

ANNUAL CONFERENCE prop.65clearinghouse

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

JULIA MORGAN BALLROOM

Pre-Conference Class

8:00 to 9:00

Freshman Orientation

Instructors: **Rafael Hurtado**, Deputy Attorney General
Collie James, Partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Joseph Mann, Attorney, Lexington Law Group

Freshman Orientation

Bios

Rafael Hurtado

Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Hurtado joined the California Department of Justice (DOJ) in September 2021 and serves as a Deputy Attorney General in the Environmental Justice and Protection Section. On behalf of the Attorney General, Mr. Hurtado has advised and represented state agencies and the State of California in state and federal litigation, appeals, negotiations, and administrative and regulatory matters, including Proposition 65 matters. Prior to joining DOJ, he practiced employment law and primarily represented employees in litigation. Mr. Hurtado is a graduate of California Western School of Law and the University of California, San Diego.

Collie James

Partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Collie F. James, IV is an experienced trial lawyer with a proven track record of achieving outstanding results in high-profile crisis litigation matters, including mass tort, product liability, government enforcement, unfair business practices, and consumer class actions. Serving as the Orange County Office Managing Partner, he represents companies in state and federal courts across the United States and arbitrates matters before multiple agencies including the International Court of Arbitration. Working with clients in the medical device, pharmaceutical, healthcare, food and supplement, cosmetic and beauty, consumer product, and oil and gas industries, Collie also counsels on pre-litigation issues that are critical to their core business operations, making him a trusted advisor to companies whether they are facing litigation or

seeking to avoid it.

Compiling an impressive trial record, Collie has played key roles in litigating some of the most significant crisis and mass tort, product liability, and consumer litigation matters in the country over the last twenty years, including:

- Representing Teva Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates, Collie led a Morgan Lewis team that secured the first defense trial victory in national prescription opioids litigation in an action brought by the State of California seeking more than \$50 billion in remedies, making it one of the largest cases in state history. In this leadership role, Collie was instrumental in developing a trial strategy adopted by the entire joint defense group that formed the core of the court's decisive trial ruling. Collie delivered the first defense opening statement and embraced the same lead-off role for closing arguments. In the interim, he led the cross-examination of the Plaintiffs' primary marketing expert, argued a lengthy motion for judgment, secured the voluntary dismissal of two clients halfway through the trial, and conducted the direct examination of a critical defense expert. The stunning complete defense victory was heavily publicized and changed the landscape of this ongoing nationwide litigation;
- Leading another Morgan Lewis team on behalf of Teva in a separate months-long trial brought by the County of San Francisco seeking \$12 billion, which was successfully settled on the eve of closing arguments, and first-chaired multiple other state actions in Nevada, Hawaii, and South Dakota before they were resolved as part of a nationwide settlement. More recently, he led a trial team to a successful settlement days before trial began in the final political subdivision opioids case in the country, brought by the City of Baltimore.
- Defending a major Southern California utility in litigation involving more than 30,000 plaintiffs stemming from a natural gas leak at a storage facility adjacent to a residential and business area, Collie spearheads the massive factual investigation and discovery component of this sprawling litigation. Working closely with the client, he has argued key motions, developed key strategic initiatives, and taken and defended nearly 100 depositions while preparing the cases for trial;
- Serving as lead trial lawyer in litigation involving more than 1,000 plaintiffs with chemical-exposure claims, Collie executed an aggressive strategy that resulted in summary judgment or dismissal of several hundred plaintiffs, which he thereafter successfully defended in two separate efforts to overturn those rulings before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Leveraging his courtroom victories, Collie secured many more settlements on terms highly favorable to the client bringing this long-standing litigation to a successful end.
- Defending an oil and gas storage company in another lawsuit involving more than 1,000 plaintiffs claiming chemical exposure in and around Beverly Hills High School, Collie had primary responsibility for preparing motions for summary judgment that successfully excluded plaintiffs' experts and resolved all of the initial bellwether group's claims before trial.

In addition to these major matters, Collie routinely represents clients in actions brought by state and county officials and private plaintiffs under California's Unfair Competition and False Advertising laws. He has represented clients in enforcement actions brought by California counties regarding national advertising campaigns, the sufficiency of website disclosures, and waste management practices and litigated class actions brought by private citizens under the same laws against a variety of industries, including food and beverage, health supplements, and cosmetics.

Collie is equally committed to community and philanthropic interests. He is the co-founder and treasurer of the Maddie James Foundation, established in honor of the memory of his five-year-old daughter and which funded the building of a seaside learning center bearing her name at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, CA, and now serves as the Chairman of the Ocean Institute's Board of Directors. He is a past trustee of St. Anne School in Laguna Niguel, CA, served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jessie Rees Foundation, which supports children and their families around the world who are facing pediatric cancer, and sat on the Governance Committee of the local chapter of Make-A-Wish. He is a past president of the Orange County Bar Foundation and board member of the Federal Bar Association, leads a local legal aid clinic, and proudly coaches a variety of youth sports teams.

AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

Litigator of the Week, Am Law Litigation Daily (November 5, 2021)

Recognized, Commercial Litigation, Costa Mesa, The Best Lawyers in America (2022)

Trustee, Board of Trustees, St. Anne School
Chairman, Board of Directors, Ocean Institute
Co-Founder and Treasurer, The Maddie James Foundation
Former Chairman of the Board of Directors, Jessie Rees Foundation (2014-2020)
Former Member, Governance Committee, Make-A-Wish OC (2018-2020)
Former President and Member, Board of Directors, Orange County Bar Foundation (2006-2018)
Former Member, Board of Directors, Orange County Federal Bar Association (2010-2014)

ADMISSIONS

California

EDUCATION

University of Texas School of Law, 1997, J.D.

Dartmouth College, 1993, B.A.

SERVICES

Environmental Counseling & Litigation

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Class Actions & Group Litigation

Commercial Litigation

International Arbitration

PUBLICATIONS

REGIONS

North America

Joseph Mann

Attorney, Lexington Law Group

Joe Mann joined the Lexington Law Group in 2012 and is currently Senior Counsel at the firm. His practice includes representing plaintiffs in public interest litigation involving consumer rights, corporate accountability, and removing toxic chemicals from consumer products. Prior to joining the Lexington Law Group, Mr. Mann worked as a litigation attorney for the National Environmental Law Center, a non-profit organization specializing in the enforcement of federal environmental laws against the nation's most egregious polluters. Prior to that, Mr. Mann spent a year as the Law Clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Irma E. Gonzalez in the Southern District of California. Mr. Mann earned his J.D. degree from New York University School of Law in 1999, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the NYU Environmental Law Journal. He received his undergraduate degree, a B.A. in Philosophy, from Northwestern University in 1991.