

vCONFERENCE

prop.65clearinghouse

# Annual Conference

Monday, September 21, 2020

## Prop. 65 Freshmen Orientation

### Pre-Conference Class

7:30 to 8:30

### Prop. 65 Freshmen Orientation

**Instructors:** **Bob Schuda**, Partner, Dentons USA

**Bill Verick**, President, Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation

**Laura Zuckerman**, Deputy Attorney General

### Bios

#### **Bob Schuda**

Partner, Dentons

Bob Schuda supports entities from around the world to meet the challenges of operating a business in California, and vice-versa. Compliance with environmental law presents a myriad of challenges and is something that all entities seeking to do business in California will most likely face at some point. Bob provides strategic solutions for clients looking to manage risks and seize opportunities related to environmental law and policy.

Bob has experience with all aspects of environmental law, including Proposition 65 compliance and enforcement litigation; pesticide regulation and compliance enforcement; Green Chemistry; Climate Change (California law "AB 32"); the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); hazardous materials compliance and litigation; transactional counseling and due diligence; and additional matters related to the environment.

#### Experience

- Advising and representing a California agricultural commission and related national federation and their members in a Proposition 65 action. Bob successfully coordinated all actions in a complex litigation proceeding to resolve all common issues in one forum.
- Advising a small home-owners association of their rights regarding nearby environmental cleanups.
- Representing a manufacturer in regulatory proceedings before a state agency and in the California courts to oppose the designation of certain products, which are widely and safely used in the United States and around the world, as known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity under Proposition 65.
- Representing a local municipality as the sole defendant in a complicated CERCLA case involving alleged groundwater contamination from a city-owned sewer. Managing a team of consultants, environmental forensics experts and sewer integrity and "due care" experts,

and investigating local operations and land use patterns going back to the 1940's, Bob demonstrated to the court that third parties (including the plaintiff property manager) bore primary responsibility for the contamination.

- Advising a third-party logistics provider in navigating recent changes in the federal and California pharmacy laws to allow permitted shipments of important animal pharmaceuticals to proceed into California unimpeded.
- Challenging an agency's incorrect approach in their use of an inappropriate scientific model to determine the health effects of certain pesticides.
- Prosecuting a complex groundwater damages action in the San Gabriel Valley, obtaining a groundbreaking federal court ruling regarding coverage of such damage under EPA federal consent decrees.
- Defending a major aerospace company in cleaning up a former nuclear and rocket testing facility.
- Settling an allocation of costs to clean up a contaminated site among 14 potentially responsible parties.
- Defending a port terminal in a diesel emissions lawsuit and a related California attorney general investigation that alleged violations of occupational and environmental exposure warning requirements.
- Obtaining and defending on appeal through the California Supreme Court a first-of-its-kind judicial opinion providing guidance on proper notice of alleged Proposition 65 environmental exposure warning violations.
- Resolving an EPA enforcement action against a major pesticide retailer by developing a groundbreaking, web-based and industry-wide training program.
- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bob advised dozens of entities from around the world seeking to register their disinfectant and pesticide products with US EPA and state authorities for production and sale in the United States. One particular client in this space now provides industrial-grade disinfectant products to emergency medical personnel, hospitals, police departments, firefighters and schools.

## **Bill Verick**

President, Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation

Bill Verick has been enforcing Proposition 65 since 1994. He has negotiated several industry-wide settlements. These include a settlements that established reformulation standards for products industry-wide, such as setting the maximum lead content in the insulation for consumer-contact wires, such as those computer mouses, telephone cords, and Christmas tree lights; setting the maximum PCB and dioxin content in fish oil supplements; and requiring lead-free food-contact-surfaces for equipment used in collecting, storing and processing maple syrup. Bill is currently focusing on Proposition 65 discharge to drinking water cases, including one being brought to force the removal of 50 tons of lead abandoned on the bottom of Lake Tahoe.

## **Laura Zuckerman**

Deputy Attorney General

Laura Zuckerman has been a Deputy Attorney General in the Environment Section of the California Department of Justice since January 2006. Prior to joining the section, she spent four years as a member of the Attorney General's Energy Task Force, engaging in large-scale investigation of, and complex civil litigation involving, the California energy industry. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Ms. Zuckerman practiced complex civil litigation at McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, where she began her litigation career after clerking with the Honorable William H. Orrick, Jr., United States District Court, San Francisco.

At the Attorney General's Office, a significant portion of Ms. Zuckerman's work consists of matters undertaken in the Attorney General's independent capacity to enforce environmental laws. She enforces statutes relating to protection of human health and the environment, including Proposition 65.

Ms. Zuckerman received her J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was an Articles Editor for the Ecology Law Quarterly. She received her A.B. magna cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard University.