

## Patrick W. Dennis

### *Defense of Environmental Enforcement Actions*

Patrick W. Dennis is a partner in the Los Angeles, California office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and is a Co-Chair of the firm's Environmental Litigation and Mass Tort Practice Group. Mr. Dennis has extensive experience litigating matters in state and federal courts, representing clients in a wide range of environmental matters.

Mr. Dennis has represented clients in a wide variety of public and private enforcement actions involving alleged violations of environmental law:

- Represented Anheuser-Busch in connection with San Diego Coastkeeper's federal Clean Water Act citizen suit claim alleging that aerial fireworks display from Sea World over Mission Bay was subject to federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit provisions. Participated in applying for and receiving the first NPDES permit for aerial fireworks displays over surface water as a result.
- Represented Potlatch Corporation in one of the largest Natural Resource Damage claims brought by the Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ass'n, under CERCLA for alleged damages to the marine life in the Palos Verdes Channel due to releases of DDT and PCBs. Representation including filing one of the most extensive cross claims ever filed in such an action against the cities and counties collecting and discharging wastewater into the Palos Verdes Channel.
- Represented Athens Services, a solid waste transportation, sorting, and recovery facility operator, in connection with various enforcement actions brought by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, including allegations involving odor nuisance and a multi-million dollar civil penalty action. Matters successfully settled.
- Represented Wyndham Hotels in connection with citizen suit claims under California's Proposition 65 with respect to alleged exposures to second hand smoke, acrylamide in foods, and other chemical exposures leading to appellate decisions involving the rights of defendants to settle with different Proposition 65 plaintiffs.
- Represented Modtech, major builder of portable classrooms, in defense of Proposition 65 law suit brought by private parties and investigated by the California Attorney General for emissions of, among other compounds, formaldehyde and styrene. Matter successfully settled involving reformulation of certain products.
- Represented KBR in connection with unilateral enforcement order brought by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and alleging various violations of law associated with the operation of a water treatment plant. Succeeding in getting the unilateral order dismissed.
- Represented multiple parties in a variety of enforcement actions under the California Water Code before the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles Region, including appeals of certain matters before the State Water Resources Control Board.

- Represented multiple parties in a variety of enforcement actions under the California Health and Safety Code provisions for the protection of air quality before the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board.
- Represented multiple parties in variety of enforcement actions before the United States Environmental Protection Agency including alleged violations of the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.