

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE prop.65clearinghouse

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

JULIA MORGAN BALLROOM

8:00 to 9:00

## Prop. 65 Freshmen Orientation

Instructors: **Alecia Cotton**, Associate, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell  
**Howard Hirsch**, Principal, Lexington Law Group  
**Laura Zuckerman**, Deputy Attorney General

### Bios

#### **Alecia Cotton**

Associate, Rogers Joseph O'Donnell

Ms. Cotton is a member of the firm's Retail Industry Trade Regulation and Environmental Law Practice Groups.

Ms. Cotton has experience in a wide array of civil litigation including consumer products litigation and class actions, environmental matters such as CERCLA, Hazardous Waste and Proposition 65, unfair competition law, business torts, white collar defense, and contract disputes. She has litigated in federal and state courts and is experienced across all phases of litigation in complex matters. She has represented a broad range of clients, including commercial premises owners, and manufacturers, suppliers and retailers of both commercial and consumer products. Ms. Cotton has handled a significant number of complex commercial civil litigation cases from inception through trial and has a proven track record of successfully defending corporations in California state and federal courts in high value litigation. Ms. Cotton regularly counsels large and small businesses on issues involving regulatory compliance, business practices and environmental matters.

Before joining Rogers Joseph O'Donnell, Ms. Cotton was an associate at McKenna Long and Aldridge. Ms. Cotton earned a degree in both civil and common law from Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans. While in law school, Ms. Cotton served as a student attorney for the Loyola Poverty Law Clinic's Family and Juvenile Division. She also served as legal adviser to the Hurricane Katrina Law Clinic. Ms. Cotton served as a selected member of the Public Interest Law Journal, the St. Thomas More American Inn of Court, and the Order of Barristers. Ms. Cotton was the recipient of the National Association of Women Judges Honors Scholarship. Ms. Cotton currently volunteers as a pro bono attorney for the Volunteer Legal Services Division of the San Francisco Bar Association and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Education: J.D., Loyola University College of Law with honors; B.A., McNeese State University Cum laude

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## **Howard Hirsch**

Principal, Lexington Law Group

Howard Hirsch has devoted his career to representing plaintiffs in public interest litigation to enforce consumer protections, conserve natural resources, and protect human health from toxic chemicals. After obtaining two years of training and experience at complex litigation with a large commercial law firm, Mr. Hirsch spent five years as a staff attorney at a national, non-profit environmental group representing individuals and other non-profits in citizen suits against polluters under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and other federal statutes.

Mr. Hirsch joined the Lexington Law Group in 2003 and is a principal of the firm. Since joining LLG, Mr. Hirsch's practice has included significant experience enforcing California's Proposition 65 and litigating class actions against, among others, technology companies, airlines, and health care providers and insurers. These cases have resulted in significant reductions in human exposures to toxic chemicals, changes in deceptive business practices, and the recovery of millions of dollars for the benefit of consumers. Mr. Hirsch has also volunteered his legal services to the homeless community of San Francisco and currently serves as a volunteer arbiter for the San Francisco Department of Human Services resolving disputes between homeless shelters and their residents.

Mr. Hirsch graduated from the University of California Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1996 and from Boston College in 1993. When not practicing law, Mr. Hirsch enjoys listening to music and spending time outdoors with his family.

## **Laura Zuckerman**

California Deputy Attorney General

Laura Zuckerman has been a Deputy Attorney General in the Environment Section of the California Department of Justice since January 2006. Prior to joining the section, she spent four years as a member of the Attorney General's Energy Task Force, engaging in large-scale investigation of, and complex civil litigation involving, the California energy industry. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Ms. Zuckerman practiced complex civil litigation at McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen, where she began her litigation career after clerking with the Honorable William H. Orrick, Jr., United States District Court, San Francisco.

At the Attorney General's Office, a significant portion of Ms. Zuckerman's work consists of matters undertaken in the Attorney General's independent capacity to enforce environmental laws. She enforces statutes relating to protection of human health and the environment, including Proposition 65.

Ms. Zuckerman received her J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where she was an Articles Editor for the Ecology Law Quarterly. She received her A.B. magna cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard University.