HansonBridgett



Steven D. Miller

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Firm Leadership
Government Executive Committee
Practice Co-Leader

Areas of Focus

- Government
- Municipal and Public Agency
- Government Ethics
- Infrastructure
- Public Transit and Transportation
- Technology
- Workplace Investigations

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Steven has a varied practice representing both public and private clients in the public arena. He assists public agencies throughout California operating bus, rail, and ferry service. His areas of expertise include public contracts and procurements, regulatory compliance, intergovernmental agreements, constitutional issues, and government ethics. Steven has extensive experience in public sector contracting issues, including representing both public and private entities in the area of public works contracts, contract negotiations of all types, and bid protests relating to complex state and local procurements. He regularly advises private and public entities on compliance with federal Buy America requirements.

Representative Work

Guides transit agencies through a number of complex procurements and resulting implementation of high-technology systems, including Positive Train Control, Computer Assisted Dispatch, and electronic toll collection systems.

Leads the legal team for a number of transit agencies in procurements of ferries, buses, railcars, and locomotives.

Advises public agencies on disputes arising under the California Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act.

Helps resolve and mitigate conflicts of interest arising under State and federal regulations.

Advises private entities on Buy America compliance relative to agreements with state and local agencies.

Represents large, private entities in bid protests of government contracts.

Publications

"SB 707 Brings Major Overhaul to the Brown Act," *Government Legal Alert* (October 2025)

"Ethics Complaints Against a Council Member," *League of California Cities* (May 2024)

"Got Governance?," *California Special Districts Magazine* (October 2023)

"A Q&A with ferry attorneys Katherine M. Tsou and Steven D. Miller of Hanson Bridgett," *Marinelog* (November 2022)

"AB 2647: Sharing Documents with the Board of Directors," co-author, *Government Law Alert* (October 2022)

"Governor Signs AB 2449: The Latest Development to the Brown Act in a Post-Pandemic World," co-author, *Government Law Alert* (September 2022)

"Brown Act in a Time of Pandemic: the Governor Vetoes AB 339," Government Law Alert (October 2021)

"New Legislation Addresses Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements," Government Law Alert (September 2021)

"California Legislature Takes Aim at Brown Act Teleconferencing Requirements," Government Law Alert (September 2021)

"*Busker v. Wabtec* – California Supreme Court Rules That On-Board Work Is Not Public Works," Appellate Alert (August 2021)

"The Brown Act Finally Meets Social Media," Government Law Alert (September 2020)

"The California Court of Appeal Issues Landmark Local Government Finance Decisions," Government Law Alert (July 2020)

"California Supreme Court Case Alert: Public Records on Private Accounts," Government Law Alert (March 2017)

"The Wild West of Commercial Drones—Why 2015 Could Be a Pivotal Year in California," *Public Law Journal* (May 2015)

"Regulating the 'Initiative Industrial Complex:' Is SB 168's proposed prohibition of per-signature payment an unconstitutional restriction on core political speech?" *Public Law Journal* (Spring 2011)

"Getting to a Citizens' Constitutional Convention: Legal Questions (Without Answers) Concerning the People's Ability to Reform California's Government Through a Constitutional Convention," *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review* (Winter 2011)

"Local Regulation of Commercial Drones: The Next Frontier," Government Law Alert (April 2014)

Blog Posts

Drones And Local Government — A COVID Story, *Drone Law* (March 2021)

FAA Issues Final Rules On Operation Over People And Remote Identification, *Drone Law* (February 2021)

"Remote Identification: The FAA Proposed Rule and Privacy," *Drone Law* (February 2020)

"Remote Identification: First Step in Expanded Drone Operations?" *Drone Law* (February 2020)

"Remote Identification: What's Next for Local Government Owners/Operators of Critical Infrastructure?," *Drone Law* (February 2020)

"Remote Identification: Why is the FAA's Rulemaking a Potential Game Changer?," *Drone Law* (February 2020)

"Why Didn't Amazon Deliver My New Shoes Using a Drone?" *Drone Law* (November 2019)

"249 Grams—the Magic Number?," *Drone Law* (November 2019)

"Update on the (Slowly) Developing Preemption Landscape," *Drone Law* (September 2019)

"Further Delay of the FAA's Remote Identification Rulemaking," *Drone Law* (September 2019)

"Anti-Drone Technologies," *Drone Law* (September 2019)

"Hoverlaw Returns- Update from Marin County," *Drone Law* (September 2019)

"Trump Executive Order Introduces Pilot Program," *Drone Law* (October 2017)

"Update from California: (Almost) All's Quiet on the Western Front," *Drone Law* (September 2017)

"Drone Delivery…To Prison," *Drone Law* (July 2017)

"Contracting With Commercial Drone Operators In a New Legal Landscape," *Drone Law* (March 2017)

"To Permit Or Not To Permit," *Drone Law* (March 2017)

Presentations

"Investigating Elected Officials When They Overstep," co-speaker, CALPELRA (November 2025)

"DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS Ethics Complaints Against a Board Member," presenter, California Transit Association Fall Conference (November 2024)

"Ethics Complaints against a Council Member," LeadingAge City Attorneys Spring Conference (May 2024)

"Difficult Conversations—Ethics Complaints Against A Board Member," CSDA Annual Conference (August 2023)

"Drone Law: Flying into Troubled Skies in 2016," co-speaker, The Knowledge Group webinar (June 2016)

"Municipal Regulation of Drones," Strafford Webinar (January 2016)

Press

"Trump executive order eases path for deliveries by drone," *SFGATE* (October 2017)

"Pending SF policy could let city agencies launch drones," *San Francisco Chronicle* (May 2017)

"Who Will Regulate Flying Cars?," *The Recorder* (April 2017)

"California struggles to lead the way on drone regulation," *Los Angeles Times* (August 2016)

"Model Airplane Hobbyists Skeptical Of Proposed Drone Registry," *Popular Science* (November 2015)

Academic Distinctions

Hastings Law Journal, Articles Editor

Order of the Coif & Thurston Society

Education

J.D., *magna cum laude* UC Law San Francisco (Formerly UC Hastings) (2004)

Artist Certificate, San Francisco Conservatory of Music (1992)

B.M., Indiana University (1986)

Admissions and Courts

California