

ANNUAL CONFERENCE prop.65clearinghouse

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

JULIA MORGAN BALLROOM

1:45 to 2:45 What's New with OEHHA's Updated Short and Long Form Warnings

Moderator: **David Edwards**, Acting Director/Chief Deputy Director, OEHHA

Panel: **Greg Berlin**, Senior Associate, Alston Bird

J. Robert Maxwell, Partner, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

Laralei Paras, Partner, Seven Hills LLP

Bios

David Edwards

Acting Director/Chief Deputy Director, OEHHA

David Edwards, Ph.D., has been the Acting Director at the OEHHA since July. He also continues to be Chief Deputy Director, a position he has held since September 2021. He oversees day-to-day administrative and programmatic operations at OEHHA. During his tenure at OEHHA, Dr. Edwards has taken a lead role in activities ranging from Proposition 65 implementation to climate change. He also a member of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) AB 617 Consultation Group, an advisory group for CARB's community initiatives.

Prior to joining OEHHA, Dr. Edwards worked for 13 years at CARB, where he has held various leadership positions, most recently as Assistant Division Chief for the Air Quality Planning and Science Division. While at CARB, he led many projects including: developing the Criteria Pollutant and Air Toxics Reporting Regulation, updates to the statewide greenhouse gas inventory, overseeing the Consumer Products implementation program, and updating the Mandatory Reporting Regulation for Greenhouse Gases.

Dr. Edwards received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University and his B.S. in Chemistry from St. Mary's College of California. He also holds a certificate in Environmental Policy as a Science Technology and Environmental Policy fellow from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

What's New with OEHHA Warnings

Greg Berlin

Senior Associate, Alston Bird

Greg Berlin represents well-known corporations in the energy, manufacturing, retail, and food and agriculture sectors in high-stakes civil litigation involving the environment, land use, and consumer products. His experience representing companies in highly regulated industries proves invaluable to clients facing citizen suits, private enforcement actions, and agency oversight.

Greg serves on trial teams in cases involving environmental and consumer products claims. He has extensive Proposition 65 regulatory counseling and litigation experience, and has represented companies throughout the supply chain in hundreds of Proposition 65 private enforcement matters. Greg also has significant experience advising clients on issues concerning emerging contaminants, including state and federal regulation of PFAS.

J. Robert Maxwell

Partner, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

James Robert Maxwell is a shareholder specializing in retail trade and complex commercial litigation. Mr. Maxwell is a member of the firm's Trade Regulation, Complex Commercial Litigation and Environmental Law Practice Groups. His practice areas include unfair trade, Proposition 65, white collar crime, government contracts and medical device related litigation. He practices in state and federal court and has handled mediations, arbitrations and representations before various administrative tribunals. He also provides regulatory advice to clients in all these areas.

Professional Qualifications

With over 25 years of experience, Mr. Maxwell specializes in complex civil and criminal litigation and in providing regulatory advice. His litigation and counseling practice focuses mainly on unfair trade practices, Proposition 65 and medical device related litigation. Mr. Maxwell is widely recognized for representing national and regional retailers and distributors in antitrust, unfair business practices, Proposition 65, and other consumer protection litigation in state and federal court. He has extensive experience responding to prosecutions for unfair trade practices brought by the State Attorney General's office, local District Attorneys, and the private plaintiff's bar.

Mr. Maxwell also has considerable white collar crime experience handling internal investigations for FDA-regulated medical device and pharmaceutical companies, and in ensuing civil litigation. His government contracts experience includes representing large and small contractors in disputes with the federal government and in federal, state and locally funded public works and public transit projects.

As part of his practice, Mr. Maxwell advises clients on regulatory compliance issues. He has significant experience advising clients on internet sales, and issues affecting sales of regulated products including alcohol and tobacco. He is an active member of the State Bar's Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Section.

Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School
B.A., Texas Christian University
Cum Laude
Institute of European Studies, Paris, France

Laralei Paras

Partner, Seven Hills LLP

Laralei Paras is a Partner at Seven Hills LLP with 20 years' experience in environmental advocacy. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation and Resources Studies from the College of Natural Resources at U.C. Berkeley, she earned her juris doctor and environmental law certificate at the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.

Since 2002, her practice has concentrated on the enforcement of Proposition 65 on behalf of non-profits and citizen enforcers.