

Overview

For over 30 years, Dentons has been servicing the legal and business needs of clients in San Francisco's financial district and throughout Northern California. With offices in San Francisco and Oakland, our Bay Area lawyers and professionals have provided creative and efficient solutions to our clients' most complex legal challenges and helped them identify vulnerabilities, threats and risks.

Our diverse team brings experience across a number of practice areas and sectors, including intellectual property protection, enforcement and monetization; complex civil and commercial litigation; health care regulatory and transactions; real estate acquisitions, dispositions, development and financing; employment and labor issues; corporate formation, governance and transactional matters; and all types of capital markets legal work.

Representative clients include multinational industrial and commercial enterprises, commercial and residential real estate developers, tribal governments, construction companies, banks, insurance companies, financial services firms, franchisors, technology companies and court-appointed fiduciaries.

With our multidisciplinary capabilities, colleagues in Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego, and Dentons' global reach, our San Francisco/Oakland office is able to offer you the high-quality legal services you need to achieve your business objectives throughout California and beyond.

In and of the community

Dentons takes seriously our commitment to the communities in which we live and work—and our pro bono work reflects that commitment, as well as our entrepreneurial approach to solving problems in a complex world. We have provided pro bono assistance to underserved communities in the Bay Area in matters relating to landlord-tenant; family law; estate planning; nonprofit formation, governance and employment relations; political amnesty; and migrant farm workers' rights. Our office's ESG (environmental, social and governance) strategy is fully integrated into every aspect of our business, from daily procedures to long term planning, and includes fostering the active participation employees and partnering with clients.

Community involvement and progressive advocacy is a priority for the San Francisco/Oakland offices. Some of our actions include:

- **Advancing LGBT+ equality and inclusion:** We are committed to promoting inclusivity and ongoing education through the membership and active participation of our lawyers and professionals on Dentons' Global LGBTQ+ Network, including some who serve as national leaders. We make an ongoing effort to promote awareness of the issues facing our LGBT+ colleagues and to encourage support for LGBT+ communities around the world.
- **Establishing a tribal college:** Our nationally ranked Native American Law and Policy team has assisted the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation in establishing California Tribal College as a public benefit corporation, thus securing its nonprofit status for state and federal tax exemption purposes. Our team also taught classes in tribal governance and federal Indian law and policy at the college, which is open to all tribal leaders and citizens.
- **Resolving an eminent-domain dispute:** Lawyers in our office resolved an eminent domain dispute between the operator of a shelter for abused and homeless women and children and the California High-Speed Rail Authority over the latter's condemnation of six acres of the mission's downtown Fresno property in connection with a bullet

train project that would result in loss of primary access to the shelter. Two weeks before trial, our team secured a \$37 million settlement—90 percent of the shelter’s final demand—and other non-monetary relief. Along with \$16 million previously received for relocation to temporary facilities, the settlement will help the shelter reestablish a permanent home from which it can provide housing, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, crisis care, life skills training and other vital services for impoverished people.

- **Rolling up our sleeves:** In conjunction with National Rebuilding Together Day, lawyers and staff worked with Rebuilding Together San Francisco to revitalize The Marsh, a community arts center in the Mission District. Our efforts included painting the kitchen, hallway and a bathroom, reorganizing the financial storage area and removing clutter. We also collaborated with various local businesses, builders and community organizations to provide critical home repairs for income-qualified neighbors and to renovate community centers and public schools.
- **Helping children:** Members of the office routinely volunteer at Holy Family Day Home, San Francisco’s oldest childcare institution, which primarily serves low-income children and families. Our lawyers have helped by reading to children, preparing food packages, donating food items and assisting with a clothing drive.
- **Diversity Scholarship Program:** Dentons is one of the sponsors of the California Bar Foundation’s Diversity Scholarship, which helps support first-year California law students with the goal of expanding the pipeline of racial and ethnic minorities entering the legal profession.
- **Minority Counsel Program:** Our lawyers participate in the California Minority Counsel Program, a mutual benefit corporation dedicated to promoting diversity in the legal profession by providing attorneys of color with access and opportunity for business and professional development.
- **Toward a more sustainable future:** Our Bay Area offices provide pro bono legal services to advance the cause of sustainability in energy, transportation and land use, among other areas of our economy. Our clients include both sustainability-focused entrepreneurs and not-for-profit organizations.

Highlights

Our experienced San Francisco/Oakland lawyers and professionals have been recognized by leading legal organizations, directories and publications. Our team’s notable awards include:

- *Chambers USA* - Ranked as Band 1 for Insurance: Insurer, 2021 and 2020
- *Chambers USA* - Ranked as Band 1 for Native American Law, 2021 and 2020
- *Best Lawyers in America* - San Francisco/Oakland lawyers ranked in the 2021 edition:
 - Sandra McCandless - Employment Law - Individuals, Employment Law - Management
 - Christopher Oliver - Securitization and Structured Finance Law
- Dentons WomenLEAD Excellence - Sandy McCandless, recipient of the Dentons Excellence Award in the Mentor/Sponsor Category, 2021
- *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* - Ranked as a “Best Law Firms” in 2021 with Tier 1 and 2 rankings:
 - Litigation - Bankruptcy
 - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants
 - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
 - Employment Law - Management
 - Health Care Law
 - Securitization and Structured Finance Law
- *BTI Consulting Group* - Named to the “Client Service All-Stars” list, 2020

- Laura Geist
- Sonia Martin

- Dentons WomenLEAD Excellence - Sonia Martin, recipient of the fourth annual Dentons Excellence award in the Above & Beyond category, 2020

- *IAM Patent 1000 - The World's Leading Patent Professionals* - Recognized as a leading firm in California in Prosecution as recommended and recognized in prosecution:
 - Brian Ho, 2021 and 2020
 - Randy Omid, 2021 and 2020
 - Peter Yim, 2020

- *Legal500* - Peter Yim recognized as a “Leading Lawyer,” 2020
- *Managing IP* - Peter Yim recognized as a “patent star” in the magazine’s 2020 IP Star rankings
- 2020 International Women’s Day campaign - Ausra Deluard spotlighted as a Champion for Women in Law in Lighthouse Global, featuring women leaders in the legal industry who are fighting gender bias, working to increase women’s opportunities and celebrating women’s achievements

Your Key Contacts

United States



Sonia R. Martin

Office Managing Partner,
San Francisco/Oakland
D +1 415 882 2476

sonia.martin@dentons.com