

ANNUAL CONFERENCE prop. 65 clearinghouse

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

JULIA MORGAN BALLROOM

Breakout Sessions

4:00 to 5:00 **The First Amendment Cases: Implications for Prop. 65**

Moderator: **Fiona Smith**, Writer, Prop. 65 Clearinghouse

Panel: **Trent Norris**, Partner, Hogan Lovells US

Judith Praitis, Partner, Faegre Drinker
Biddle & Reath

Lucas Williams, Partner, Lexington Law Group

Bios

Fiona Smith

Writer, Prop. 65 Clearinghouse

Fiona is a writer for Prop. 65 Clearinghouse and California Environmental Insider. Previously, she was a staff writer at the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal for more than eight years covering environmental and energy law. Fiona has also worked as a reporter for the Associated Press in Bolivia and Mexico and was a staff writer for the Whittier Daily News.

Fiona holds a dual Master's degree in Journalism and Latin American Studies from UC Berkeley and a BA in English, with honors, from UC Berkeley.

Trent Norris

Partner, Hogan Lovells US

Trenton H. Norris guides manufacturers and retailers of everyday products and services through their toughest challenges. In his litigation, counseling, and government advocacy practice, Trent resolves scientific and technical disputes involving consumer protection, advertising, environmental, and food and drug law, with an emphasis on the unique requirements of California law. He brings over 30 years' experience with regulators, prosecutors, activists, bounty hunters, and plaintiffs' lawyers to defend clients and provide practical perspectives on litigation avoidance.

Mr. Norris and his team have represented hundreds of food manufacturers, retailers, and trade associations in Proposition 65 and consumer class action matters. He has also pioneered the use of the First Amendment to challenge Proposition 65 warnings for glyphosate (judgment upheld by the Ninth Circuit), acrylamide in food (preliminary injunction

Opt-In and Industry Wide Settlements

upheld by the Ninth Circuit), and titanium dioxide in cosmetics (preliminary injunction granted by district court).

Mr. Norris lobbies California environmental agencies and both challenges and defends regulatory actions in court. Mr. Norris is listed in Chambers USA for Food & Beverages Regulatory & Litigation, Environmental, and Advertising Litigation; and in Best Lawyers for Environmental Law. In 2023, he was named Environmental Lawyer of the Year in San Francisco. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Judith Praitis

Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath

Judith Praitis counsels clients on environmental transactional issues and on air, water and waste management permitting, compliance, release reporting and enforcement issues under California and federal law. With decades of experience in environmental law, Judith is a trusted source of legal and business guidance for clients working to develop and implement environmental management systems, audit compliance protocols, and anticipate and adapt to emerging regulatory environments. Judith has particular experience managing complex environmental matters for distressed entities, or those with material legacy environmental liabilities, to orchestrate a controlled resolution of such obligations. She is particularly adept at crafting novel settlements with governmental regulators and prosecutors. Judith advises clients on compliance with and, if necessary, litigation of, Proposition 65 matters, particularly those involving the food and supplement industries and other consumer products. She assists clients with compliance under many of California's product- and chemical-specific regulatory regimes, including the Green Chemistry Initiative.

Judith's Proposition 65 representations include some of the most significant and complex matters involving the legislation, including several prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of California. Her Proposition 65 work includes cases involving:

- Bottled water
- Chocolate
- Ginseng
- Progesterone creams
- Brass fixtures
- Children's vitamins
- Dietary supplements
- Supplements containing alcohol
- Meal replacement bars
- Textiles
- Glassware
- Electrical cords
- Plastic and vinyl products
- Alleged exposures at hotels

Education

Harvard Law School

J.D. in Law, cum laude (1988)

University of Chicago

A.B. in Political Science, with honors, Phi Beta Kappa (1985)

Leadership & Community

Professional Associations

- Environmental Law Institute — Leadership Council Member
- American Bar Foundation — Fellow
- Proposition 65 Advisory Board
- Annual California Cliff Conference — Co-chair
- 2016 Proposition 65 Clearinghouse Annual Conference — Chair

Lucas Williams

Partner, Lexington Law Group

Lucas Williams is a partner at Lexington Law Group. Lucas specializes in litigation concerning environmental justice, toxic exposures, and corporate greenwashing. Lucas has been litigating public interest environmental cases since he graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in 2008.

Lucas began his career at GGU's Environmental Law and Justice Clinic as a fellow, where he represented communities of color in cases addressing pollution. On completion of his fellowship, Lucas joined the Lexington Law Group as an associate in 2012. Lucas returned to Golden Gate University School of Law as a Professor and Staff Attorney at the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic in 2020.

At ELJC, Lucas represented communities of color in cases enforcing environmental laws including CEQA and the Clean Air Act. During this time, Lucas also founded his own environmental justice and consumer protection firm, Williams Environmental Law. In 2023, Lucas rejoined Lexington Law Group as a partner.

Lucas spends his free time cycling, running, and reading.