



Vanessa Adriance

Of Counsel

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Vanessa C. Adriance represents clients in environmental and product-related litigation, and assists clients with enforcement and compliance issues.

Vanessa has more than a decade of experience litigating environmental and products-related claims. She provides clients with advocacy and compliance advice regarding California's Health and Safety Code, including Proposition 65, and the defense of products-related and environmental tort claims. She advises clients in connection with California's Appliance Efficiency Regulations, California's Green Chemistry program, and other California products-related and environmental rules and regulations.

Vanessa advises manufacturers and retailers regarding a variety of products, including foods and beverages, over-the-counter medical products, personal care products, and home goods. She enjoys working with clients of all sizes, ranging from small businesses to multi-national corporations and advising them on environmental, labeling, and compliance issues. She assists clients in creating compliance programs, developing and maintaining testing programs, and represents clients in challenges to agency actions. She has also represented major trade associations in litigation and regulatory matters, including in connection with agency actions and government enforcement authorities.

She regularly speaks to trade associations and businesses on consumer-products related legal issues, regulation of chemicals in consumer products, and compliance with consumer products laws.

Vanessa's practice builds on a strong litigation foundation. She has experience trying cases before juries and judges in numerous jurisdictions. She has a deep knowledge of the California courts and procedure.

- Environment, Health and Safety
- Product Liability, Mass Torts and Product Stewardship
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail

Environmental law and consumer products

- Represented multi-national food and beverage companies in putative class action asserting claims under California's Proposition 65 and consumer protection laws relating to the alleged presence of heavy metals.
- Represented manufacturer in putative class action in connection with alleged PFAS contamination.
- Represented stakeholders in challenges to proposed regulatory actions by California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard

Assessment.

- Regularly assists retailers and manufacturers in formulating and executing Proposition 65 compliance programs.
- Represented numerous food manufacturers in actions alleging exposures to acrylamide brought under California's Proposition 65.

Commercial litigation

- Brought successful demurrer to fraud and negligence claims on behalf of national banking client.
- Represented majority shareholders in a dispute involving whether a Stockholders Agreement inhibited the sale of the company to a strategic buyer.
- Represented aviation company in obtaining favorable ruling and denial of all plaintiff's claims before California Labor Relations Board.

Admissions

- California
- Nevada

Prior Experience

Prior to joining DLA Piper, Ms. Adriance was a senior associate in the environmental group at a large, international law firm.

Education

- J.D., Tulane Law School 2006
summa cum laude
Order of the Coif
- M.A., Tulane University 2003
- B.A., Tulane University 2002

Courts

- Supreme Court of California
- Supreme Court of Nevada
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the District of Nevada
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Memberships

- Board member, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Publications

California's new Extended Producer Responsibility Act is major addition to suite of plastic-focused laws

11 July 2022

SB 4 sets out the country's most ambitious restrictions on single-use plastics and packaging.

New California law adds significant restrictions for recycling claims on products and packaging: action steps

6 January 2022

The law affects any product or packaging that fails to meet a California regulator's strict recyclability criteria. Compliance is crucial.

California Proposition 65: OEHHA modifies its proposed changes to popular short-form warning – key points

16 December 2021

OEHHA is arguably creating just another long-form warning which will effectively be imposed on thousands of products that had been permitted to use short-form warnings.

California regulations on diverting organic waste go into effect January 1: new rules affect municipalities and food sector, bring opportunities for composting and biofuel businesses

16 December 2021

As more regulations implementing SB 1383 come into effect in the coming years, the demand for permissible ways to dispose of organic waste will only increase.

As California aims to achieve carbon neutrality, CARB is updating the Scoping Plan: stakeholders may take part in the September 30 workshop

27 September 2021

An opportunity to engage with California's strategic approach to addressing climate change.

- Author, *California Takes the Lead on Plastic Waste Reduction*, Environmental Edge Blog, May 9, 2021
- Co-Author, *ABC Test Retroactivity Remains An Open Issue After Vazquez*, Law360 Employment Authority (with James F. Speyer), February 3, 2021

Events

Previous

Completing the circular economy, from the dump to the pump: a discussion of California legislation to recycle organic waste

17 February 2022 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

Commodities webinar series

Webinar

California regulations on diverting organic waste are in effect: New rules affect municipalities and food sector, bring opportunities for composting and biofuel businesses

28 January 2022 | 9:00 - 10:00 PT
Webinar

- Panelist, *California League of Food Producers: Proposition 65 Webinar, Presentation to CLFP*, January 1, 2021
- Panelist, *Whose Problem Is This? Practical Issues in Defense and Indemnity for Retailers*, September 14, 2020
- Panelist, *COVID-19: Keeping Consumers Safe—and Your Company Safer—in a Changing, Challenging Environment*, April 8, 2020

NEWS

New Perimeter conducts sixth training for women lawyers in Nepal

10 January 2022

New Perimeter, DLA Piper's nonprofit affiliate that provides long-term pro bono legal assistance in under-served regions around the world, conducted its sixth training for female lawyers in Nepal. New Perimeter once again teamed with Canadian NGO Women Lawyers Joining Hands (WLJH) and the Nepal Bar Association (NBA) as a part of an initiative to provide mentorship and continuing legal education to female Nepali lawyers.

PRO BONO

Vanessa has done extensive pro bono work focused primarily in the area of reproductive and women's rights. She also recently was part of a team that succeeded in obtaining summary judgment in favor of a DACA applicant in equal protection claims.