



## West Coast Air Law Roundtable

Speaker Biographies | Getting the Deal Through in California: Community Benefits Agreements and Environmental Justice



### John Cruden

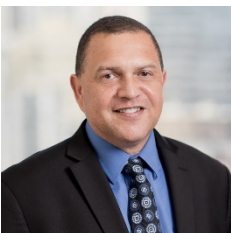
Principal (Washington, DC), *Beveridge & Diamond*

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. He 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.

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>



### David McCray

Of Counsel (San Francisco, CA), *Beveridge & Diamond*

David's practice focuses on major project and infrastructure development, including environmental reviews, permitting and approvals from a wide range of federal and state natural resources agencies, and litigation of project decisions and policies. He counsels clients on regulatory matters and litigation involving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), climate change, water, wetlands, project mitigation, land use, air, and mobile source air toxics and related health impacts. He also works on cutting-edge technological advances such as autonomous and connected vehicles. David co-chairs the firm's Infrastructure and Real Estate practice.

In 2019, California Governor Newsom reappointed David as a justice on the California Courts-Martial Appellate Panel where he is responsible for hearing criminal appeals involving California Guard and Reserve personnel. David was first appointed to the four-year term position in 2015 by then-Governor Brown. David served as Assistant Chief Counsel at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) from 2007-2014 and was the Department's most senior environmental attorney. He led a team in litigating for and providing advice to the Governor's office and Caltrans' staff involving complex environmental, regulatory, Native American, and real estate development issues on multi-million dollar transportation projects.

Before joining Caltrans, David served with the U.S. Air Force, retiring after 21 years of active service. He held positions such as the Chief of the Air Force Environmental & Tort Litigation Branch; the Base Staff Judge Advocate at Beale Air Force Base, California; and the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, where he also managed the environmental law program. While with the Air Force, David also served for two years as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Environmental & Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Read More: <https://www.bdlaw.com/david-h-mccray>