



## Paul D. Rasmussen

Of Counsel

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Paul Rasmussen is an accomplished attorney who focuses his practice on toxic tort and environmental litigation. He also handles a wide range of general liability matters, including high-exposure cases involving personal injury and property. Paul efficiently guides clients through every stage of litigation – from pre-litigation through discovery, motion practice, mediation, arbitration, trial, and appeal.

Paul concentrates his toxic tort practice on defending claims arising from occupational, environmental, and in-home exposure to hazardous substances. He frequently handles matters related to exposure to benzene, asbestos, dioxins, pesticides, silica, lead paint, mold, formaldehyde, mercury, VOCs, PCBs, hexavalent chromium, and numerous other toxins. Additionally, Paul has litigated and successfully resolved complex, multi-party toxic tort and environmental matters.

Paul's environmental practice includes defending private and public entities in high-stakes cost recovery and enforcement matters, as well as resolving complex property contamination disputes and compliance issues.

### **Toxic Tort/Engineered Stone**

In the toxic tort area, Paul has successfully represented clients in complex toxic tort and engineered stone matters involving exposure to hazardous substances alleged to have caused leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, aplastic anemia, bronchiolitis obliterans, interstitial lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumoconiosis, silicosis, asbestosis, mesothelioma, and numerous other conditions.

### **Environmental**

In the environmental arena, Paul has successfully defended private and public entities in high-stakes cost recovery and enforcement matters, including those brought under CERCLA, HSA, and RCRA. He has represented clients in matters involving Superfund

### **Services**

- Environmental
- Toxic Tort
- Engineered Stone
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- General Liability
- Commercial Litigation

sites, manufacturing facilities, commercial developments, dry cleaner sites, chemical distribution and recycling centers, industrial ports, and landfills. Additionally, Paul has prosecuted CERCLA, HSA, RCRA, and common law claims through litigation and mediation to obtain reimbursement for past environmental cleanup costs and allocation of future liability.

## **Education**

- Loyola Law School (J.D., 1998)
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst (B.S. Management, 1990)

## **Bar Admissions**

- California

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

## **Professional Affiliations**

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Environmental Section

# **Representative Matters**

Obtained multiple successful trial results in state and federal courts.

As lead trial counsel in California's second engineered stone silicosis trial, successfully defended a regional distributor of engineered stone products against a wrongful death claim brought by the family of a former stone fabricator seeking \$200 million in damages. Prevailed on a motion for non-suit based upon the plaintiffs' failure to provide sufficient evidence that the decedent was exposed to any stone slabs distributed by the client.

As lead trial counsel, successfully defended a commercial property owner sued by former tenants claiming personal injuries from alleged exposure to toxic substances, including hexavalent chromium, at the client's property. Motion for non-suit granted based upon the plaintiffs' failure to provide admissible expert testimony on issues of specific causation.

As lead trial counsel, obtained a defense verdict for a manufacturing facility owner after a six-month trial, successfully proving the client's facility did not release VOCs into the underlying groundwater. The Orange County Water District had sought over \$200 million in past and future cleanup costs related to an alleged contaminated groundwater plume arising from historical industrial operations in the area.

As trial counsel, obtained a favorable judgment for a property owner of a contaminated site seeking reimbursement for past and future costs for cleanup against a former chemical distributor operator on the property who released VOCs into the soil. Judgment resulted in the operator paying 66 percent of all past and future costs for contamination cleanup.