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TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA

EDITORS' NOTE

From the mortgage crisis to the Gulf oil spill to virtually every major intellectual property dispute, California lawyers are playing leading roles. But they don't just clean up big messes. They secure funding and regulatory approval for cutting-edge developments in water, energy, technology and biotechnology that are the promise of the future.

We aim for this list to be a kaleidoscope of the California legal scene. There are divorce attorneys and public finance lawyers, prosecutors and criminal defenders and much, much more.

We reviewed hundreds of nominations from members of the legal community and from our own editors and reporters to compile this list. It is never an easy task — the list isn't long enough — but it is fun. Read on. We know you'll enjoy learning about these people as much as we did.

— The Editors

PAUL N. SINGARELLA

aul Singarella of Latham & Watkins LLP is a legal titan in the water resources field. As the chair of his firm's Environment, Land & Resources Department in Orange County, he has had an extremely busy year. Among other things, he successfully advocated for the water supply of 21 million California residents and made sure regulatory bodies are acting in a fiscally responsible manner when putting environmental safeguards in place.

As lead outside counsel in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's efforts to secure clean water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for southland residents, he has drawn on his past experience as an engineer to lead the District's charge in advocating for a new Clean Water Act permit.

Singarella has also been active in advancing local water supply projects; for example, he continues to represent the ocean water desalination industry in water board proceedings to secure federal Clean

Water Act permits for facilities in Southern California that will be the largest desalination plants in the western hemisphere, and to work with industry on water banking opportunities.

"In past years, federal court decisions have concluded that the delta smelt population has been hurt by water diversion to Central and Southern California," said Singarella. "However, other factors hadn't been taken into account."

The other factors mainly refer to the approximately 12 tons of ammonia per day that are funneled into the Delta from the City of Sacramento's partially treated wastewater. In a marathon, 14-hour administrative session, this fact was finally ac-



knowledged by the responsible state agency last December.

"The most gratifying part of the process has been the fact that the ammonia being dumped in the river

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has been officially recognized as impacting the smelt food supply for the first time," Singarella said.

- Henry Meier