



Tyler D. Bowlin

Partner

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“I am committed to gaining a deep understanding of my clients’ businesses to help them achieve their business objectives.”

Tyler Bowlin is an effective defense attorney who protects clients in highly-regulated sectors, including petroleum, energy, and heavy industry. As National Coordinating Counsel for a global oil company, Tyler manages a portfolio with significant national exposure, directing strategy for environmental liabilities across the U.S. He oversees a wide range of matters, from legacy contamination sites to active facility compliance, ensuring consistent defense and risk management across diverse jurisdictions.

Tyler is known for bridging the gap between executive planning and field-level execution. Drawing on his background performing hands-on leak detection and repair services in California oil fields, he possesses a keen understanding of his clients’ physical operations. This technical knowledge allows him to translate engineering concepts into effective legal defenses and work plans, ensuring that legal strategies are compliant and operationally practical.

In administrative settings and in litigation, Tyler defends clients against state and federal agencies to resolve enforcement actions and compliance disputes. On the litigation side, he manages complex disputes for global and regional companies through the litigation lifecycle, focusing on early risk assessment and favorable resolution. This includes defending corporate clients against high-exposure class actions and mass torts.

Tyler also has significant experience navigating complex private party disputes involving legacy operations. He is experienced in multiparty CERCLA cost allocation proceedings, where he develops technical and legal strategies to minimize his clients’ share of liability at complex Superfund sites. His practice also encompasses the defense of property damage claims related to soil and groundwater contamination, as well as toxic tort defense and citizen suits brought under California’s Proposition 65.

Tyler regularly advises on matters involving a broad spectrum of environmental laws and agencies. His experience spans federal statutes including CERCLA, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act, as well as representation before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In California, he frequently navigates

Education

J.D., University of Oregon
School of Law, 2015

- Green Business Law, certificate of concentration
- Environmental and Natural Resources Law, certificate of concentration

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz,
environmental studies,
2011

Bar Admissions

Oregon, 2023
Washington, 2023
California, 2015

regulations enforced by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards, CalGEM, and air quality management districts. His practice also extends to the Pacific Northwest, where he advises on compliance with the Washington Department of Ecology, the Model Toxics Control Act, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Beyond advising on existing law, Tyler is actively engaged in shaping it. He regularly drafts and submits formal comments on proposed bills and agency rulemakings that affect heavily regulated sectors such as chemical manufacturing, refining, energy, waste, and heavy industry, making him a valuable resource for clients working to anticipate and influence new regulatory requirements.

Before attending law school, Tyler studied environmental science and then worked as a technician in California's oil fields, terminals, pipelines, and refineries. He currently serves as partner-in-charge of the firm's California office.

Professional Activities

- Orange County Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association
 - Environmental Litigation and Toxic Torts Committee, Programs Vice-Chair, 2020-2021
- Energy Bar Association Western Chapter, Member
- American Chemical Society, Member
- Air and Waste Management Association, Member
- Young Professionals in Energy, Member
- National Conference on Weights and Measures, Member

Representative Experience

Environmental Litigation, CERCLA & Remediation

- Complex Allocation & Cost Recovery: Represented energy sector clients in multi-party Superfund actions to minimize allocation of liability for historic contamination. Developed technical-legal defenses to scrutinize agency cleanup costs and remedial action plans, significantly reducing financial exposure for responsible parties.
- Defense of Major Oil Companies in Federal CERCLA Litigation: Served as counsel for a consortium of global oil companies in complex cost-recovery litigation regarding a contaminated site in Southern California. Successfully managed defense strategies concerning the allocation of liability for WWII-era aviation fuel production, challenging government compliance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- Legacy Indemnity Enforcement: Executed a strategic tender of responsibility for a midstream energy company regarding a historical crude oil pipeline release discovered decades post-transaction. Leveraged “assumed liability” provisions in legacy purchase and sale agreements to shift remediation burdens to the successor-in-interest.
- Redevelopment Remediation Disputes: Advised developers and responsible parties on remedial obligations for brownfield sites, including the negotiation of Prospective Purchaser Agreements (PPAs) and the management of vapor intrusion risks at former oil field and industrial properties.
- CERCLA Section 104(e) Responses: Managed strategic responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Information Requests for legacy sites, protecting client privilege while navigating the scope of government inquiries into historical operations.

- **Citizen Suit Defense:** Defended aerospace and industrial manufacturers against private “bounty hunter” citizen suits alleging violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Industrial General Permit (IGP) for stormwater discharges.

Environmental Enforcement & Regulatory Defense

- **Clean-Up & Abatement Defense:** Defended an industrial property owner against a Clean-Up and Abatement Order (CAO) issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). Successfully negotiated technical revisions to remedial design work plans for a site impacted by chlorinated solvents and heavy metals, securing reductions in groundwater monitoring frequency under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.
- **Administrative Appeal of RCRA Penalties:** Lead counsel for a major refinery in a significant penalty appeal before the Washington Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB). Led the defense against the Washington Department of Ecology’s attempt to retroactively reclassify permitted wastewater treatment units as unpermitted hazardous waste impoundments, utilizing complex statutory exemptions to challenge conflicting interpretations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
- **Idle Well Management & CalGEM Compliance:** Advised independent and major oil and gas operators on compliance with California’s rigorous idle well regulations and testing requirements. Negotiated Idle Well Management Plans (IWMPs) with the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to optimize abandonment schedules and mitigate fees while ensuring compliance with state statutes.
- **Retail Hazardous Waste Defense:** Represented a national retailer in multi-state investigations by the EPA, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and district attorneys regarding the classification of unsaleable retail inventory as hazardous waste. Negotiated settlements and overhauled internal compliance programs to manage the intersection of industrial waste standards and retail logistics.
- **Toxic Tort & Proposition 65 Defense:** Defended manufacturers and distributors against claims under California’s Proposition 65 (Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act), including matters involving labeling requirements and chemical exposure warnings. Guided clients through the shifting regulatory landscape of “clear and reasonable” warnings to avoid costly penalties.
- **Consumer Protection & Compliance:** Defended national commercial clients against California Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) and various county Sealers of Weights and Measures investigations and civil claims regarding product labeling and calibration, and implemented compliance training programs to mitigate future enforcement risks.

Commercial Litigation & Strategic Counseling

- **National Coordinating Counsel:** Managed a nationwide docket of environmental liabilities for a global energy company. Developed standardized defense protocols and oversaw local counsel to ensure consistent, cost-effective resolution of claims across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Maritime Lien Enforcement & Vessel Arrests:** Represented global marine fuel suppliers in admiralty actions to recover unpaid bunker debts. Coordinated the seizure (arrest) of vessels in federal court to enforce maritime liens against shipowners and charterers.
- **M&A and Indemnity Litigation:** Litigated breaches of representations and warranties arising from the sale of industrial and commercial assets. Defended post-closing disputes regarding undisclosed environmental liabilities and employment claims for acquiring entities.
- **Class Action Defense:** Defended energy and industrial clients against putative class actions alleging environmental nuisance, toxic exposure, and property damage among other claims.

Publications

- “Special Employment Law Considerations for the Remote Workplace,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *News You Can Use*, co-author (May 2020)
- “COVID-19: Cannabis Industry Resources,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *News You Can Use*, co-author (Mar. 2020)
- “Judging Java: California Reverses Need for Proposition 65 Warnings on Coffee,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *From the Ground Up* (June 2019)
- “Proposition 65—Under Construction,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *From the Ground Up* (Jan. 2019)

Presentations

- “Proposed Changes to Proposition 65 Labeling Laws: Challenges and Implications For Your Business,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, speaker (Feb. 2021)

Recognition & Honors

- Recognized as a “Leader in Their Field” by *Chambers USA* for Environment—California, 2025-present
- Selected for inclusion as a Southern California Super Lawyer—Rising Star, 2023-present