



Nathan A. Oyster

Partner

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Pronouns: he, him, his

Nathan Oyster's practice at Burke focuses on two main areas: He defends **law enforcement** officers and local governments in civil rights litigation, and he provides guidance to law enforcement agencies on the implementation of policies that reduce the likelihood of litigation.

Nathan's litigation experience is extensive; in the past three years, he has represented 15 different law enforcement agencies throughout the state in civil litigation. He has tried cases in both state and federal court, with his first jury trial coming at age 24 and his most recent defense verdict occurring in March 2023. He has also argued before both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the California Court of Appeal. Nathan has defended nearly every type of litigation that a law enforcement agency could face, including officer-involved shootings, deaths due to excited delirium, class action litigation, malicious prosecution claims, allegations of excessive force, and allegations of unconstitutional jail conditions. He is adept at defending litigation brought under Section 1983, the Unruh Act, the Ralph Act, and the Bane Act.

Nathan also advises law enforcement agencies throughout the state on a variety of policy issues. Representative clients include the cities of Culver City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Rialto.

PUBLICATIONS

An Advanced Look at Senate Bill 1421: Analyzing the Confidentiality of Certain Police Records

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Obtained a defense verdict in March 2023 in a fatal officer-involved shooting case in which the plaintiffs sought \$20 million at the close of the three-week trial.
- Obtained a defense verdict in a fatal officer-involved shooting case in which the decedent was armed with a screwdriver.

PRACTICES

Constitutional Law

Law Enforcement Defense

Litigation

Public Law

EDUCATION

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 2002

M.A., Political Science, Case Western Reserve University, 1999

B.A., Political Science and Economics, Case Western Reserve University, 1999

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

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

- Obtained summary judgment in a fatal officer-involved shooting case, resulting in a published opinion. *MacEachern v. City of Manhattan Beach*, 623 F.Supp.2d 1092 (C.D.Cal. 2009).
- Defended a proposed class action lawsuit in which jail inmates alleged that their rights under the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution were violated.
- Successfully argued before the California Court of Appeal for the affirmance of the dismissal of a former police officer's claim that a prosecutorial agency violated POBRA by placing him on the agency's Brady list.