



West Coast Air Law Roundtable

Keynote Speaker Biographies | Tuesday, September 17, 2019 | Hilton Financial District | San Francisco, CA



Ellen Peter

Chief Counsel, *California Air Resources Board*

Ellen M. Peter was appointed Chief Counsel of the California Air Resources Board in May 2008. Ms. Peter and her Office of Legal Affairs staff provide legal advice to the Board on a host of legal issues, including the development of air pollution control regulations. As a member of the Board's executive staff, she helps formulate policy recommendations, including the implementation of California's comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction mandate. Ms. Peter was part of the team that negotiated the landmark deal for national passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards announced by the White House in May 2009. In addition, she manages the Board's Enforcement Division with more than 100 investigators and air pollution enforcement specialists.

In March 2013, Ms. Peter was named as one of the 60 attorneys to win the 17th annual California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year award. Ms. Peter's award was in the Environmental Law category for her work to oversee California's first carbon allowance auction, a major step to implement an important component of the state's landmark climate change law, AB 32. The honored attorneys received their awards from the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and their accomplishments were featured in the March 2013 issue of California Lawyer magazine.

Prior to her tenure at the Air Resources Board, Ms. Peter worked for over 20 years at the California Attorney General's Office. As a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the Natural Resources Section, during 2006-2008, she headed the legal team that defended the Pavley AB 1493 vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards against the auto industry's attacks in federal and state courts. Her litigation team also filed the affirmative litigation challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's delay tactics and initial denial of California's waiver request for these standards. During her time at the Attorney General's Office, she handled and supervised cases in a variety of courts, including the United States and California Supreme Courts, on a broad range of issues, such as water quality, air pollution, water rights, Williamson Act land preservation, agricultural programs, and the California Environmental Quality Act. Ms. Peter started her Attorney General Office career in 1985 in the Criminal Division.

After law school graduation in 1976, Ms. Peter worked in Legal Services Corporation-funded programs, principally California Rural Legal Assistance, for nine years. Ms. Peter received a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a J.D. from the George Washington University's National Law Center in Washington, D.C., with an emphasis on civil rights and environmental law.

Read More: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/about/leadership/ellen-m-peter>



John Cruden

Principal (Washington, DC), *Beveridge & Diamond*

John offers clients the benefit of decades of experience as a top environmental lawyer, a leader of major bar and environmental organizations, and a distinguished military career.

John provides strategic counsel on high-stakes environmental and natural resources litigation, civil and criminal enforcement, and compliance. Working with clients makes the practice of law worthy and valuable to him as they advance strategic needs while protecting human health and the environment.

For more than two decades, John served as a senior leader on environment and natural resource matters at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), where he supervised some of the department's most significant litigation, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Love Canal, and Bunker Hill litigation. As the Senate-confirmed, Assistant Attorney General, ENRD, John worked on the most high-profile environment cases, and personally negotiated the multi-billion dollar resolutions of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Volkswagen emissions scandal. These cases required a great deal of coordination, expert assistance, and sophisticated management of numerous players to reach successful outcomes. This experience has given John insight into the workings of large corporations, as well as into the challenges that major companies face in lawsuits.

As the former President of the Environmental Law Institute, the former Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources, and the immediate past President of the American College of Environmental Lawyers, John has led each of the premier environmental organizations in the United States. In addition, he was the first government attorney to be elected and serve as the President of the District of Columbia Bar, now the largest bar in the nation.

Read More: <https://www.bdlaw.com/john-c-cruden>



Allyn Stern

Of Counsel (Seattle), *Beveridge & Diamond*

Allyn brings over 30 years of insider understanding of government operations.

Her experience as former Region 10 Counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informs her deep policy, regulatory, and enforcement knowledge. Allyn draws on her breadth and depth of expertise to help clients comply with an array of environmental statutes and regulations applicable to their businesses, including Clean Water Act (CWA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit approvals, risk management under the Clean Air Act 112(r), civil and criminal enforcement, Superfund cleanup and redevelopment, and pollution prevention strategies.

Allyn's in-depth knowledge of EPA policies and Department of Justice protocols enables her to capably advise clients on their interactions with these agencies. She guides clients through environmental issues arising in business operations, real estate development and permitting, or litigation. She has extensive experience with many environmental statutes, particularly the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); RCRA; and CWA.

As Regional Counsel at EPA, she was the senior executive covering litigation strategy and counseling for all matters in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. She also spent over 20 years as an EPA line attorney, then as a managing attorney in EPA's San Francisco office covering California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the territorial islands. She provided legal advice and strategy on hundreds of EPA decisions including tribal treaty rights and consultation, CWA permits, water quality standards, Total Maximum Daily Load allocations, Superfund removal and remedial actions, and many enforcement cases. She also focused on incident response and was selected to be a part of the investigation team following the Gold King Mine release. In San Francisco, she also served as Deputy Director for the regional air program.

Allyn has taught law since 2005, with positions at the University of California Hastings School of Law, Seattle University, and Seattle University Law School. She has taught courses on Negotiation Skills, Environmental Law, and Environmental Enforcement.

Read More: <https://www.bdlaw.com/allyn-l-stern>