



ROBIN L. THORNTON

Attorney

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Oakland, California

Robin has nearly 20 years' law firm experience, including thirteen years practicing in eminent domain and public agency law. She has represented public and private entities and individuals in a variety of contexts, including appellate matters, trials, administrative hearings, alternative dispute resolution proceedings, private negotiations, and in advisory capacities. In addition to condemnation law, Robin also practices general civil litigation, property tax, real property, insurance coverage, and employment law.

She is best known for her representation in the Richmond Refinery case, which was among the most complex assessment appeals matters in California's history. Additionally, she has worked on mediations, arbitrations, court and jury trials in Alameda, Solano, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, and Orange Counties.

Notable public projects include the Interstate 80 / Interstate 680 / State Route 12 Interchange and the North Connector in Solano County, Caltrans Truck Scale project in Cordelia, and the State Route 4 Bypass in Brentwood and Oakley.

In 2004 and 2006, Robin externed with federal Judge Ware of the Northern District of California. She also is a Moot Court and Court Tour Docent Volunteer for the Contra Costa County Superior Court.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Golden Gate University School of Law
- B.A., University of California, Berkeley

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Business Litigation
- Eminent Domain
- Tax
- Real Estate Litigation
- Employment
- Insurance
- Public Agency
- Transportation Agencies

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Appellate Decisions

- *Navigators Specialty Ins. Co. v. Moorefield Construction, Inc.* (2016) 6 Cal. App. 5th 1258 (insurance)
- *Western States Petroleum Association, v. Board of Equalization* (2013) 57 Cal. 4th 401 (property tax)
- *Mann v. Said* (2019) 2019 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 6641 [Unpublished] (contract dispute)
- *Solano Transportation Authority v. Scherner* (2020) First Appellate District Case No. A159764 [Petition for Writ Summarily Denied after Preliminary Opposition Filing] (Eminent domain)
- *Solano Transportation Authority v. Anderson* (2020) 2021 WL 1203017 [Unpublished] (Eminent domain)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Legal Visionary in the Business of Law, L.A. Times, 2021
- Rising Star, Eminent Domain, Northern California Super Lawyers®, 2013-2020
- Top Women Attorneys in Northern California, San Francisco Magazine, 2013-2020

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, What's Mine May be Yours: An Introduction to Real Property Transfers, Wendel Rosen Webinar, 2021
- Speaker, An Introduction to Easements, County Counsels' Association of California, 2021
- Speaker, The Sanchez/Stamps Hearsay Rule: Saving Expert Opinions Based on Out-of-Court Statements of Others, Appraisal Institute, Northern California Chapter, 2021
- Speaker, Eminent Domain – Annual Legal Update - International Right of Way Association, Chapter Two Luncheon; International Right of Way Association, Chapter 42 Luncheon, 2021
- Speaker, Into the Unknown: Condemnation in the COVID-Era, International Right of Way Association, Chapter Two Luncheon, 2020
- Speaker, Precondemnation Damages: Hidden Dangers in Project Planning, International Right of Way Association, Chapter Two Luncheon, 2019
- Speaker, Property Dedications: Rough Proportionality in the Age of Trump, CLE Eminent Domain Conference, San Francisco, 2018
- Speaker, Potential Impacts from Temporary Construction Easement Acquisitions, International Right of Way Association, Annual Conference, Anchorage Alaska, 2017
- Speaker, Precondemnation Offers / Appraisals: Right-of-Way / Legal Strategies for Successful Project Delivery, International Right of Way Association, Chapter Two Luncheon, 2017
- Speaker, Front End Issues and the Right-of-Way Process: An Introduction to Precondemnation Appraisal and a Case Study on Identification of Early Issues, Appraisal Institute Fall Litigation Conference, San Francisco, 2017

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Member, Contra Costa County Bar Association
- Treasurer and Inns of Court, International Right of Way Association (IRWA)

ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. District Courts, Northern and Southern Districts of California