



Samir J. Abdelnour

Director of Pro Bono and Social Impact
Partner

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Firm Leadership

Director of Pro Bono & Social Impact

Areas of Focus

- Air Quality / Climate Change / Greenhouse Gases
- Contaminated Property
- Environmental Law
- Government
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Proposition 65
- Water Law



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Samir is the firm's Director of Pro Bono and Social Impact and serves as co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee. As Director of Hanson Bridgett's award-winning pro bono program, he oversees more than a dozen firm partnerships with legal services organizations, develops and implements strategies for increasing attorney participation in pro bono legal work, and identifies new opportunities for the firm to provide its legal expertise pro bono to strengthen our communities.

Samir also sets and manages the firm's charitable budget and coordinates the community service program, which provides local volunteer opportunities to firm employees in each of our markets. In addition, Samir leads Hanson Bridgett's sustainability program, including maintaining the firm's B Corp certification and finding opportunities to make our operations more environmentally sustainable.

Since becoming the firm's first Director of Pro Bono and Social Impact, Samir has worked closely with CDEIO Jennifer Martinez to align Hanson Bridgett's social impact work with diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. He serves with Jennifer on the firm's Founders Grant Committee and as vice chair of our law student Recruiting Committee. Samir also acts as a formal and informal mentor to many younger attorneys and law students both within and outside the firm.

Prior to starting in his current role in 2021, Samir maintained a full-time environmental law practice as a Partner in the firm's Environment, Natural Resources and Land Use practice group, where he focused on

environmental litigation, remediation projects, hazardous waste compliance, water rights, product labeling, environmental health and safety, and land use entitlement and permitting. Samir continues to advise firm clients on environmental issues, and was recognized by *Best Lawyers* as one of “The Best Lawyers in America” for environmental law in 2024. He currently serves as the treasurer of the California Lawyers Association’s Environmental Law Section, and as an Advisory Board Member for the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at UC Berkeley Law.

Representative Work

Global manufacturing company. Seven-week arbitration to allocate investigation and remediation costs at industrial property regulated under RCRA and CERCLA.

Federal contractor. Conducted Superfund site remediation in SF Bay Area.

Public agency. Defended in CWA enforcement action initiated by environmental non-profit organization.

Multinational financial services company. Defended in capacity as trustee managing environmental investigation and remediation of contaminated property.

Fortune 500 company. Resolved California district attorney investigation regarding hazardous materials management and hazardous waste disposal.

Historical, domestic uranium mine. Investigated and evaluated potential liability arising out of ownership or operation of abandoned mines.

Toxic tort mass action. Defended against alleged neighborhood-wide exposure to hexavalent chromium and related damages by thousands of plaintiffs.

State agency. Defended civil enforcement action regarding discharge of hazardous waste at airport facility.

Numerous California manufacturers, distributors and retailers of consumer products. Defended Proposition 65 private enforcement actions.

Water rights. Litigated historical water rights threatened by government actions in California, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Publications

“Join Us as a Leader in the ‘Business as a Force for Good’ Movement,” *The Global Legal Post* (May 2022)

“San Francisco Court Declines to Halt Enforcement of Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard Regulations,” Labor & Employment Law Legal Alert (February 2021)

“A Role for Water Treatment Systems in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic,” co-author, Environmental Law Legal Alert (May 2020)

“New EPA Guidance for Site Field Work Decisions Impacted by COVID-19,” co-author, Environmental Law Legal Alert (April 2020)

“Complying with Environmental Requirements During COVID-19,” Environmental Law Legal Alert (March 2020)

“Clean Up On Aisle 3: How to Avoid Hazardous Waste Enforcement,” co-author, *Waste Dive* (September 2018)

“Expert Opinion: Hazardous waste compliance is different in California,” co-author, *Chain Store Age* (March 2018)

“Attorney General Amends Settlement Guidelines in Proposition 65 Regulations,” Proposition 65 Legal Alert (October 2016)

“California Adopts Long-Pending Modifications to Proposition 65 ‘Clear and Reasonable’ Warning Regulations,” co-author, Proposition 65 Legal Alert (September 2016)

“California Supreme Court Upholds Pre-condemnation Entry and Testing Law with Addition of Jury Option,” Water Law Legal Alert (July 2016)

“Comply and Conserve,” co-author, *SF Apartment Magazine* (May 2016)

“State Water Board Reinstates Monthly Reporting Requirement on Diverters in Sacramento and San Joaquin River Watersheds,” Water Law Legal Alert (March 2016)

“State Water Board Extends Emergency Water Conservation Regulation,” Water Law Legal Alert (February 2016)

“State Water Board Adopts Water Use Reporting and Measurement Regulations,” Water Law Legal Alert (January 2016)

“Drought State of Emergency: Mandatory Water Use Reduction Extended to October 2016,” Water Law Legal Alert (November 2015)

“Competing TSCA Reform Bills: A Break in Partisan Fever?” co-author, *Corporate Counsel* (May 2015)

“New Proposition 65 Regulations Being Considered in California,” co-author, *Natural Products Insider* (March 2015)

“Court Signals Mixed on NEPA Analysis,” *American Oil & Gas Reporter* (April 2014)

Blog Posts

“EPA Launches eDisclosure Portal for Self-Disclosure of Civil Environmental Violations,” *HB Briefly* (February 2016)

“OEHHA Revises Proposed Prop. 65 ‘Safe Harbor’ Warning Regulations,” *HB Briefly* (December 2015)

“OEHHA Announces New Rulemaking on Prop. 65 Safe Harbor Warnings,” *HB Briefly* (November 2015)

“Proposed Prop. 65 Amendments to Require Greater Accountability and Transparency by Private Plaintiffs,” *HB Briefly* (October 2015)

Presentations

“The Ins & Outs of Managing Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste,” California Assisted Living Association Spring Conference and Expo (June 2024)

“Activating Existing Federal Authorities,” World Wildlife Fund Plastic Policy Summit (March 2024)

“In the Long Run - Developing a Sustainable and Fulfilling Legal Practice,” West Coast Career Conference (March 2023)

“The Ethics of Pro Bono Practice,” Hanson Bridgett MCLE Marathon (January 2022)

“Pro Bono During the Pandemic,” *Law Practice Today* Roundtable (November 2021)

“The Transformation of EHS: Operating in a Post-COVID World,” co-presenter, Mapistry’s EHS Virtual Summit (August 2020)

“Health, Safety and Environmental Considerations for Employers,” co-presenter, Hanson Bridgett Labor & Employment Mid-Year Briefing (June 2020)

“Coffee and Compliance: Environmental Compliance Requirements During COVID-19,” co-panelist, Mapistry Webinar (April 2020)

“Hazardous Materials Violations,” co-speaker, Mapistry’s Pollution Prevention Summit (October 2019)

“Environmental Arbitration: Trial Light or Trial 2.0?,” co-speaker, The Bar Association of San Francisco (May 2019)

“Hazardous Waste Compliance Programs: What Works and What is Trouble, the Legal Perspective,” Pollution Prevention Summit (September 2018)

“California’s Proposition 65: Regulations & Reality,” PMI Webinar (March 2018)

“Technical Track Panel,” co-speaker, 2017 PMI Conference (November 2017)

“Environmental Law Basics: Understanding Hazardous Waste,” moderator, The Bar Association of San Francisco (November 2017)

Press

“Why Hanson Bridgett Prizes B-Corp Status and Being Green,” *Law360 Pulse* (April 2022)

“Hanson Bridgett gets 6th B Corp certification,” *Daily Journal* (April 2022)

“Foundation Partners Lead the Way on Access to Justice,” California Lawyers Foundation *Legal Perspectives* (December 2021)

“Hanson Bridgett Creates Head of Pro Bono, Social Impact,” *Law360 Pulse* (August 2021)

“‘Unexplored Territory.’ Trump Jumps into NEPA Legal Limbo,” *E&E News* (June 2020)

“EGEB: Trump Suspends Environmental Reviews, Putting Americans’ Lives Further at Risk,” *Electrek* (June 2020)

“VW Banks on Federal Shield to Beat States’ Emissions Suits,” *Law360* (December 2018)

Honors & Awards

San Francisco Business Times, Top Bay Area Corporate Philanthropists (2025)

Best Lawyers (2024-2026)

California Lawyers Association, Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Legal Services Award (2020-2023)

Judicial Clerkships

Judicial Extern for the Honorable Judge James Larson (Ret.), U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Academic Distinctions

Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly, Executive Symposium Editor

Pro Bono Publico Award for Public Service, as Public Benefits Advocate with General Assistance Advocacy Project (2007-2009)

CALI & Witkin Awards, Film & the Law Writing Seminar

Education

J.D., *cum laude* UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (2010)

B.A., with honors The University of Texas at Austin (1997)

Admissions and Courts

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

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