



→ Matthew G. Halgren

Associate

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Matthew Halgren is an associate in the firm's San Diego office, where he specializes in appellate litigation and news media law.

Areas of Practice

Matthew works on all aspects of the appellate process across many fields of law for clients in a host of industries. He has briefed a variety of matters in state and federal appellate courts and has orally argued several cases before the California Courts of Appeal.

Specializing in First Amendment law, Matthew advises clients in the news media industry on matters related to the reporting process. He collaborates with journalists to obtain government records and to avoid the legal pitfalls that can accompany the work of a free press. He is knowledgeable about libel, copyright, reporter's privilege, invasion of privacy, statutory and constitutional rights of access, and related matters. He has also litigated issues concerning government secrecy, including obtaining an order that, on First Amendment grounds, lifted a gag the FBI had imposed on an internet service provider by means of a national security letter.

Background

Prior to joining Sheppard Mullin, Matthew served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard R. Clifton of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and to the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. In law school, he served as Executive Editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, worked as a member of the Yale Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic, and conducted extensive research on the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses. Before law school, he worked in government relations on behalf of clients in the healthcare industry on issues surrounding the regulatory implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He also served in the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Media Mentions

A Fresh Batch of Litigator of the Week Runner-Up and Shout Outs
Litigation Daily, 02.04.2023

6th Circ. Won't Save Immunity Defense In ACT Copyright Row
Law360, 08.23.2022

Beacon of Justice 2021 Awardees

National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Issue 10

Meet the Sheppard Mullin Litigator Facing Off with California Police Unions Over Misconduct Records

The American Lawyer, 08.03.2020

Police Transparency Law Does Not Cover Car Accidents, SDPD Says

KPBS, 07.03.2019

San Diego Police Misconduct, Use of Force Records Can Now Be Released

KPBS, 04.01.2019

San Diego Sheriff Will Waive Fees for Use-Of-Force, Misconduct Records

KPBS, 02.18.2019

KPBS Suing for Public Access to San Diego Sheriff's Department Response Times to Citizen Complaints

KPBS, 01.22.2019

Escondido City Council Votes to Destroy Records, Despite Transparency Concerns

The Coast News, 11.02.2018

County Lawyers Demand Research, Notes from Local Journalist

NBC7 San Diego, 02.08.2018

Speaking Engagements

San Diego Superior Court, San Diego County Bar Association, and San Diego Society of Professional Journalists Annual Bench/Bar/Media Forum: *Preserving Free Courts & Free Press – Exploring Escalating Threats to the Third and Fourth Branches of Our Democracy*, San Diego, California, August 14, 2019

Investigative Reporters & Editors Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference: *Media Lawyers Q&A for Journalists*, Newport Beach, California, March 8, 2019

Memberships

Member, San Diego County Bar Association, Appellate Practice Section

Member, Tom Homan LGBT Law Association

Class Co-Secretary, Yale Law School Class of 2015, 2015–present

Class Historian, Princeton University Class of 2009, 2009–present

Member, Princeton University Alumni Council Committee on Princetoniana, 2006–present

Member, Princeton University Alumni Schools Committee, 2010–present

Member, Out at Sheppard LGBTQ Group

Practices

Appellate

Entertainment, Technology and Advertising

Litigation

Appellate

Education

J.D., Yale Law School, 2015

A.B., Princeton University, 2009, *magna cum laude*

Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard R. Clifton, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2016–17

Law Clerk to the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff, United States District Court for the Southern District of California, 2015–16

Admissions

California

United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Federal Circuits

United States District Courts for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California

Languages

Chinese (Mandarin)

Spanish