

Susan Paulsrud Welch



E: susan.welch@halpernmay.com

P: (213) 402-1904

Los Angeles

PROFILE

Ms. Welch has extensive experience in toxic tort and environmental litigation, including representation of companies in the oil and chemical, utility and mining industries. These matters have involved a range of legal theories including public and private nuisance, negligence, strict liability and multi-party CERCLA cost recovery. She has handled matters involving alleged air, water and soil contamination.

Ms. Welch has been involved in multiple toxic tort cases brought by thousands of individual plaintiffs, where, among other things, she has formulated strategies, prepared settlement and negotiation materials, and oversaw motion practice. In addition to extensive work coordinating the offensive discovery of these complex cases, she has experience with the medical causation aspects of toxic tort cases. For example, she has worked with toxicologists, neurologists and other medical experts to prepare for medical examinations of plaintiffs and trial testimony. Her work has included cases brought by both U.S. and foreign citizens.

Ms. Welch also has experience in other areas of business litigation, including contract disputes, products liability, insurance coverage, fiduciary duties, real estate and development, shareholder derivative claims, and employment.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Welch was a litigation partner with Latham & Watkins LLP (Los Angeles, CA). She also served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable W. Eugene Davis of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Welch is a member of the California State Bar. She is admitted to practice in all California courts and the United States District Courts for the Central, Eastern and Northern Districts of



California.

EDUCATION

- University of Chicago Law School, J.D. with Honors, 1989
- Research and Symposium Editor, University of Chicago Legal Form
- Butler University, B.S. *summa cum laude* with Highest Honors in Economics and Business Administration, 1986

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Representing a public utility in toxic tort matters brought by approximately 4,000 individuals alleging chromium exposure. The matters received significant media attention, including being the subject of a major motion picture. The matters settled on favorable terms before trial
- Representing a prior gas station operator in litigation regarding cleanup costs. The matter was successfully resolved after obtaining a favorable summary adjudication ruling on a key issue
- Representing an investment fund in litigation involving fiduciary claims. The claims against the client were eventually resolved as part of a global settlement that did not require any contribution from the client
- Representing an oil recycling company against allegations of product contamination
- Representing numerous insureds in obtaining coverage for construction, environmental and intellectual property claims against them
- Representing an insured in breach of contract and breach of fiduciary claims against its third-party administrator
- Representing a mining company in a toxic tort matter brought in Colorado by Peruvian citizens alleging exposure to mercury, which work included conducting and coordinating discovery in Peru. The case was resolved after a successful arbitration