

## Matthew T. Drenan

San Diego, California  
Shareholder

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### **Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties**

Labor & Employment; Litigation; Class Actions; Trade Secrets & Employee Mobility; Government, Regulatory & Administrative Law; Sports Industry Law; Agribusiness



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Matt Drenan is a Shareholder in Buchalter's San Diego Office and a member of the Labor & Employment, Litigation, and Corporate Practice Groups. Mr. Drenan represents local, national, and international clients in employment and corporate matters, involving single plaintiff, complex, and class action defense.

Mr. Drenan's labor & employment practice involves advising, counseling, training, and litigating in areas including wage and hour compliance, class actions, Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA") litigation, single plaintiff wage and hour disputes, pay equity, discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation, religious exemption, executive compensation, federal and state leave law, and other matters of legal compliance. Mr. Drenan also assists employers in drafting comprehensive employee handbooks, personnel policies, and employment-related agreements to ensure compliance with California and federal law. In addition, he conducts workplace investigations and management training on a wide array of employment law matters.

Mr. Drenan represents both individuals and for profit and nonprofit corporations across a wide variety of industries including maritime, oil & gas, logistics, transportation, construction, agribusiness, California wineries, breweries, technology, banking, food & hospitality, pharmaceutical, health care, education, health clubs, insurance, retail, as well as nonsecular and religious based clients. He practices in state and federal courts, arbitrates and mediates nationally and practices before state and federal agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, United States Department of Labor, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). Mr. Drenan also has significant experience conducting investigations involving sexual harassment, sexual impropriety, sexual abuse, hostile work environment, bullying, fraud, and retaliation in all sectors.

In Mr. Drenan's corporate practice, he represents businesses, individual members, officers, and directors, both in defense and prosecution of state and federal litigation, including trade secret and employee mobility actions, breach of contract matters, collection actions, foreclosure of mechanic's liens, and various business torts and commercial disputes involving unfair business practices, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty, among other areas of general corporate litigation and compliance.

As an accomplished maritime attorney, Mr. Drenan also has experience on an international scale, representing multi-national shipping, energy, and oil & gas companies in litigation matters, regulatory compliance, incident investigations, and pollution response. Mr. Drenan is also adept at business formation and compliance specific to commercial and recreational chartering entities, including vessel documentation and finance, and preparation of charter parties, oil spill response agreements, and various safety protocols for both inspected and uninspected vessels.

Mr. Drenan was named by *Best Lawyers* to their 2021-2024 "Ones to Watch" list for his work in Labor & Employment Law: Management.

## Publications

- California Labor & Employment Law Update – New Laws to Take Effect in 2021, *Buchalter Client Alert*, January 5, 2020
- The Ninth Circuit Writes an Obituary For Section 903(c) of the LHWCA in Kealoha v. Director, Office of Workers Compensation Programs, *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, Vol. 39, February 28, 2015
- Captaining the Ship Into Culpability: Barbetta, Franza, and the Efficacy of Imputing Liability to Corporate Shipowners in the Medical Malpractice Context, *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, Vol. 40, January 1, 2015
- Breaking Down the Bumbershoot: Energy and Marine Umbrella Policies in the Wake of Indemnity Insurance Co. of North America v. W&T Offshore, *41 TRANSP. L.J.* 1, January 1, 2015
- Watchdogs of the World: Global Liner Conference Regulators in the Modern Shipping Market and Why the P3 Agreement Failed, *Michigan State University College of Law International Law Review*, January 1, 2015
- Gone Overboard: Why the Arctic Sunrise Case Signals an Over-Expansion of the Ship-As-A-Unit Concept in the Diplomatic Protection Context, *California Western International Law Journal: Vol. 45 : No. 1*, Article 4, January 1, 2014

## Presentations

- "Buchalter Labor & Employment 2023 Seminar," Smart Center, October 25, 2023
- Speaker, "Virtual MCLE - Current Issues in California Employment," California Western School of Law, December 8, 2020

## Education

Mr. Drenan received his Master of Laws in Admiralty and Maritime law *with distinction* from Tulane University Law School, graduating first overall in his class, and was a recipient of the Edward A. Dodd, Jr. scholarship award, conferred to the outstanding candidate for the degree of LL.M. in Admiralty. As an editor of the *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, Mr. Drenan received the Tulane Maritime Law Center scholarship award for the most outstanding case note. Mr. Drenan also earned a CALI Excellence for the Future Award for Carriage of Goods by Sea ("COGSA"). During law school, Mr. Drenan was an editor of the *California Western Law Review* and *International Law Journal*, and received the S. Houston Lay scholarship award for the most outstanding comment in the *California Western International Law Journal*. Mr. Drenan was also a member of the Jessup Moot Court Competition team, and was presented a Top Oralist award for his performance in the Pacific Super Regional, where he placed 4/79 competitors. Mr. Drenan completed two summer clerkships with Federal Maritime Commission Chairman Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., and a judicial externship with United States District Court Judge William Q. Hayes. Mr. Drenan received his undergraduate education from the Johns Hopkins University, majoring in History. While attending Johns Hopkins, he was a four-year starter on the men's lacrosse team, and was a member of the 2007 Division I National Championship Team.

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## Bar Admissions

- California

## Court Admissions

- 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 Eastern District of California

- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California

### **Community**

- California Western School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, Director
- Tulane Maritime Law Journal, Mentor Attorney
- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Volunteer Attorney
- Coronado Chamber of Commerce
- Maritime Law Association of the United States
- San Diego County Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section