



Sage Knauft is a partner at Walsworth and leads the firm's environmental and real estate practice groups. He has a diverse practice including business litigation, employment law, environmental litigation, construction law, general liability, product liability, premises liability and public entity litigation. He has successfully represented a wide variety of clients, including private companies and individuals, municipalities, manufacturers, distributors, contractors, subcontractors and property owners in complex and multi-party litigation. Sage has been involved in several trials and arbitrations and has successfully negotiated numerous favorable settlements for his clients. In addition to his litigation practice, Sage frequently gives lectures and presentations in various topics relating to his practice areas.

REPRESENTATIVE SUCCESSES

- **OCWD v. Sabic, et al.** – Reached a favorable settlement on behalf of machine valve manufacturer in large groundwater contamination case brought by Orange County Water District. Lowest settlement amount paid by any named defendant in the case.
- **OCWD v. Sabic, et al.** – Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of a second valve manufacturer in large groundwater contamination case brought by Orange County Water District.
- **Goodwin v. Ingersoll-Rand Company** – Obtained a defense verdict after a six-day jury trial in a wrongful death case where the decedent was riding on the defendant's golf car and fell, sustaining fatal injuries. Decedent's spouse and children claimed that our client failed to provide adequate warnings regarding the use of the car and defectively designed the braking system. Plaintiffs' expert was Reuben Vollmer, a well-known expert witness on vehicle accidents who has testified in a number of golf car cases.
- **OCLA v. Susan's Healthy Gourmet** – Secured a binding arbitration award in a business litigation case.
- **McKinnon v. Club Car, Inc.** – Secured a mediated settlement in a products liability case.
- **Hehr v. Harding Lawson Associates** – Secured a mediated settlement in a product liability case.
- **Cipriano v. Mainline, Inc.** – Represented broadband equipment manufacturer with over 100 employees in a sexual harassment claim brought by a former salesperson. Through discovery and taking the plaintiff's deposition, developed compelling evidence that contradicted all her claims, including co-worker testimony, photographs of alleged incidents and an electronic record of her communications. Net result was mediated settlement for a fraction of the plaintiff's original demand.
- **Wroblewski v. City of Orange** – Represented City in a claim brought by a fire department captain alleging discrimination and disparate treatment based on marital status (single vs. married). Through multiple depositions of plaintiff's co-workers, developed evidence to support defense that plaintiff was not discriminated against in being passed over for promotion and that the decision was entirely based on merit. Resolved claim for nominal monetary amount and agreement to remove certain disciplinary reports from plaintiff's personnel file.

Contact Information

Email: sknauft@wfbm.com
Office: (714) 634-2522
Fax: (714) 634-0686

Areas of Practice

- Business and Real Property Litigation
- Construction
- Employment
- Environmental
- General Liability and Casualty
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Public Entity Representation

Education

- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, J.D.
- University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A.

Admissions

- California
- United States District Court, Eastern, Southern and Central Districts of California

- *Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles v. PCC Technical Industries, et al.* – Represented owners and operators of a steel mill sued by the Housing Authority of L.A. in a federal CERCLA action relating to soil contamination at a redevelopment site. Case settled favorably shortly before trial.

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Professional Affiliations:

- Orange County Bar Association

Speaking Engagements:

- Pandemic Litigation Bootcamp: Don't Get Caught With Your Mask Down: Employment Law During COVID-19?
- "Sexual Harassment and Abusive Conduct Prevention Training"
- "Employee Leave Law"
- "Leaves of Absence: Accommodation or Hardship?"
- "Selected Issues in Environmental Litigation – An Update: Asbestos, Benzene, Pollution, Trucking/Diesel Fuel"
- "What the Tweet?! Collecting and Using Social Media Evidence to Investigate Claims"
- "He Said/She Said: Workplace Harassment & Retaliation – What Every Claims Representative Needs To Know"

NEWS

- Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations: Important Considerations for California Employers
- Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers: What You Need to Know
- Governor Newsom To Sign Bill Making it Harder to Classify Employees as Independent Contractors
- U.S. Supreme Court Allows the Use of Class Action Waivers in Employment Arbitration Agreements
- California's Supreme Court Rules on Independent Contractor Classification
- Proceed Cautiously With #MeToo Harassment Investigations
- Can Employers Give a Bad Reference for a Former Employee?
- Walsworth Partners Sage Knauff and Laurie Sherwood to Present on Regulating Employee Off-Duty Conduct
- Walsworth Publishes 2017 Year-End Environmental Update
- Sex Harassment Cases Require Thorough Investigations, Rarely Go to Trial
- Workplace Fatalities on the Rise
- Walsworth Publishes 2017 Year-End Employment Update

- [Leave Ruling Favors Employers](#)
- [California Employers Must Now Pay Commissioned Employees Separate Rest Period Pay](#)
- [Social Media Policies in the Workplace Checklist](#)
- [What HR Needs to Know About Expunged Criminal Records and Background Checks](#)
- [Google's Firing Line](#)
- [Employers welcome Labor's move on joint employment, independent contractors](#)
- [Proskauer Sex Bias Case May Prompt More 'Jane Doe' Suits](#)
- [After Fox News, What Should Companies Know About Corporate Counsel Defendants?](#)
- [Q&A: Hot Legal Issues Under the Trump Administration](#)
- [Supreme Court hears arguments on proper review of EEOC subpoena decisions](#)
- [Business Groups Urge Supreme Court to OK Narrower Review of EEOC Subpoena Rulings](#)
- [Uncertainty Abounds as California Minimum Wage Continues to Rise](#)
- [Big Changes for Employers Who Utilize Tip-Pooling](#)
- [New Overtime Rules: U.S. Department of Labor Increases Salary Requirements for Exempt Employees](#)
- [Independent Contractor or Employee? Uber Faces Class Action Over Alleged Misclassification of its Drivers](#)
- [California Supreme Court Rules Commercial Property Owners Have No Duty To Provide Defibrillators To Their Patrons](#)