increase Clarity and Flexibility for Public Agencies,” co-author, Government Legal Alert (October 2023)

“Supreme Court Depublishes Court of Appeal Opinion Regarding Required Placement of Discussion Concerning the Application of CEQA Exemptions in Agenda Items Providing for Project Approval,” co-

author, Government + Land Use Legal Alert (March 2023)

"New Laws of 2018 Series: Part VI To Indemnify and Defend? SB 496 Changes The Rules for Design Professional Contract," *CSDA e-News* (December 2017)

"The Local Regulation of Interstate Railroads and the Establishment of 'Quiet Zones'," *IMLA Magazine* (September 2013)

"Partnering with the Private Sector to Fill the Infrastructure Gap," *Progressive Fix* (May 2010)

"Creative Approaches to Land Acquisition," co-author, *California Transit Magazine* (January/February 2008)

"Governor Vetoes Bill Limiting Staff Briefings of Public Officials," *Public Agency Advisory* (November 2007)

"Public Agencies Face New Restrictions in Contracting with Design Professionals," *Public Agency Advisory* (March 2007)

Presentations

"Private vs. In-House Practice," panelist, Municipal Law Institute Symposium (March 2026)

"I Hear that Train A'coming: Municipal Legal Issues Involving Railroads," California League of Cities City Attorney Conference (April 2021)

"Project Delivery Methods - Transit 101," co-speaker, American Public Transit Association Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2020)

"Introduction to Property Acquisition Under the Uniform Act," speaker, American Public Transit Association Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2020)

"Smart Cities/Smart Transit Agencies," speaker, American Public Transit Association Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2019)

"Smart Cities—The Future of Our Communities," Globalaw Annual Member Meeting, Dallas, TX (October 2018)

"Navigating Conflict Issues in Engaging Professional Consultants," League of Cities Conference (September 2018)

"Shared Rides – City and California Public Utilities Commission Perspectives," 2017 City Attorneys' Spring Conference (May 2017)

“Local Regulation of Railroads: Guidance for Municipal Attorneys on Navigating the Complexities of Federal Preemption,” Strafford Webinar (March 2016)

“The Troubled Public Construction Project: When is it Time to Call in the Surety?” League Of California Cities Annual Conference (October 2005)

“Microtransit Trends: Fad or Future?” Moderator, California Transit Association (November 2015)

“Payments-Based Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Public Benefit and Private Capital in 2015,” co-speaker, Knowledge Group Webinar (June 2015)

“Local Government in a Brave New World: Law Enforcement, Code Enforcement, and Public Agency Liability,” moderator, Municipal Law Institute Symposium (February 2015)

“Local Regulation of Railroads and the Establishment of ‘Quiet Zones,’” IMLA Conference San Francisco (October 2013)

“Current Issues in Public Agency Law,” County Counsels’ Association (September 2012)

“Negotiating Indemnity Provisions in Contracts with Design Professionals,” League of California Cities (May 2012)

“Creative Options for Delivering Public Works Projects: Design/Build and Public-Private Partnerships,” co-presenter, 2011 CSDA Annual Conference (October 2011)

“Design Build/Public Private Partnerships,” co-presenter, County Counsels’ Association of California Fall 2011 Public Works & HazMat Study Section (October 2011)

“Bracing for Construction Claims During a Slow Economic Recovery,” Hanson Bridgett Public Agency Construction Seminar (September 2010)

“The ABC’s of PPP’s: The Basics Regarding Public-Private Partnerships,” International Right of Way Association (June 2010)

“Addressing Railroad Noise via Quiet Zones,” League of California Cities and California Employer Advisory Council Public Works Officers Institute (March 2009)

“High Speed Rail: Who Knows Where or When?” Peninsula Forward Project, Local Cable Television (October 2008)

“The Local Regulation of Interstate Railroads,” City Attorneys Annual Conference, League of California Cities (May 2008)

“Transit Oriented Development (TOD): Best Practices and Funding,” California Transit Association (November 2007)

“Do You Hear My Train A Comin’ — Railroad Crossings & Quiet Zones,” Contra Costa City Attorney’s Association (March 2007)

Press

“States Push to Tighten Rail Safety After Ohio Train Derailment,” *The Washington Post* (March 2023)

“Credit firm sues San Francisco agency, says it let taxi industry die,” *Daily Journal* (March 2018)

“Hanson Bridgett: Official Outside Counsel to the America’s Cup,” *San Francisco Attorney* (Summer 2012)

Professional Affiliations

State Bar of California, Public and Real Estate Law Section

Bay Area Council, Transportation Committee

Education

J.D., UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (1988)

A.B., Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs (1976)

Admissions and Courts

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit