

Sedina L. Banks

Partner

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Sedina Banks is a partner in Greenberg Glusker's Environmental Group. Specializing in regulatory compliance and environmental litigation, Sedina uses her decades of experience to craft creative solutions to complex problems.

She counsels and represents a broad array of clients including property owners, municipalities, and companies in a wide range of environmental matters related to regulatory compliance, contaminated properties, CEQA, water quality, and air quality issues, and real estate transactional support. Sedina has represented clients in investigation, enforcement, and remedial matters involving the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards, California air districts, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the California UST Fund.

She has successfully negotiated settlements on behalf of her clients for greatly reduced penalties in matters involving water quality and air quality violations, including the successful dismissal of an environmental criminal action. Sedina has also litigated in federal and state courts at all stages, including obtaining favorable verdicts for her clients in two federal jury trials.

She represents clients with consumer product compliance, advertising, and labeling matters including requirements pursuant to California's Proposition 65, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration. She also represents clients in the defense of consumer protection claims brought under federal and state law including California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), Unfair Competition Law (UCL), and False Advertising Law.

Services

- Environment
- Climate Change & Sustainability
- Environmental Litigation
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Air Quality
- Brownfields
- Regulatory & Compliance Counseling
- Real Estate Due Diligence & Risk Management
- Superfund
- California's Proposition 65
- Land Use & Development
- Consumer Claim Defense
- Branded Consumer Products
- Health & Beauty
- Apparel & Accessories
- Food & Beverage

Professional Affiliations

- Advisory Board Member, Roberts Environmental Center
- Executive Committee, Nevada State Bar Environmental & Natural Resources Section
- Member, California Lawyers Association, Environmental Law Section
- Member, Urban Land Institute

Awards

- Recognized in *Los Angeles Times Studios* Beauty & Fashion Visionaries list, 2025
- Nominee for *L.A. Times B2B Publishing's* Inspirational Women Leadership Awards, 2024
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, Thriving in Their 40's, 2023
- *Best Lawyers*, Ones to Watch, 2021–2022
- *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars*, 2009–2018
- *Southern California Super Lawyers*, 2023–2026

Bar Admissions

- California
- Nevada

Court Admissions

- United States District Courts for the Central, Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts of California
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Education

- University of California, Davis School of Law (J.D., 2003)
- Claremont McKenna College (B.A., *cum laude*, 2000)

Experience

Regulatory and Administrative

- Negotiated a settlement on behalf of a client on a claim brought by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for alleged violations that carried millions of dollars in potential penalties for a nominal fine.
- Represented the largest dairy processing cooperative in California on air permitting issues (including Title V facilities), advocacy, and negotiation with the regional air district.
- Represented a large agricultural client in connection with significant enforcement action brought by the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District.
- Advised a large agricultural client on the Distributed Generation Certification Regulation and PERP requirements.
- Advised client on California's cap and trade program and allocation of carbon

allowances.

- Has represented dairy trade groups in multiple air quality matters including successfully representing respondent-intervenor Dairy Cares in Association of Irrigated Residents v. EPA, Ninth Circuit Case No. 13-73398, in defending EPA's retroactive amendment of its 2004 approval of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rules into the California State Implementation Plan. The Ninth Circuit denied the petition (*Ass'n of Irrigated Residents v. EPA*, 790 F.3d 934 (9th Cir. 2015)).
- Negotiated a settlement on behalf of a client of a claim brought by the South Coast Air Quality Management District for a nominal fine when over \$100,000 in penalties were at issue.
- Represented clients in California State Water Board petitions for review of Regional Water Board actions.
- Represented the owner and operator of a mobile home park in an administrative civil liability action brought by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, for the alleged violation of certain Regional Board Orders. The client was potentially liable for almost \$6 million in penalties and the prosecution was recommending \$1.6 million in penalties in a heavily litigated case. After a lengthy administrative hearing, the Regional Board ruled that the client was only liable for a penalty of \$54,500.
- Ongoing representation of a mobile home park owner in dealings with regulatory agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region and local municipality.
- Negotiated settlement with the California Air Resources Board for alleged air emissions violations for a de minimis penalty.
- Obtained dismissal on behalf of a client of a criminal action brought by the Los Angeles County District Attorney for water quality violations.
- Obtained full reimbursement on behalf of a client from the California UST Fund for a decades-old claim.
- Obtained expedited permitting relief from the South Coast Air Quality Management District to conduct critical repairs to part of client's over \$180 million biosolids facility.
- Represented client in over \$2 million claim brought by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, resulting in determination that no payment was required.
- Responds to EPA 104(e) requests for information.
- Assist clients in all aspects of industrial storm water permitting including development of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP), best management practices (BMPs), and advanced BMPs.
- Negotiated settlement on behalf of a client in a CERCLA action brought by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Represented an agricultural client in the defeat of an urgency ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp within Plumas County, California.
- Obtained on behalf of various commercial/industrial clients "no further action" or "site closure" determinations for formerly contaminated properties including negotiation of voluntary cleanup agreements and land use covenants.
- Counsel clients in all aspects of environmental rulemakings including submission of comments to EPA.
- Ongoing representation of former owners and operators of contaminated properties in dealings with regulatory agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region.
- Represented a client in a multi-year, millions of dollars project to replace its wastewater treatment system.

- Conduct site assessments for storm water compliance.
- Assists clients in obtaining government funding for contaminated property investigation and remediation.

Litigation

- Served as special counsel to the City of Culver City for decades in connection with the regulation of oil and gas activities within the Inglewood Oil Field – the largest urban oil field in the United States.
- Represented petitioner City of Culver City in City of Culver v County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BS118023 in CEQA action challenging the County of Los Angeles' approval of an EIR in connection with new regulations for oil and gas operations within the county. The litigation settled and our client recovered much of its attorneys' fees.
- Represented the City of Culver City in connection with a precedential ordinance to phase out production of oil wells and require the cleanup and proper abandonment of related facilities in the City portion of the Inglewood Oil Field.
- Co-chaired a federal jury trial in which the jury found in our client's favor based upon a violation of his federal civil right to equal protection of the laws under the United States Constitution in connection with a municipal open-bid process for the redevelopment of property.
- Co-chaired a federal jury trial in which we represented the owner of real property in the defense of a lawsuit brought by an adjoining landowner asserting claims under CERCLA, RCRA, negligence, nuisance and trespass to recover damages for alleged contamination resulting from migration of impacts from our client's property. Obtained a jury verdict in client's favor as to claims for negligence, public nuisance and trespass. Obtained judgment in favor of our client as to claims under CERCLA and RCRA following a bench trial.
- Represented intervenor dairy trade groups in defending Fresno County's adoption of a zoning ordinance for the operation of commercial dairy and feedlot facilities from a CEQA challenge brought by the Medical Advocates for Healthy Air entitled *Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, et al. v. County of Fresno, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 07CECG03844. The litigation settled.
- Negotiate settlements with public enforcers/citizen groups for storm water violations.
- Represents a Fortune 500 company in CERCLA cost recovery matters across the United States.
- Represented a Fortune 500 company in a major CERCLA action in Southern California.
- Successfully represented the City of Culver City in defending an action brought by an oil company challenging the city's issuance of a moratorium on all new drilling.
- Represents petitioners in CEQA actions challenging agency actions.
- Intervened on behalf of dairy trade groups in litigation challenging regulation of dairies in the San Joaquin Valley resulting in a reported decision favorable to our clients. *Ass'n of Irrigated Residents v. San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Dist.*, 168 Cal.App.4th 535 (2008).
- Defend industrial companies in Clean Water Act suits for violation of the California industrial storm water permit.

Consumer Products, Labeling, and Advertising Law

- Compliance counseling, including under the "Clear and Reasonable Warnings" provision of California's Proposition 65, representing all sectors of business from food

and beverage, health and beauty, apparel, consumer goods, home goods, automotive parts, and building supplies.

- Counseling regarding responding to a California's Proposition 65 Notice of Intent to Sue.
- Defends manufacturers, distributors, and producers in consumer protection claims involving labeling, product testing, advertising, and chemical profile under federal and state laws, including California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), Unfair Competition Law (UCL), and False Advertising Law.
- Negotiated settlement with the California Air Resources Board for violation of the Consumer Products Regulations.
- Advises clients on product labeling requirements including compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration requirements and law, U.S. Federal Trade Commission requirements and law, and children's products labeling law.
- Advises clients on environmental marketing claims including sustainability claims and "green marketing" claims under federal and California state law.
- Represents food manufacturers, distributors, packagers, and retailers in matters involving consumer claims and regulatory compliance.
- Advises clients on California Air Resources Board's Consumer Products Regulatory Program.
- Advises clients on the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act.
- Advises clients on the United States International Trade Commission requirements.

Environmental Transactional

- Advises clients on all aspects of environmental due diligence including the "all appropriate inquiries" requirement for acquisition of properties across the United States.
- Advises clients on obtaining CERCLA innocent landowner protections.
- Negotiates on behalf of commercial/industrial clients environmental access agreements and easement agreements for site characterization and remediation.
- Negotiates on behalf of commercial/industrial clients environmental indemnity agreements.
- Negotiates with lenders on behalf of commercial/industrial clients regarding the acquisition or refinance of contaminated or potentially contaminated properties.
- Advises commercial/industrial clients in conducting environmental audits of operations and reporting requirements.
- Negotiates on behalf of commercial/industrial clients voluntary cleanup agreements and land use covenants.
- Advises corporate clients on environmental strategy and due diligence in mergers and acquisitions, asset purchases, and deal structuring, including evaluating environmental risks, securing and transferring permits, and ensuring compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Publications

September 3, 2026

Federal District Court Upholds Oregon's Packaging EPR Law

August 12, 2026

FDA Proposes to Modify Self-Certification Rules for "Safe" Food Ingredients

August 7, 2026

California Considering Amendments to Proposition 65 Regulations

July 24, 2026

A Clean Break: Court Halts Prop. 65 DEA Warnings for Cosmetics and Personal Care Products

July 23, 2026

California's Climate Reporting Rules Hit Pause, but Companies Should Keep Preparing

Environment + Energy Leader

July 17, 2026

Court Blocks California from Enforcing Upcoming Recyclability Labeling Law, SB 343

June 30, 2026

Use By: Today—California's New Food Date Labeling Requirements Take Effect

June 26, 2026

Summer Reprieve: CARB Proposes More Time for SB 253 Reporting

June 23, 2026

SB 54 Under Fire: States and Industry Challenge California's Packaging EPR Law

June 15, 2026

The December 31, 2025, Deadline to Remove Single-Walled Underground Storage Tanks in California Has Passed. Are You Facing Civil Penalties?

June 2, 2026

Food Producers and Retailers Hit With Wave of Prop. 65 Notices Targeting Aflatoxins

June 1, 2026

Deadline for Textile Producers to Join Landbell USA Is Fast Approaching

May 22, 2026

Pretty Products, Ugly Lawsuits: Legal Risks Facing Beauty Brands

Retail TouchPoints

May 14, 2026

South Coast AQMD Aims to Keep WAIRE Mitigation Program Rollout "Simple," But Details Still in Flux

May 11, 2026

Federal Climate Disclosure is Fading, But the Obligations Are Not

Events

August 31, 2026

2026 Prop. 65 Conference

May 19, 2026

Environmental Due Diligence in Real Estate: Risks, Scope, and Strategy | State Bar of Nevada

May 15, 2026

Buyer Beware: Avoiding CERCLA Liability: Environmental Assessment through Continuing Obligations | California Lawyers Association

March 24, 2026

CLE Last Dash | The EPR Countdown: Deadlines, Data, and Dollars Under California's SB 54 and Other State Programs

November 20, 2025

Preparing for the California Climate Disclosure Requirements

September 8, 2025

2025 Prop. 65 Conference

March 26, 2025

CLE Last Dash | Beyond Chevron: Courts vs. Agencies in a New Era

December 17, 2024

Environmental Law Essentials for In-House Counsel: Successfully Navigating Notices of Violation

December 4, 2024

Beyond Chevron: Courts vs. Agencies in a New Era

September 23, 2024

2024 Prop. 65 Conference

June 13, 2024

Consumer Claims Litigation: Trends, Challenges and Strategies

May 29, 2024

Consumer Claims Litigation: Trends, Challenges, and Strategies

April 18, 2024

SoCal Women in Leadership Luncheon

April 4, 2024

Consumer Claims Litigation: Trends, Challenges and Strategies

March 30, 2024

Raiders Foundation Silver & Black Gala

Client Comments

During the *Chambers USA Guide* feedback process, clients praised Sedina's work and client service.

2026 Guide:

- Sedina brought to the table the most relevant experience for our specific matter. She was able to keep us focused on the most practical and pragmatic factors when negotiating.
- Sedina is incredibly knowledgeable and was able to handle the complexities of our case.
- Sedina provided a very comprehensive and insightful strategy from the outset, accurately incorporating a thorough understanding of the unique technical aspects.

2025 Guide:

- She has impressed us with her legal knowledge and insight, and her equally savvy attention to our commercial needs and expectations. In my opinion, there is no better environmental lawyer out there for businesses. We were fortunate to find Sedina, who not only had knowledge of the laws and practical implications of the issues we were facing, but also had unique experience that benefited us greatly. Sedina has helped us navigate a very tricky issue, while paying close attention to our business needs and preferences. Sedina was always ahead of us and we loved it. She keeps us on track, but without unnecessary or inefficient activities. Every moment spent with her was well thought out and helped us to keep moving while she tackled the legal side and her area of expertise. Sedina understood the nature of our business and the position we took at all stages.
- Sedina has guided us through very difficult environmental situations. She has taken the lead in all discussions. She has provided favorable results. She is always available for a discussion, day or night, and is a pleasure to work with.
- Sedina did a terrific job for us. She had extensive knowledge of a [specific matter]. She was sincere and very interested in helping us. She did a terrific job. Sedina was on top of all the issues and kept us well informed.

2024 Guide:

- She is top-rated, detailed, straightforward and advocates for her client. She does not hesitate to ask questions on technical matters.
- She's very forceful and tenacious in her arguments. She is quite a good attorney.
- She has incredible technical knowledge and is able to understand really scientific reports. She is also just great at client service, being prompt and asking the right questions. I would work with her again and refer others to her.
- Sedina is thorough, comprehensive and responsive. She is always willing to step in and assist at a moment's notice and her work is excellent. She is a pleasure to work with.
- She is very efficient and effective. I have complete confidence in her work.