

Edward P. Sangster

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Ed Sangster is a partner and has more than 35 years of experience helping clients resolve complex business and environmental disputes through counseling, litigation, and trial. His experience is broad, including commercial contracts, environmental, business torts, and disputes among shareholders, officers or creditors of closely held and early stage companies. Although the types of cases have varied over time, his case load has consistently involved current cutting-edge issues, resulting in numerous published decisions in federal district and appellate courts.

The cases Ed litigates often turn on the resolution of highly technical scientific, engineering, regulatory, or economic issues. His environmental experience includes numerous cases concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), cases involving soil and groundwater contamination, and administrative agency actions. He is authorized to practice before all state and federal courts in California, as well as the US Court of Federal Claims. He has jury and bench trial experience in both state and federal courts, and he has briefed and argued numerous appeals.

Ed has more than 25 years of experience defending clients in Proposition 65 litigation. He has also been actively engaged in counseling clients concerning the implementation of practical compliance strategies.

Ed has repeatedly been named to the Northern California Super Lawyers list since 2008, and is a senior fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, a trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation in San Francisco, CA, 2024-2026
- BTI Client Service All-Star, one of approximately 300 lawyers honored nationally based on nominations of corporate counsel, 2016

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Richard M. Sangster American Inn of Court

- California Lawyers Association (Litigation and Environmental sections)
- American Bar Association (Litigation section)
- Bar Association of San Francisco

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- *Citizens for Ceres v. City of Ceres,* 3 Cal. App. 5th 237 (2016) (California Environmental Quality Act)
- *Tuolumne Jobs & Small Business Alliance v. Superior Court,* 59 Cal. 4th 1029 (2014) (California Environmental Quality Act)
- *Friends of Oroville v. City of Oroville,* 219 Cal. App. 4th 832 (2013) (California Environmental Quality Act)
- *Citizens for Ceres v. Superior Court,* 217 Cal. App. 4th 889 (2013) (California Environmental Quality Act)
- *Tuolumne Jobs & Small Business Alliance v. Superior Court,* 210 Cal. App. 4th 1006 (2012) (California Environmental Quality Act)
- *Chacoan v. Rohrer,* 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40662 (E.D. Cal. 2009) (federal civil rights)
- *Quicken Loans, Inc. v. Wood,* 449 F.3d 944 (9th Cir. 2006) (preemption of state mortgage laws)
- *Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. v. Boutris*, 419 F. 3d 949 (9th Cir. 2005) (preemption of state mortgage laws)
- *Fontana Empire Center, LLC v. City of Fontana*, 307 F. 3d 987 (9th Cir. 2002)
- *Emeryville v. Elementis Pigments, Inc.* 2001 WL 964230 (N.D. Cal. 2001)
- *Anesthesia Care Associates Medical Group v. Blue Cross of California*, 187 F.3d 1045 (9th Cir. 1999)
- *Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company v. Hercules Incorporated*, 146 F.3d 1071 (9th Cir. 1998) (CERCLA cost recovery)
- *TH Agriculture & Nutrition, Inc. v. Aceto Chemical Co.*, 884 F. Supp. 357 (E.D. Cal. 1995) (CERCLA cost recovery)
- *Kaufman and Broad -- South Bay v. Unisys Corp.*, 822 F. Supp. 1468 (N.D. Cal. 1993) (CERCLA cost recovery)
- *Eureka Financial Corp. v. The Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.*, 136 F.R.D. 179 (E.D. Cal. 1991) (insurance coverage)

OTHER INFORMATION

- Trial Lawyer of the Year Finalist, Public Justice Foundation, 2010

- Award for exemplary pro bono service, presented by the US District Court, Northern District Conference, 1997
- Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service, presented by the Bar Association of San Francisco, 1996
- Commendation by California State Bar Board of Governors in recognition of outstanding contributions to the delivery of pro bono legal services, 1988

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, 1985 *(Note and Research Editor, COM/MENT, A Journal of Communications and Entertainment Law)*
- A.B., University of California, Berkeley, 1982

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of California
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Federal Claims
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 27 June 2024, California's Updated Proposition 65 Regulations New Short-Form Warnings and More
- 20 October 2017, Northern California Wildfires — Important Insurance Coverage Considerations
- 4 January 2017, WARNING: Proposition 65 Warning Requirements Have Changed
- 28 July 2016, The “Most Contentious Issue” — Federal Preemption in the Amended Toxic Substances Control Act

NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 8 November 2024, K&L Gates Leads Hanson Building Materials Limited to Trial Victory

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Appellate Litigation
- Consumer Product Safety
- Environment and Energy
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling

INDUSTRIES

- Apparel and Footwear
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Energy
- Water and Wastewater

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Trial counsel for defendant venture capital firm sued by founder of portfolio company. Plaintiff sought more than US$240 million for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and theft of trade secrets. Jury verdict in favor of clients following trial lasting more than four months.
- Trial counsel defending party alleged to be liable for more than US$200 million in environmental cleanup costs. Judgment in favor of client after trial lasting approximately five months.
- Trial counsel for parent corporation alleged to be liable for more than US$100 million in environmental cleanup costs attributable to former subsidiary. Judgment in favor of client after trial.
- Trial counsel for defendant underwriter in action challenging validity of nearly US$100 million in municipal securities. Judgment for client following validation proceeding.
- Trial counsel for defendant sued for US$26 million fee arising from procurement of significant equity investment in biofuel startup. Judgment following jury trial for amount admitted by client to be owed, which was less than three percent of claim.
- Trial counsel for plaintiff class in civil rights litigation. Judgment for clients characterized by a dissenting US Supreme Court justice as “perhaps the most radical injunction issued by a court in our Nation’s history”.
- Trial and appellate counsel for property owners and developers in numerous actions brought pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”).
- Represented multiple clients in threatened enforcement action by Department of Toxic Substances Control concerning thermostat reclamation program.

- Defended multiple clients against actions by predecessor of Department of Business Oversight seeking to impose penalties or revoke residential mortgage licenses.
- Advised product manufacturers regarding compliance with chemical emission limitations.
- Represented multiple clients in negotiations with California Regional Water Control Boards concerning investigation or remediation of contaminated properties.
- Defended client against claims by California Department of Pesticide Regulation for unlicensed brokerage of alleged pesticides. Agency dropped US$1 million+ claim following negotiations.
- Lead counsel for plaintiff-insured in litigation seeking coverage under employee dishonesty insurance policy for 8-figure theft of corporate property. Favorable settlement reached after court summarily adjudicated insurer defenses in favor of client.
- Defended manufacturer of diesel emission control devices against claim by California Air Resources Board for civil penalties. Claim settled for approximately six percent of agency demand.