



Steve Churchwell

Partner

Steve Churchwell is a partner at Churchwell White LLP. Since 1982, he has assisted clients in charting a successful course through the challenging waters of California government and politics. He represents corporations, associations, Indian tribes and government agencies in regulatory matters, political law compliance and enforcement issues, legislative affairs, and related litigation.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Steve brings a bit of Southern charm and twang to the Churchwell White office. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee College of Law. Steve was a partner at DLA Piper LLP (US) from 2005 to 2013 and served as General Counsel for the Fair Political Practices Commission from 1993 to 2000.

Steve has served as lead counsel to more than two dozen statewide initiative or referendum measures, and has successfully litigated cases involving many of the measures. He has two 7-0 victories in the California Supreme Court and many other appellate wins.

Steve has worked on issues in many areas of public policy, including ethics/conflicts of interest, charter schools, energy, government contracts, healthcare, infrastructure projects, internal investigations, as well as constitutional law and public finance.

For his accomplishments and experience, Steve has been given the highest rating of AV[®] by Martindale-Hubbell and was selected for inclusion as a Northern California SuperLawyer multiple times. Steve is a Past President of the California Political Attorneys Association and helped develop methodology used by the Ethisphere Institute, which annually ranks the World's Most Ethical Companies.

Steve's scholarly articles have been published in Intellectual Property Law Review, Pepperdine Law Review, Tennessee Law Review and Criminal Law Bulletin.

Steve is very committed to providing pro bono legal services. He is passionate about giving back and creating a better society for others, beliefs which are



reflected in the work and culture of the attorneys at Churchwell White. As a result of his commitment to pro bono work, Steve was named by the National Law Journal to its “2013 Pro Bono Hot List.” He was one of only 10 attorneys in the United States selected for this honor, based on his work on juvenile justice issues, including Senate Bill 9 (Yee), the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act. Steve also won the 2009 National Pro Bono Award at DLA Piper for his work in South Africa with Zimbabwean women refugees.

If not a lawyer... I would be a “substitute” guitar/ keyboard player for 1970s rock bands on tour (e.g., Bad Company, Yes). If a band regular was away (due to the birth of a grandchild, for example), I could fill in for a few dates.

Credentials

- J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law (Law Review, Articles Editor)
- B.A., cum laude, Vanderbilt University

- National Law Journal “2013 Pro Bono Hot List”
- Past President, California Political Attorneys Association
- AV® Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Northern California SuperLawyer
- 2015 Best of the Bar, Sacramento Business Journal

Government Experience

- General Counsel, California Fair Political Practices Commission
- Chief Counsel, Cal-OSHA Appeals Board
- Legal Counsel, Office of Administrative Law
- Legislative Intern



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