Van Ness Feldman LLP
vnf.com

CONTACT

amcadam@vnf.com
925.282.8011

PRACTICES

Litigation & Investigations
Waste & Hazardous Substances

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law
University of California at Berkeley

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

California State Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

ALLISON E. MCADAM

MANAGING PARTNER, BAY AREA

Professional Background

Allison has over 20 years' experience representing policyholders in complex insurance recovery and environmental coverage disputes and serves as a co-chair of the firm's Litigation, Enforcement, and Investigations practice group. She focuses her practice on helping businesses and property owners secure the full value of their insurance assets, guiding clients through coverage analysis, claims presentation, negotiation, and litigation.

Allison has extensive experience pursuing insurance coverage under commercial general liability (CGL), environmental pollution, and excess liability policies for a wide range of claims—including environmental property damage, cleanup liabilities, and product-related losses. She has achieved successful recoveries for clients both through negotiation and litigation, including declaratory relief, breach of contract, and bad faith actions against insurers that wrongfully denied coverage.

Her clients span numerous industries, including pulp and paper, oil production and refining, industrial and retail dry cleaning, recycling, foundry, fireworks and automotive manufacturing, and other industrial sectors. Allison's deep understanding of complex contamination issues and her experience with federal, state, and local regulators enable her to integrate technical and legal strategy to maximize insurance recovery outcomes.

Allison also advises current and former property owners on insurance recovery related to legacy contamination and liabilities involving chemicals of concern such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), perchlorate, and lead.

Representative Experience

- Serving as General Counsel for Willits Environmental Remediation Trust which oversees a multi-million dollar environmental cleanup in Willits, California subject to a federal court-approved consent decree, including oversight of related insurance issues.
- Acting as outside environmental insurance coverage counsel for a large, national manufacturing company including overseeing coverage issues at contaminated sites across the country.
- Handling complex, multi-party environmental and insurance coverage litigation, including various aspects of pre-trial preparation and discovery, substantive motions, mediation and appeals.
- Obtaining insurance defense and coverage for clients facing potential underlying claims alleging product liability, environmental damage and other types of liability.
- Successfully pursuing declaratory relief, breach of contract and bad faith actions on behalf of clients seeking to establish coverage for a variety of liabilities.

Government Service

City and County of San Francisco
Litigation Section, 2001

Awards and Honors

Super Lawyers

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Rising Star, 2009, 2010, 2012-2016

Alerts

- PFAS Reporting Requirements Persist Amid EPA Deregulation, 03/25/2025
- What Tribal Entities Need to Know to Pursue Business Interruption Coverage for COVID-19 Losses, 05/14/2020
- SCOTUS Decision Clarifies Property Owners' Restoration Claims at Superfund Sites, 04/22/2020