

vCONFERENCE

prop.65clearinghouse

Annual Conference

Monday, September 21, 2020

Finding Solutions To Help Affected Communities

Breakout Session

4:00 to 5:00

Finding Solutions To Help Affected Communities Ensure The Safety Of Their Imported Food Sources

Moderator: **Michael Green**, CEO, Center for Environmental Health

Panel: **Leticia Ayala**, Campaign Director, Healthy Kids & Leadership
Development, Environmental Health Coalition

Sophia Castillo, Partner, Downey Brand

Bob Maxwell, Shareholder, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

Ron Tanner, VP Education, Government & Industry Relations,
Specialty Food Association

Bios

Michael Green

CEO, Center for Environmental Health

Michael Green is Chief Executive Officer at the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) which he founded in 1996. As CEO of CEH, he has been a leader in national efforts to protect children and families from lead and other toxic chemicals in consumer products and from illnesses related to pollution in our air, water, and food. CEH is a leading advocate for comprehensive chemical policy, and uses both a carrot and stick to change corporate behavior in order to protect people's health. CEH has been hired by both corporations and government agencies to design policies that will protect the public from exposure to toxic chemicals.

Prior to founding CEH, Mr. Green designed a solid waste management plan for the Tibetan refugee community in Dharamsala, India, and cared for the sick at Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta. He later worked for the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization in The Hague. He is a recipient of The California Wellness Foundation's Leadership Award, and has also been awarded the prestigious Compassion in Action Award for his work protecting children from lead by the Dalai Lama Foundation.

Mr. Green has worked in government in Washington DC at both the US Dept of Energy's Office

of Environmental Management and the US EPA's Working Group on Environmental Equity. He has a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies from UC Berkeley, an MPP in Public Policy and an MS in Natural Resources, both from the University of Michigan. He reports directly to his two direct supervisors: Dylan Green, born in 2007 and Juliette Green, born in 2008.

Leticia Ayala

Campaign Director, Healthy Kids & Leadership Development,
Environmental Health Coalition

Ayala works with community residents to reduce or eliminate environmental housing hazards; promote healthy accessible safe and affordable housing for children in high-risk communities. She is a member of the California Healthy Housing Coalition's (CHHC) Steering Committee. As the leadership development facilitator, she works with leaders that are passionate about transforming their neighborhoods, building organizing and advocacy skills.

She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Leticia is also a 2010 graduate of the Rockwood Leadership Institute.

Sophia Castillo

Partner, Downey Brand

Sophie Castillo (formerly Belloli) is an experienced environmental litigator that helps her clients comply with, and litigate if necessary, complex issues relating to toxics and contaminated sites, California's Proposition 65, and water quality laws.

Sophie's clients include industrial facilities, oil and gas companies, product manufacturers and public agencies faced with environmental and regulatory issues in California. She prides herself on her excellent client relationships and helping her clients craft practical, common-sense and creative solutions to their most difficult environmental and regulatory problems.

Sophie has expertise in emergency response and associated natural resources damages claims. She defends complex, multi-party CERCLA/contaminated property cases, including toxic tort matters where personal injuries are alleged. She frequently represents clients in environmental lawsuits filed by citizen plaintiffs in her Clean Water Act and Proposition 65 practices, and has litigated and resolved favorably for her clients numerous Clean Water Act and Proposition 65 citizen suits.

In her Proposition 65 practice, Sophie also routinely advises clients on compliance with (and, if necessary, litigation of) Proposition 65 matters, in a wide variety of industries, from chemical and product manufacturers to retailers. Examples of Proposition 65 matters include cases involving cosmetics, food and beverage, lead hardware, power tools, notebooks, sports equipment, glassware, cleaning products, and home goods. Sophie is well versed in exposure issues relating to Proposition 65 chemicals that are frequently litigated by citizen plaintiffs, including lead, acrylamide, di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), cocamide DEA, titanium dioxide, and benzophenone.

Bob Maxwell

Shareholder, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

Mr. Maxwell is a member of the firm's Trade Regulation, Complex Commercial Litigation and Environmental Law Practice Groups. His practice areas include unfair trade, Proposition 65, white collar crime, government contracts and medical device related litigation. He practices in state and federal court and has handled mediations, arbitrations and representations before various administrative tribunals. He also provides regulatory advice to clients in all these areas.

With over 25 years of experience, Mr. Maxwell specializes in complex civil and criminal litigation and in providing regulatory advice. His litigation and counseling practice focuses mainly on unfair trade practices, Proposition 65 and medical device related litigation. Mr. Maxwell is widely recognized for representing national and regional retailers and distributors in antitrust, unfair business practices, Proposition 65, and other consumer protection litigation in state and federal court. He has extensive experience responding to prosecutions for

unfair trade practices brought by the State Attorney General's office, local District Attorneys, and the private plaintiff's bar.

Mr. Maxwell also has considerable white collar crime experience handling internal investigations for FDA-regulated medical device and pharmaceutical companies, and in ensuing civil litigation. His government contracts experience includes representing large and small contractors in disputes with the federal government and in federal, state and locally funded public works and public transit projects.

As part of his practice, Mr. Maxwell advises clients on regulatory compliance issues. He has significant experience advising clients on internet sales, and issues affecting sales of regulated products including alcohol and tobacco. He is an active member of the State Bar's Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Section.

Ron Tanner

VP Education, Government & Industry Relations, Specialty Food Association

Ron Tanner is Vice President, Education, Government & Industry Relations for the Specialty Food Association, owner of the Fancy Food Shows®, publisher of Specialty Food Magazine and producer of the Soft Side Awards. Ron has worked for the Specialty Food Association, and its 4,000+ members, since 1987.

Ron serves as the SFA's liaison with many associations, universities and government agencies. He has served as a member of the U.S Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) since 2007, and also served on the Steering Committee of the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA). Tanner also serves on the Leadership Board of the UC Davis Food Studies and Technology Department and is a member of the Regulatory & Academic Committee of the American Cheese Society.

The Specialty Food Association presents 40-plus educational programs each year, in person, on the road and online. Ron has appeared on The Today Show, CNN and Food Network, and has been quoted in Newsweek, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. He has an M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University in New York City, and a B.A. in English and Communications Studies from Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.